



Convention Proceedings
2007

63rd Regular Convention
The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod
Houston, TX • July 14–19, 2007



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Preface

“One Message—*Christ!*” served as the theme of the 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which convened at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas, July 14–19, 2007. Official attendance included 1,239 voting delegates and more than 400 advisory delegates and other official or invited guests, including partner and sister church leaders from the international Lutheran community who were in Houston for an *Ablaze!* conference.

The convention theme was expanded by the President of the Synod in his sermon during the opening worship service: “One Message—*Christ!* His Love Is Here for You!” It was also the subject of Bible studies led by the vice-presidents of the Synod (“A Message of Love for a Church in Mission”; “A Message of Unity to a Sectarian Culture”; “A Message of Truth to a Post-Modern World”; and “A Message of Love to a Desperate People”), and served as the theme of the memorial service message delivered by Fourth Vice-President Robert King (“One Message: Christ—Resurrection and Life”). Dr. King was given special recognition by the convention for his 21 years of service as a vice-president of the Synod.

In addition to worship and Bible study opportunities, the convention also conducted the business of the Synod, which included the adoption of 76 formal resolutions proposed by convention floor committees and the approval of three omnibus resolutions which referred some convention business to previous convention actions or to various boards and commissions for further attention.

A major action of the convention was the declaration of altar and pulpit fellowship with the American Association of Lutheran Churches. The text of the response to the convention given by AALC Presiding Pastor Thomas Aadland after the action was taken is provided in these *Convention Proceedings*. Other significant business included the creation of a director position for strategic development of Hispanic ministries; the establishment of a Specific Ministry Pastor Program; strong statements regarding stem cell research and the care and placement of foster and adoptive children; the adoption of the bylaw changes to help to resolve Board of Directors/Commission on Constitutional Matters authority issues; and approval for the possible calling of a special convention in 2009 to address Synod structure and governance issues.

All resolutions addressed by the convention are included in their final form in these *Convention Proceedings*, along with the minutes of the ten convention sessions and other related materials. To facilitate reading the resolutions, the following will be helpful:

- An A attached to a resolution number indicates that significant changes were made to the resolution by the floor committee after it was published in the first (pre-convention) issue of *Today's Business*. An S attached indicates a resolution that the floor committee proposed in place of that which was initially published.
- Following each printed resolution, the decision of the convention is noted. The number in parentheses indicates the convention session in which the final action was taken.
- Comments in parentheses below each resolution provide information regarding changes made or attempted during discussion of the resolution. The vote tally for the final decision is provided in brackets.
- A more detailed record of the discussions and proposed changes of resolutions and all vote tallies during those discussions are provided in the minutes of the convention.

Even as the business of conventions continues long after the closing gavel as decisions are carried out, so also the usefulness of a convention theme is not limited to the few days of convention meetings. How especially true of “One Message—*Christ!*” which will continue to serve our Synod well for the coming three years and far beyond. There is, after all, no other message like “Christ,” for there is “no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

Raymond L. Hartwig, *Secretary*

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Advisory Commissioned

Bauman, Michelle A; 3019 Revere Ct, Columbus, IN 47203-2655
Franke, Tommy L; 8630 Brookline Ct, Fort Wayne, IN 46835-9630
Gadbaw, Elizabeth Ann; 1044 Eastridge Dr, Decatur, IN 46733-2954
Koenemann, Darin D; 7314 Country Hill Dr, Fort Wayne, IN 46835
Mielke, Jon A; 4907 Covington Way, Fort Wayne, IN 46804
Rensner, Stephen E; 14519 Lansing Place, Fishers, IN 46038

Iowa District East

Voting Ordained

Brandt, David T; 819 9th Ave, Grinnell, IA 50112-1408
Ellis, Terrance K; Immanuel Lutheran Church, PO Box 239, Charlotte, IA 52731-0239
Feldt, Larry L; 641 Fairview St, Denver, IA 50622
Hansen, David L; 526 Rosedale Dr, Center Point, IA 52213
Henderson, Stephen P; 2333 W 60th St, Davenport, IA 52806-2724
Kincaid, Kristian G; 9161 Pheasant Ln, Dubuque, IA 52003-9268
Krueger, Kenneth William; 323 Lee Ln, Iowa Falls, IA 50126-1542
Northwick, Byron; 312 W 5th St, St Ansgar, IA 50472-9504
Parker, Timothy Edwin; St Peter Lutheran Church, PO Box 220, Westgate, IA 50681-0220
Rasmussen, Steven C; 533 Ave C, Fort Madison, IA 52627-4818
Remper, Steven W; C/O St John Lutheran Church, 310 Second St E, Newhall, IA 52315
Sears, Gary L; Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 66, Conroy, IA 52220-0066
Zimmermann, Timothy J; 3110 Alpine Ct, Iowa City, IA 52245-5400

Voting Lay

Ansley, Bill; 10 Schwartz Dr, Ottumwa, IA 52501
Balvanz, Chris; 16475 Z Ave, Wellsburg, IA 50680
Duwe, Dennis; PO Box 82, Luxemburg, IA 52056-0082
Hedtke, Mary Jane; 995 S 26th St, Marion, IA 52302
Jennings, Mike; 7155 33rd Ave, Atkins, IA 52206
Koch, Tim; 2818 Garden Ave, Cedar Falls, IA 50613
Martinez, Joyce; 703 13th Ave NW, Clinton, IA 52732
Osborn, Keith C; 102 W Clinton, Le Grand, IA 50142
Rodewald, John; 1750 42nd St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403-3916
Roegner, Mike; 103 Pine St, Plymouth, IA 50464
Sparbel, Ken; 4722 Norfolk Pl, Bettendorf, IA 52722
Werner, Ron; 812 S Plane St, Burlington, IA 52601
Wilson, Glenn; 213 S Walnut St, West Union, IA 52175-1527

Advisory Ordained

Eckert, Timothy Charles; 2550 E 32nd St, Davenport, IA 52807-2366

Iowa District West

Voting Ordained

Angland, Dennis W; 1805 18th St, Emmetsburg, IA 50536-2153
Burcham, Ronald D; 8301 Aurora Ave, Urbandale, IA 50322-2301
Carlisle, Roger P; 405 Center, PO Box 189, Wall Lake, IA 51466-0189
Carlson, Andrew J; 2326 Story Ave, Battle Creek, IA 51006-8014
Clausen, George; 910 S Carrol St, Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1945
Cole, Thomas Orr; 5805 NW 3rd Ct, Des Moines, IA 50313-1351
Dietrich, Chadric Allen; 3012 270th St, Rockwell City, IA 50579
Egger, Paul D; 400 Monona St, Galva, IA 51020
Harju, Benjamin L; 56042 340th St, Hastings, IA 51540-4113
Henderson, Allen W; 1004 N 31st Pl, Fort Dodge, IA 50501-2920
Jenks, Todd Allen; 3919 Brickman Ave, Ames, IA 50010
Kendall, Chad; 800 28th St, Spirit Lake, IA 51360
Meyer, Donald J; 5290 C Ave, Marcus, IA 51035-7034
Miesner, Duane C; 412 N Main St, PO Box 306, Kingsley, IA 51028-0306
Miller, Alan Jay; Peace Lutheran Church, 208 Arizona St # 448, Glidden, IA 51443-1019

Rosenkaimer, Ronald R; 218 Happy Hollow Blvd, Council Bluffs, IA 51503-1518
Schmidt, Kenneth A; 2203 Helmer, Sioux City, IA 51103
Sewing, David Mark; 514 N 20th, Denison, IA 51442
Zimmerman, Luke T; 313 Marshall St, PO Box 248, Dexter, IA 50070-0248

Voting Lay

Ashbrook, Mike; 2015 G Ave, Schleswig, IA 51461
Bodkins, Mike; 1518 5th Ave SW, Altoona, IA 50009
Burnside, Robert; 709 Walnut Ln, Storm Lake, IA 50588
Curtis, Roger; 148 4th St SE, Badger, IA 50516
Eisenbacher, Joe M; 410 E 3rd St, Carroll, IA 51401
Farquhar, Donald E; 4350 100th Ave, Sutherland, IA 51058
Gruhn, Nyle S; 3326 X Ave, Manilla, IA 51454
Lang, Michael E; 610 S Park St, Creston, IA 50801-2835
Meyer, Eunice E; 1902 290th St, Burt, IA 50522
Moeller, Gary A; 1969 150th St, Boone, IA 50036
Petersen, Minard J; 734 5th St, Lake View, IA 51450
Sandersfeld, Merlin D; 2319 100th Ave, Harris, IA 51345
Schulteis, Gary D; 2267 Monroe Ave, Greenfield, IA 50849
Schultz, Don H; 512 W Clifton Ave, Sioux City, IA 51104-2315
Siege, Larry; 5028 Hickory Ave, Maurice, IA 51036-7582
Smith, Jodie; 723 N 9th St, Missouri Valley, IA 51555
Viggers, Dave; 1414 E 20th St, Norwalk, IA 50211
Zelinsky, Ronald D; 206 N 4th St, Terril, IA 51364

Advisory Ordained

Schauer, John E; 1007 Monterey Dr, Carroll, IA 51401-3854

Advisory Commissioned

Schulz, Janice M; 1702 1/2 1st Ave S, Fort Dodge, IA 50501-5017

Kansas District

Voting Ordained

Adams, Charles W; 2601 E Key Ave, Salina, KS 67401-7649
Dufon, Dennis; PO Box 52, Ellsworth, KS 67439-0052
Fritz, Rodney D; C/O Trinity Lutheran Church, 2942 27th Rd, Hanover, KS 66945-8885
Grimm, Robert W; 706 Iowa St, Alma, KS 66401-9504
Harries, Thomas H; 12691 W 82nd Terrace, Lenexa, KS 66215
Heath, Timmothy W; 804 New York, Holton, KS 66436
Hoger, Allen C; 4649 N Farmstead, Bel Aire, KS 67220
Jobst, James Marvin; 220 Rawlings Dr, Tonganoxie, KS 66086
Junkin, Mark Robert; Zion Lutheran Church, PO Box 88, Vassar, KS 66543
Keltner, James A; 1205 N 3rd St E, Louisburg, KS 66053-6451
Lange, Peter K; 221 SW Greenwood Ave, Topeka, KS 66606-1227
Panzer, Justin A; Faith Lutheran Church, 1600 N Buckeye, Abilene, KS 67410
Peckman, Richard E; 510 W 9th St, Coffeyville, KS 67337-5002
Sharp, John W; PO Box 46, Holyrood, KS 67450-0046
Spencer, Lynn E; C/O St John Lutheran Church, PO Box 772, Meade, KS 67864-0772
Von Stroh, C Dean; 810 N Sandpiper, Wichita, KS 67230
White, Donald R; 806 S 1st St, Atwood, KS 67730

Voting Lay

Brewer, Mark; 5908 SW 31st Terr, Topeka, KS 66614
Burchett, Doug W; 1304 N 12th St, Arkansas City, KS 67005-1910
Copley, Don D; PO Box 157, Humboldt, KS 66748-0157
Duitsman, Jim; 713 Mound St, Atchison, KS 66002
Eales, Bill G; 1605 S Elm, Ottawa, KS 66067
Eberhart, Max; 8609 Huntington St, Wichita, KS 67206-2416
Goedeken, Frank; 2909 Toalson Ave, Dodge City, KS 67801-2170
Grimm, Ivan; 12557 Farley, Overland Park, KS 66213
Howard, Otis W; 1112 Nixon, Norton, KS 67654
Kaempfe, Jerry; 2716 Elm, Hays, KS 67601
Mattal, Fred; 511 Grove St, Pratt, KS 67124
Schotte, Richard; 470 Elk Rd, Bremen, KS 66412
Stigge, Norbert; 2909 College Ave, Manhattan, KS 66502
Vogel, Arthur F; 4613 W 113th Terr, Leawood, KS 66211
Weiss, Rod; 10411 Haskins, Lenexa, KS 66215
Wendt, Mark A; 201 E Trapp St, PO Box 285, Herington, KS 67449-0285
Wiese, William H; 12214 E Parallel Rd, Haven, KS 67543

Advisory Ordained

Schnelle, Paul V; 409 E Highland Ave, Carthage, MO 64836-3312

Advisory Commissioned

Duitsman, Joyce E; 713 Mound St, Atchison, KS 66002-1852
Stephens, Kent William; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 600 N Greenwich Rd, Wichita, KS 67206-2633

Michigan District

Voting Ordained

Adams, Douglas M; 2651 W Bacon Rd, Hillsdale, MI 49242-9183
Azzam, Timothy P; 6098 Stagecoach Trl, Oscoda, MI 48750-8737
Benjamin, Scott E; Resurrection Lutheran Church, 20531 Kelly Rd, Detroit, MI 48035
Bickel, Craig L; 3547 Heatherfield Ct, Washington, MI 48094-1119

Billings, Steven Stewart; 8477 Honey Ln, Canton, MI 48187-4103
 Burgess, David F; 42470 Malbeck Dr, Sterling Heights, MI 48314
 Crabtree, Bruce Lee; 5706 Rosewood Dr, Monroe, MI 48161-3928
 Davenport, Dean Marvin; 139 W Church, Ave, Reed City, MI 49677-1313
 Davis, David A; 1895 Penobscot, Okemos, MI 48864
 Filter, Edward W; 6824 Maynard Rd, Portland, MI 48875-9605
 Gnewuch, Carl M; 1725 S Eton St, Birmingham, MI 48009
 Heidt, Brian F; 205 W Oliver St, Owosso, MI 48867-2317
 Helms, Steven C; 2690 Clear Springs Ct, Lapeer, MI 48446-3295
 Hetzner, Mark W; 23142 Hayes Ave, Eastpointe, MI 48021-1542
 Johnson, Randy L; C/O Mt Hope Lutheran Church, 5323 Southfield Rd, Allen Park, MI 48101
 Kilmer, Eric S; 7830 Harris Rd, Marlette, MI 48453-9532
 Kostizen, Erwin; 1065 St Andrew, Highland, MI 48357
 Krengel, Douglas A; Trinity Lutheran Church, 122 W Wesley Ave, Jackson, MI 49201-2227
 Loest, Mark A; 1220 S Mueller Rd, Saginaw, MI 48601
 Love, Mark W; 10 Gilbaltor NE, Rockford, MI 49341
 Manor, Jonathan J; 9927 Tecumseh, Redford, MI 48239
 Meyer, Thomas F; 7682 Cidermill Dr, Grand Rapids, MI 49508
 Moldenhauer, Paul M; 2020 S Commerce Rd, Walled Lake, MI 48390-2412
 Morris, William L; 2161 Ralph Ave, Alpena, MI 49707
 Muecke, Dan W; 4259 Calhoun, Dearborn, MI 48126-3619
 Parent, Raymond D; Hope Lutheran Church, PO Box 160, Bel-laire, MI 49615-0160
 Schilke, Stephen E; 3862 S 7th St, Onaway, MI 49765
 Schleicher, John C; 2470 Rhodora Dr, Zeeland, MI 49464-9015
 Schroeder, James E; 4353 N U.S. Hwy 31, Scottville, MI 49454-9660
 Schulz, Charles R; 6007 S Miami Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48197-9729
 Schwartz, John W; St Stephen's Lutheran Church, 7410 W Johnson Rd, Shelby, MI 49455-7511
 Steeh, Edward J; 47376 Old Orchard Dr, Macomb, MI 48044-2758
 Stowe, Douglas John; 2666 Cambellgate Dr, Waterford, MI 48329-3120
 Streng, Karl N; 141 Garrison Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49017
 Theiss, Paul D; 2704 Ziegler Rd, Bay City, MI 48706-9355
 Todd, Kelly D; Christ Lutheran Church, 5245 Hadley Rd, Goodrich, MI 48438
 Wagner, Robert V; 7255 Meisner Rd, China, MI 48054-3009
 Warsinski, Larry A; 10010 E Monroe, Wheeler, MI 48662
 Weiss, David E; 61290 Mary Lou Ln, Cassopolis, MI 49031-9703
 Wenskay, Lee C; 104 Clara St, Pigeon, MI 48755
 Wentzel, Michael W; 2894 Dalton, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
 Wenzel, Alsen K; 18669 W Howard City Edmore Rd, Howard City, MI 49329-9147
 Winter, William C; 302 Kimberly Dr, Prudenville, MI 48651-9740
 Wurst, Robert Walter; 718 E Kasson Rd, Maple City, MI 49664-9726

Voting Lay

Balzer, Melvin S; 6751 Center St, Unionville, MI 48767-9482
 Bassett, Jeremy; 1368 Concord Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48198
 Boergert, Steve; 5439 Bristol Parke Dr, Clarkston, MI 48348
 Bogema, Don E; 1247 E Forest, Muskegon, MI 49442
 Britton, Craig C; 900 Albright Dr, Jackson, MI 49203
 Davis, Larry; 6988 Lakemont Cr, West Bloomfield, MI 48322
 Dickhausen, Michael C; 1120 Doerr Rd, Saginaw, MI 48601
 Diefenbach, John; 3781 East 8th Rd, Manton, MI 49663-9506
 Dixon, Bob; 4733 Woodland Dr, St Joseph, MI 49085
 Finkel, Donald W; 6517 N Lakeshore Rd, Port Hope, MI 48468
 Fischer, Karen; 11 Oxford Knoll, Frankenmuth, MI 48734-9017
 Genthner, Ric G; 24005 Dugan, New Boston, MI 48164
 Geyer, Philip; 2512 Dayton Dr, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
 Gust, Dale D; 2814 S Coldwater Rd, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858-9681
 Gutgesell, George A; 819 Oda St, Davison, MI 48423
 Haller, Dan; 48845 Delmont Dr, Novi, MI 48374
 Hamrick, Chester; 62009 41st St, Paw Paw, MI 49079
 Hardies, Sandy L; 9913 Santa Fe, Canadian Lakes, MI 49346
 Haughn, Ed; 407 Poplar Ln, Traverse City, MI 49684-9463
 Herbstreit, John C; 733 Fieldview Dr, Grand Ledge, MI 48837
 Hildebrand, Greg R; 312 E Summit St, Greenville, MI 48838
 Hubel, Clayton; 925 Barrie, Flint, MI 48507
 Huser, Dennis; 32108 Wellston, Warren, MI 48093
 Iseler, Earl; 6833 Woodhills St NE, Rockford, MI 49341-9214
 Lewis, Elizabeth; 5268 Haverhill, Detroit, MI 48224
 Lobser, Donald; 2858 Lochmoor Blvd, Lake Orion, MI 48360
 Mueller, Thomas; 3938 Bush, Bay City, MI 48706
 Neddermeyer, William; 6208 Mt Maria Rd, PO Box 51, Hubbard Lake, MI 49747
 Nighswander, Lydia L; 663 Dunks Rd, Union City, MI 49094
 Oberly, Dennis; 884 N Beech Daly Rd, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127-3474
 Olson, Gordon E; 15349 Gully, Taylor, MI 48180
 Prosch, Jerry; 1139 Woodworth Dr, Grand Blanc, MI 48439
 Ritter, Shirley; 04136 Lake Shore Dr, Boyne City, MI 49712
 Ruttan, Sandra K; PO Box 54, Rogers City, MI 49779
 Schilke, Ervin; 560 S 4th St, West Branch, MI 48661
 Seppamaki, Ray; 715 Strawberry Valley NW, Comstock Park, MI 49321

Sohn, Dennis; 2145 Aspenwood, Holt, MI 48842
 Solano, John M; 2533 Springwells, Detroit, MI 48209
 Tash, David; 15133 Vincent Dr, Sterling Heights, MI 48313
 Tyler, Randy; 9833 Elizabeth Lake Rd, White Lake, MI 48386
 Veitenruber, Magdalen; 2671 Benson Rd, Tawas City, MI 48763
 Warren, Brian K; 600 La Salle Blvd, Port Huron, MI 48060-2287
 Weber, Russell C; 48880 Chesapeake Ct, Shelby Township, MI 48315
 Young, Bill; 8969 24th Ave, Jenison, MI 49428

Advisory Ordained

Grimm, Gerald E; Project Compassion 3307 29th St, Detroit, MI 48210-3231
 Kinne, Lawrence A; 24347 Hampton Hill St, Novi, MI 48375-2613

Advisory Commissioned

Altevogt, Lester L; 14815 Boynton Ln, Hemlock, MI 48626-9701
 Baerwolf, Paul R; 22726 Arlington St, Dearborn, MI 48128-1802
 Blomquist, Barry E; 1820 Rowland Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546-4329
 Cohrs, Richard P; 829 Chesley Dr, Lansing, MI 48917
 Jones, Amanda Ruth; 348 Bradley Ave, Apt 131A, Flint, MI 48503-5449
 Kaiser, Roy G; 370 Maplehill Rd, Rochester Hills, MI 48306-4315
 Krone, Shirley M; 5 Scottsdale Pl, Dearborn, MI 48124-2487
 Krone, Walter K; 5 Scottsdale Pl, Dearborn, MI 48124
 Kusch, David S; 32405 Maria Ct, Livonia, MI 48152-4272
 Locke, George M; 4297 Forest Bridge Dr, Canton, MI 48188-7918
 Pickelmann, Henry M; 4762 Birnbaum Dr, Bay City, MI 48706-9712
 Schafer, Robert D; 53282 Luann Dr, Shelby Township, MI 48316-2604
 Schallhorn, Mark B; 4301 Underhill Dr, Flint, MI 48506
 Schallhorn, Vicki L; 4301 Underhill Dr, Flint, MI 48506
 Schultz, Lloyd N; 18058 Greenfield Rd, Detroit, MI 48235-3119
 Schultz, Patricia A; 18058 Greenfield Rd, Detroit, MI 48235-3119

Mid-South District

Voting Ordained

Ave-Lallemant, M Peter; Faith Lutheran Church, 4918 Main St, Ste. 7, Spring Hill, TN 37174-7185
 Bischof, Jon Charles; 311 N 62nd St, Paragould, AR 72450
 Elseroad, Richard M; 1128 Terra Rosa Dr, Knoxville, TN 37932-2558
 Gierke, John Peter; 1640 Highpoint Dr, Conway, AR 72034-6099
 Griffin, Timm L; 1104 Sugar Ln, Collierville, TN 38017-6856
 Jones, Todd A; 5 Hope Dr, Bella Vista, AR 72715-1687
 Mackay, Marcus Jay; Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, 4305 Hwy 5 N, Bryant, AR 72202
 Miller, Randy J; 3683 Perry Cemetery Rd, Columbia, TN 38401-6802
 Philipp, Monte Chad; PO Box 419, Gillett, AR 72055-0419
 Pingel, Gilbert H; 8106 Carriage Crossing, Chattanooga, TN 37421-3263
 Redmann, James C; 1208 Pin Oak Dr, Hopkinsville, KY 42240-5116
 Stuckwisch, Allen D; 2305 Cross Hill Rd, Fort Smith, AR 72908-9176

Voting Lay

Allen, Nora A; 915 Shanks Ave C 7, Cookeville, TN 38501
 Baskin, Kenneth; 2903 Newbern Dr, Johnson City, TN 37604
 Doyle, Everett; 1103 N Park Ave, Brownsville, TN 38012
 Ficken, Jack; 7110 Anglin Rd, Fairview, TN 37062
 Hamilton, Connie; 1629 Shelby Cir, Chattanooga, TN 37343
 Metzler, Juanita B; 100 Winchester Point, Hot Springs, AR 71913
 Pearson, Arthur; 13610 Abingen Dr, Little Rock, AR 72212
 Pfeiffer, Ronald; 884 River Park Dr, Memphis, TN 38108
 Prevaillet, Donald; 1702 Wedgewood Dr, Blytheville, AR 72315
 Smith, Phil; 1101 S Leslie, Stuttgart, AR 72160
 Snelling, David; 61 Abbey Rd, Russellville, AR 72802
 Suttie, Kristi; 3065 Willow Bend Cir, Springdale, AR 72762

Advisory Ordained

Herd, Clifford Leroy; 832 Belvoir Crest Dr, Chattanooga, TN 37412-2010

Advisory Commissioned

Pudwell, Kristin L; 6515 Elmored Rd, Memphis, TN 38134-5939
 Weidler, Peggy L; 3906 Philcrest Pl, Springdale, AR 72762

Minnesota North District

Voting Ordained

Aufdenkamp, William M; 213 Maple Ave E, Frazee, MN 56544-0335
 Beck, John E; 830 South Rush Creek Ln, Rush City, MN 55069
 Bohler, Steven W; 800 S Washington, Crookston, MN 55716
 Burns, Daniel R; PO Box 1563, 401 5th St S, Walker, MN 56484
 Cloeter, Paul E; 2045 E Highview Dr, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379-2629
 Ethridge, Shawn P; St John Lutheran Church, PO Box 18, Garfield, MN 56332

Hanson, Mark; PO Box 198, Sabin, MN 56580
 Hayden, Steven L; 519 N Fourth Ave E, Melrose, MN 56352-1127
 Koopmann, Henry J; 120 3rd St S, Mc Gregor, MN 55760-5885
 Lehenbauer, Walter; 6310 Maple Grove Rd, Cloquet, MN 55720-9250
 Mc Manus, Dennis J; C/O St Mark Lutheran Church, 1420 Nevada Ave, Benson, MN 56215-1136
 Moritz, Randall Clare; C/O St Luke Lutheran Church, 5595 130th Ave, Wood Lake, MN 56297-1497
 Stauby, Donald M; 500 W Central Ave, Aurora, MN 55705-1260
 Stier, Donald L; PO Box 77, Hinckley, MN 55037-0077
 Timm, Bruce A; 2024 N Benton Dr, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379-2605
 Wagner, Donald R; PO Box 446, Elbow Lake, MN 56531
 Weber, Karl A; 31957 Co Hwy 61, Ottertail, MN 56571-9630
 Wierschke, Allan Didrik; PO Box 219, Blackduck, MN 56630-0219

Voting Lay

Barchenger, Donald E; PO Box 303, Albany, MN 56307
 Barrett, Judi; 27535 Red Wing Ave, Shafer, MN 55074
 Bladow, Maurice A; 620 Oak St, Breckenridge, MN 56520
 Brehmer, David; 905 4th Ave N, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
 Dragosani-Brantingham, Justin; PO Box 74, Warroad, MN 56763-0074
 Goltz, Gary; 68398 Third River, Squaw Lake, MN 56681
 Hansen, Duane C; 354 Lake Ave S, Spicer, MN 56288
 Henkel, Donald A; 65964 Big Pine Rd, Finlayson, MN 55735
 Kessler, Lee H; 17104 Longview Dr, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
 Marotzke, Wendel K; 31113 U.S. Hwy 59, Hancock, MN 56244
 Moldenhauer, Ray; 22796 Co 10, Long Prairie, MN 56347
 Sundbom, Le Roy B; 41283 141st Ave, Clearbrook, MN 56634
 Teigen, David; 5153 Red Rambler Dr, Pine River, MN 56474-3567
 Vik, David W; 14431 150th St, Park Rapids, MN 56470
 Wachlin, Charlie; 50748 Tamarack Rd, Wadena, MN 56482
 Wagner, Vernell; PO Box 264, Herman, MN 56248
 Warren, David; 130 W Austin, Duluth, MN 55803
 Weispennig, Loris; 15710 Co Rd 29, Villard, MN 56385

Advisory Ordained

Kath, Harvey G; 21133 Eden Dr, Nevis, MN 56467-5079

Advisory Commissioned

Peterson, Sheila K; 214 Ave D, Cloquet, MN 55720-1138

Minnesota South District

Voting Ordained

Bender, James W; 3984 Scheneuman Rd, White Bear Lake, MN 55110
 Bode, Grant T; 57034 Brookview Ln, New Ulm, MN 56073-5514
 Briel, Steven C; 17425 83rd Ave N, Maple Grove, MN 55311-1755
 Frederickson, Bruce G; 10003 Pleasure Creek Pkwy W, Blaine, MN 55434-4227
 Gillard, Jacob; Trinity First Lutheran Church, 1115 E 19th St, Minneapolis, MN 55404
 Heining, James W; 3380 Jasper Ct NE, Rochester, MN 55906
 Hillyer, William J; 352 Garden Dr, Delano, MN 55328-4551
 Hinz, Frederic G; 100 Lincoln Ave W, Gaylord, MN 55334-2273
 Hovland, G Gregory; 812 Juniper St, La Crescent, MN 55947-1423
 Klatt, Gary H; 819 N Cedar St, Luverne, MN 56156
 Kohrs, Dale Ray; 3900 420th Ave, Elmore, MN 56027-2086
 Markworth, David John; C/O St John Lutheran Church, 60929 110th St, Hutchinson, MN 55350
 Markworth, James A; 18236 Embers Ave, Farmington, MN 55024-9258
 Mathews, Michael William; PO Box 116, Waldorf, MN 56091-0116
 Mueller, Bart; 80348 410th Ave, Lakefield, MN 56150-9717
 Nadasdy, Dean W; 9255 Pinehurst Rd, Woodbury, MN 55125
 Natzke, William J; 1401 10th St NW, Austin, MN 55912-1875
 Neal, Randall A; 14203 Glen Lake Dr, Minnetonka, MN 55345-4978
 Nowak, Robert W; 15153 Oak Ridge Cir SE, Prior Lake, MN 55372-1915
 Reimers, Russell D; 1669 40th St, Ceylon, MN 56121
 Rosenau, Mark W; 833 Lancer Dr NE, Owatonna, MN 55060-1573
 Schoenfeld, Martin Thomas; PO Box 680, Howard Lake, MN 55349-0680
 Sorenson, Lowell Stephen; Immanuel Lutheran Church, 24686 Old Church Rd, Red Wing, MN 55066-7613
 Thorson, Brian J; PO Box 212, Lewisville, MN 56060
 Weiss, Stephen Thomas; 38854 800th St, Lakefield, MN 56150

Voting Lay

Baumgard, Gayle E; 413 5th Ave, Round Lake, MN 56167
 Bohrer, Timothy; 301 172nd Ave NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304
 Breitharth, Neal D; 2579 Stella Ct, Fairmont, MN 56031
 Bremer, Paul E; 41790 300th St, Arlington, MN 55307
 Drevlow, Matthew R; 3935 Kenyon Blvd, Faribault, MN 55021
 Erdman, Wesley J; 4930 Sycamore Dr, Eagan, MN 55123
 Gielow, Karrol; PO Box 336, Rushford, MN 55971-9179
 Hansen, Dave; 85820 State Hwy 86, Lakefield, MN 56150
 Hauschildt, Norman; 31553 570th Ave, Waltham, MN 55982
 Himmer, Dale D; PO Box 206, Elgin, MN 55932

Krause, Steve; 16940 17th Ave N, Plymouth, MN 55447
 Kruger, Richard J; 523 Owasso Hills Dr, Roseville, MN 55113
 Maik, Ray; 1800 87th Trl, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
 Maycroft, Randy; 5108 W 108th St, Bloomington, MN 55437
 Meier, Kathy L; 2439 Big Oak Ln, Mayer, MN 55360-2118
 Meinert, Jason; 437 2nd Ave NW, Winnebago, MN 56098
 Olson, Carol; 11297 Beechwood Ln, Woodbury, MN 55129
 Orloff, Dale O; 695 Southview Dr, Hutchinson, MN 55350
 Quiram, Davin D; 128 N 2nd St, Eagle Lake, MN 56024
 Reinholdt, James F; 216 N Austin Ave, Litchfield, MN 55355
 Schultz, Edwin; 1491 Chippewa Dr NW, Rochester, MN 55901
 Smallfield, Larry; 301 5th St SW, Pipestone, MN 56164
 Tennyson, Mike; 213 N 4th Ave W, Truman, MN 56088
 Urban, Gary; 337 Blue Earth St, Mankato, MN 56001
 Vogt, Dale F; 4115 Lexington Way, Eagan, MN 55123

Advisory Ordained

Krogen, Richard A; 231 104th Ln NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448-5042

Advisory Commissioned

Erdman, Marvin R; 1666 40th St, Ceylon, MN 56121-9719
 Schlicker, David J; 14715 Co Rd 153, Cologne, MN 55322-9143
 Schroeder, Erlen O; 112 5th St NE, Mayer, MN 55360-9607
 Taylor, LaVona Mae; 1064 Merritt St, Shakopee, MN 55379-2922
 Zum Hofe, Allen W; 96 South Dr, Apt 304, Circle Pines, MN 55014-3350

Missouri District

Voting Ordained

Albers, Steven H; 2250 Ferncliff Ln, Kirkwood, MO 63122-5117
 Bolland, Richard A; 2003 NE Englewood Rd, 1608 NW 78th St, Kansas City, MO 64118
 Dittmar, David L; 7316 Coronado Ave, St Louis, MO 63116-3053
 Doubek, William J P; 1001 N Summit St, Neosho, MO 64850-1095
 Ellul, Gary J; St Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 328, Jonesburg, MO 63351
 Golden, Kevin Scott; 12495 Co Rd 4047, Holts Summit, MO 65043
 Hagan, Robert Lee; 410 S Main St, PO Box 711, Concordia, MO 64020
 Henrickson, Charles M; 4947 Melissa Jo Ln, St Louis, MO 63128
 Hetzel, Brian J; 1108 SW Granite Creek Dr, Blue Springs, MO 64015-6723
 Kampath, Stephen P; 1208 Casey Ln, Rolla, MO 65401
 Lawrence, Wayne E; St James Lutheran Church, 1401 N Hanley Rd, University City, MO 63130-1605
 Lohse, Paul; 300 S 7th St, La Grange, MO 63448
 Loy, David W; 2365 W Auburn St, Bolivar, MO 65613
 Mackey, Daniel Paul; 308 E 1st St, Appleton City, MO 64724
 Miille, Timothy Charles; PO Box 85, Blackburn, MO 65321-0085
 Otto, Craig Douglas; 1124 NE Clubhouse Ln, Lees Summit, MO 64086-3063
 Raedeke, Frederick A; 2000 Benton St, St Louis, MO 63106-2401
 Rogers, James C; 1603 Clayton Spur Ct, Ellisville, MO 63011-2012
 Rusnak, William Gary; 4612 Misty Trail, St Louis, MO 63128
 Scharff, Kim L; 202 N Pine St, Norborne, MO 64668-1125
 Schmeisser, Kirk R; 1024 Magnolia St, St Joseph, MO 64505-1604
 Schwiesow, Wayne William; 138 Co Rd 226, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
 Spallek, Andrew J; 3780 Thistledown Dr, Florissant, MO 63033-6544
 Spomer, Charles W; 6360 Devonshire Ave, St Louis, MO 63109-2215
 Thieme, Brian K; 520 N Crater Lake Dr, Columbia, MO 65201-6871
 Wachter, Keith D; 643 Zumwalt Crossings, O Fallon, MO 63366-4424
 Weise, Keith R; PO Box 122, Altenburg, MO 63732
 Wollenburg, Alan J; 104 Linda Dr, Sikeston, MO 63801-4610
 Zastrow, William F; 9100 Hwy YY, Leslie, MO 63056-1101

Voting Lay

Bertram, William P; 546 Lindsey Ln, PO Box 47, Farmington, MO 63640
 Biermann, Dean; 17049 Holt 105, Craig, MO 64437
 Bohlmann, Harold; 4362 Ventura Place Dr, St Louis, MO 63128-3158
 Burns, Doris; 1201 White Oak Ct, Troy, MO 63379
 Church, Kevin G; 10165 SE 350 Rd, Osceola, MO 64776
 Dieterichs, Bill; 14379 Cedar Springs Dr, Chesterfield, MO 63017
 Domsch, Dave; 3349 S Scott Ave, Independence, MO 64052
 Garoutte, Michael; 403 Lakeview Ln, Carl Junction, MO 64834
 Gerber, Sandra; 6425 Wanda, St Louis, MO 63116
 Gode, David W; 243 Brookdale Ave, Jefferson City, MO 65101
 Heiss, Chuck; 853 NW 675th Rd, Centerville, MO 64019
 Hill, James V; 4121 Beggs Blvd, St Louis, MO 63121
 Jacobs, Al; 22716 Hwy 19, Salem, MO 65560-5435
 King, Jessie; 5017 Co Rd 2150, Pomona, MO 65789
 Kirchoff, Harold; 10209 E 99th Terr, Kansas City, MO 64134
 Kurth, Robert P; 110 W 5th, Alma, MO 64001

Lehr, Eugene; 6955 Waterman Ave, St Louis, MO 63130-4333
 Loeb, Norbert; 12473 Betsy Ross Ln, St Louis, MO 63146-4637
 Mahsman, Phillip D; 13526 Pike 103, New London, MO 63459
 Nafzger, Janis E; 4315 Green Briar Ct, Washington, MO 63090-5747
 Roth, Donald A; 206 Omote Creek Ln, Perryville, MO 63775
 Sanders, Clifford; 211 Market St, Apt 1, Glasgow, MO 65254-1072
 Saugstad, Dennis; PO Box 68, Weston, MO 64098
 Schenks, Tim; 2216 Trousdale, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901
 Schroeder, Vernon; 825 N Kingshighway, St Charles, MO 63301
 Seckel, Tony C; 1655 Canter Dr, Florissant, MO 63033-2503
 Seider, Gary; 19501 North Bertlee, Centralia, MO 65240
 Steffens, Dale E; 2129 Ridge Rd, Jackson, MO 63755
 Whittle, Terry R; 4501 Lindell Blvd, Apt 4A, St Louis, MO 63108-2044

Advisory Ordained

Dissen, David V; 211 Hillview St, Cape Girardeau, MO 63703-6327
 Gundermann, Vernon D; 34 Cedarbrook Ln, Kirkwood, MO 63122-5211
 Hoyer, Martin O; 19083 Hobbs Rd, Barnett, MO 65011-3618
 Miesner, Donald R; 807 Hollyridge Dr, Ballwin, MO 63011-3505

Advisory Commissioned

Beerman, John; 6181 Walkenhorst Rd, Concordia, MO 64020-7231
 Bobzin, John C; 32513 Co Line Rd, PO Box 358, Concordia, MO 64020-0358
 Buchholz, David Allen; 6609 N Camden, Kansas City, MO 64151
 Dickey, Douglas H; 325 Boggess Dr, PO Box 335, Carthage, MO 64836-0335
 Frank, David J; 808 SW Stonehenge Dr, Blue Springs, MO 64015-6227
 Gasau, William L; 404 Faculty Ln, Concordia, MO 64020
 Laubenstein, Larry P; 314 College Dr, PO Box 719, Concordia, MO 64020-0719
 List, Patsy L; 916 Gandolf Way, Eureka, MO 63025-1061
 Mathey, Debra Ann; 1007 Daisy Dr, Dexter, MO 63841-2725
 Pitsch, Monte Grant; 313 College Dr PO Box 424, Concordia, MO 64020-0424
 Prahlow, Donald A; 259 Bridgeview Ln, St Louis, MO 63129-3403
 Rapp, Gerald D; 12848 Pointe Dr, St Louis, MO 63127-1742
 Rice, Denise L; 835 La Bonne Pkwy, Manchester, MO 63021-7056

Montana District

Voting Ordained

Miller, Larry Allen; 3827 Chokecherry St, East Helena, MT 59635-3404
 Pullmann, Arlo W; 908 5th Ave, Laurel, MT 59044-1908
 Renfro, David W; 2210 26th Ave, Missoula, MT 59804
 Stinnett, Eric A; PO Box 57, Stanford, MT 59479-0057
 Tabbert, Christopher J; PO Box 332, Eureka, MT 59917-0332
 Vallie, John C; C/O Concordia Lutheran Church, PO Box 1258, Forsyth, MT 59327

Voting Lay

Hein, Gregg A; 2916 Belvedere Dr, Billings, MT 59102
 Kempf, Bruce; 1508 9th Ave S, Great Falls, MT 59405
 Maurer, Karen; PO Box 97, Big Arm, MT 59910
 Persinger, Brad; 94 Heather Ln, Glasgow, MT 59230
 Streufert, David J; 716 Sager Ln, Deer Lodge, MT 59722
 Swanson, Marion; PO Box 757, Thomson Falls, MT 59873

Advisory Ordained

Thompson, Richard L; 5028 Cheyenne Trl, Billings, MT 59106-9617

Advisory Commissioned

Krueger, Kenneth F; 1114 N 25th St, Billings, MT 59101-0224

Nebraska District

Voting Ordained

Awe, Michael A; 508 S Elm, Tilden, NE 68781-4708
 Birtell, Kenton Jay; 1402 East Ave Dr, Holdrege, NE 68949
 Carretto, James P; C/O St Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 797, Wisner, NE 68791-0797
 Cooper, Loren D; 2306 E 16 Rd, Hampton, NE 68843-3702
 Dobbertien, David F; 409 E 9th St, Ogallala, NE 69153-1507
 Gudgel, Richard L; 8620 Pacific St, Omaha, NE 68114-5230
 Jurchen, Arnold H; PO Box 167, Cordova, NE 68330-0167
 Kanoy, Rick G; 8959 Co Rd 9, Arlington, NE 68002
 King, Harold L; 4080 S Wanda Ave, Juniata, NE 68955
 Kitzing, Shawn L; PO Box 461, Loup City, NE 68853
 Kuhfal, David Paul; 109 F St, Neligh, NE 68756-1643
 Larsen, William F; PO Box 7, Fairfield, NE 68938-0007
 Linkugel, David H; 21479 Brentwood Rd, Elkhorn, NE 68022-2050
 Mueller, Herbert C; 107 Cherry St, PO Box 164, Amherst, NE 68812
 Schmidt, Charles O; 1616 G St, Fairbury, NE 68352-1340
 Snider, Merelyn R; St Paul Lutheran Church, 65103 712 Rd, Falls City, NE 68355-9634
 Steckling, Timothy J; 214 Miner St, PO Box 98, Winside, NE 68790-0098

Timm, Terry A; 56062 Paradise Hills Dr, Hoskins, NE 68740-4084
 Warneke, Paul M; PO Box 64, Curtis, NE 69025
 Whitson, Craig E; 1320 Sunrise Dr, Seward, NE 68434
 Williams, D George; RR 1, Box 125B, Ainsworth, NE 69210-9700
 Ziegler, Karl P; 4405 Anchor Mill Dr, Bellevue, NE 68123

Voting Lay

Aerni, Raymond; 909 Becton St, Columbus, NE 68601
 Behr, Galen; 2704 Martin Ave, Omaha, NE 68112-2824
 Buethe, Le Roy D; 431 N 5th St, Tecumseh, NE 68450
 Bulgrin, Jim; 706 Rd U, Waco, NE 68460
 Crandall, Keith L; 820 Oakridge Rd, Papillion, NE 68046
 Daberkow, Delwyn; PO Box 291, Laurel, NE 68745
 Ewoldt, Bernard; HC 15, Box 371, Valentine, NE 69021
 Fahleson, Mark; 1045 Fall Creek Rd, Lincoln, NE 68510
 Fry, Kevin W; 216 E Lincoln, PO Box 35, Ewing, NE 68735
 Haarberg, Eugene; 415 W 6th St, Box 222, Imperial, NE 69033
 Harnisch, Gerald; 2211 Estes Ln, Fremont, NE 68025
 Kreutzer, Richard; 2900 Central Ave, Kearney, NE 68847
 Monter, Glen; 604 Smith Ave, Elwood, NE 68937-5236
 Nelson, James L; 430 E Hickory Rd, Beatrice, NE 68310
 Onnen, Michael D; 2220 Rd 5000, Davenport, NE 68335
 Peterson, Mark D; 1604 Westwick Dr, Norfolk, NE 68701-2343
 Schellhorn, Arlan; 3208 Old Mill Rd, Seward, NE 68434
 Schmidt, Paul; 1115 N Minnesota Ave, Hastings, NE 68901
 Stirtz, Craig; 21813 Bobwhite Ave, Gretna, NE 68028
 Swan, Marvin; PO Box 863, Grant, NE 69140-0863
 Wageman, Steve; 2616 Chanticleer, #A, Grand Island, NE 68801
 Warneke, Kent M; 2100 Skyline Dr, Norfolk, NE 68701

Advisory Ordained

Rossow, Jerome W; 2915 Coronado, Lincoln, NE 68516-4659

Advisory Commissioned

Bork, Ronald D; 1254 Rainbow, Seward, NE 68434-1324
 Duensing, Lonnie G; 1818 Summit St, Beatrice, NE 68310-2565
 Plummer, D Dean; 3261 50th Ave, Columbus, NE 68601
 Thurber, Daniel C; 1340 Plainview Ave, Seward, NE 68434-1349

New England District

Voting Ordained

Berry, James W; 100 Maple Ave, Keene, NH 03431
 Clow, Mark R; 24 Arbutus St, Middletown, CT 06457-5196
 Harper, Walter J; 47 Quaker Ridge Rd, Bethel, CT 06801
 Knapp, Timothy D; 69 Teele Rd, Bolton, MA 01740-1117
 Nichols, Larry A; 27 Riverview Ave, Smithfield, RI 02917-1723
 Piller, Robert H; 627 Weston Rd, Manchester, NH 03103-3197
 Schuett, Scott R; 269 Babcock Hill Rd, Lebanon, CT 06249-1303
 Schumacher, Steven R; 136 Fleetwood Rd, Bristol, CT 06010-2535
 Wiese, James M; 7 Clark St, Easthampton, MA 01027

Voting Lay

Boldt, Burt; 30 Pine St, East Hartland, CT 06027
 Clements, John; 1550 Tuttle Ave, Wallingford, CT 06492
 Dow, Steve; 97 Land of Nod Rd, Windham, ME 04062
 Garrett, Andrew; 1314 Desmond Lake Rd, Glostenbury, CT 06033
 Giger, Robert; 24 W Vaughn St, Lakeville, MA 02347
 Gollenberg, Gary; 159 Woods Way Dr, Southburg, CT 06488
 Phillips, John; 9 Brentwood Dr, Leominster, MA 01453
 Prehar, Troy; 18 Simpson Dr, Framingham, MA 01701-4051
 Wollenberg, Thomas; 26 N Main St, Terryville, CT 06786

Advisory Ordained

Dienst, Martin P; 100 Ridge Rd, Williston, VT 05495-9781

Advisory Commissioned

Koch, Vernon C; 117 Wilcox St, Bristol, CT 06010

New Jersey District

Voting Ordained

Kritsch, Paul E; 107 Glenside Ave, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
 Lutz, Craig Edward; 13 Sandlor Ter, Oak Ridge, NJ 07438-8922
 Schroter, John H; 248 Columbia Ave, Cliffside Park, NJ 07010-2404
 Smith, Bruce W; 193 Milltown Rd, East Brunswick, NJ 08816
 Vogt, Stephen; 251 Wheatsworth Rd, Hamburg, NJ 07419

Voting Lay

Lawrence, Lucia; 141 Fern Ave, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071
 Lee, Susan; 35 Collen Ct, Kendall Park, NJ 08824
 Naumowicz, Stephen J; 16 Dogwood Dr, Newton, NJ 07860
 Stelling, Dianne; 352 Rodeny Rd, Wyckoff, NJ 07481
 Theriault, Matthew; 97 S Appletree Rd, Howell, NJ 07731

Advisory Ordained

Zeeb, Otto T; 9 D Cardinal St, Lakehurst, NJ 08759-5303

Advisory Commissioned

Doring, Lois R; 28 Musconetcong Ave, Stanhope, NJ 07874-2936

North Dakota District**Voting Ordained**

Bertsch, Arie D; 1010 72nd St SE, Minot, ND 58701-9371
 Eckstein, Thomas Robert; 902 9th Ave NE, Jamestown, ND 58401
 Hafner, Timothy Paul; 409 Baker Ave, PO Box 70, Niagara, ND 58266
 Hartley, Dean R; Saint John Lutheran Church, PO Box 757, Underwood, ND 58576
 Jahnke, Clark H; 325 Cherry Ct, West Fargo, ND 58078-2923
 Wanderer, Douglas Craig; C/O Immanuel Lutheran Church, 9690 Hwy 18, Lidgerwood, ND 58053-9774

Voting Lay

Bladow, Leon; 16740 88th St SE, Hankinson, ND 58041-9462
 Dilger, Roger; 610 Yorkshire Ln, Bismarck, ND 58504
 Janke, Michael; 7879 100th Ave SE, Fullerton, ND 58441
 Mattson, Greg; 3933 13th Ave S, Grand Forks, ND 58201
 Rahlf, William M; 271 Grove St, Sutton, ND 58484-7112
 Riley, John; 8098 5th Ave NE, Willow City, ND 58384

Advisory Ordained

Stephens, Morris W; PO Box 142, Barney, ND 58008

North Wisconsin District**Voting Ordained**

Blocker, Bruce L; 125 7th St, Oconto, WI 54153
 Bohn, Daniel Lee; 990 3rd St, Port Edwards, WI 54469
 Borgelt, Larry G; 2002 Redwood Dr, Eau Claire, WI 54703-1887
 Braden, Mark P; 3620 Sherwin Ave, Altoona, WI 54720-1049
 Cluppert, Jonathan D; 8971 Townline Rd, Woodruff, WI 54568-9302
 Connor, Raymond R; 9406 Woodland, Weston, WI 54476
 Danner, Joel Stephen; N2965 Lokemoen Rd, Merrill, WI 54452
 Dukovan, David M; PO Box 18, Bowler, WI 54416
 Hunsicker, Paul C; 307 W Pine St, Abbottsford, WI 54405-9739
 Lodholz, Gary Dale; W7837 Simon Rd, Fifiield, WI 54524-9466
 Lundgren, Mark Andrew; St John Lutheran Church, PO Box 96, Auburndale, WI 54412
 Mangold, Kenneth J; St John Lutheran Church, PO Box 12, Lakewood, WI 54138
 Michalk, Michael E; 3007 Old Orchard Rd, Eau Claire, WI 54703-6603
 Miller, David P; 420 E Boettcher Ln, Bonduel, WI 54107
 Mueller, Ronald W; 1347 E La Salle Ave, Barron, WI 54812-1637
 Parrish, Brent L; 301 S 26th St, Escanaba, MI 49829
 Shackel, Paul L; 1140 Pomer Way, Menasha, WI 54952-1730
 Toenjes, Alan M; 1250 Kellogg St, Green Bay, WI 54303-3075
 Wiebold, Raymond E; 520 Greaton Rd, New Richmond, WI 54017
 Wright, Edward W; E8193 Sanders Rd, Bessemer, MI 49911

Voting Lay

Becker, Gregory; 105 S Horseshoe Dr, Turtle Lake, WI 54889
 Block, Norman; 105 Country Club Dr, Clintonville, WI 54929
 Erb, Tommy L; W2740 Old 22 Rd, Cecil, WI 54111
 Fahl, Jeffrey; 455 S Avon, Phillips, WI 54555
 Fisher, Stephen; 411 Drier St, Durand, WI 54736
 Golbach, David; 701 Deleglise St, Antigo, WI 54409-1425
 Kiesow, Kenneth; E14860 Co Rd AF, Fall Creek, WI 54742
 Klingforth, John; 4911 Auburn Ave, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
 Klosterman, Ronald; 100 W Washington St, #10, Bonduel, WI 54107
 Koehler, Dale; 1074 65th Ave, Amery, WI 54001
 Krueger, Paula; H 8734 Hwy Q, Wausau, WI 54403
 Miller, Karl; 2350 Adobe Rd, #103, Three Lakes, WI 54562
 Nyre, James; 600 Graham Ave, #107, Eau Claire, WI 54701
 Otto, Jeff; 8923 Sunshine Dr, Tomohawk, WI 54487
 Pemberton, John O; 23522 Cedar Ave, PO Box 513, Dollan Bay, MI 49922
 Rodenbeck, Paul; 10001 State Hwy 13, Marshfield, WI 54449
 Steinke, Richard; 3340 Delahaut St, Green Bay, WI 54301
 Strack, Wilfred; 113 Caroline St, Athens, WI 54411
 Weber, Ruth; 3541 N Windward Ln, Appleton, WI 54911-1233
 Williams, Richard; 522 9th Ave W, Ashland, WI 54806

Advisory Ordained

Lutz, Arleigh L; 1250 Sunset Dr, Wausau, WI 54401-4255

Advisory Commissioned

Longmire, Kenny L; 1365 Dallman Ln, Shawano, WI 54166
 Rawlings, James E; 2314 Downing Drive, Mosinee, WI 54455

Northern Illinois District**Voting Ordained**

Anderson, Steven J; 5243 S Major Ave, Chicago, IL 60638
 Appold, Paul C; 17850 State Line, Lansing, IL 60438
 Ball, Benjamin T; 1124 Alima Terr, La Grange Park, IL 60526-1361
 Balla, David Paul; 2711 Lindgren Trail, Aurora, IL 60504-6254
 Barber, David E; 1625 Longmeadow, Glenview, IL 60025-1546
 Browne, Christopher C; 2454 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago, IL 60659-5122
 Donovan, Robert Bickford; 2046 N Fremont St, Chicago, IL 60614-4312
 Gallup, Roger B; C/O Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 2624 N Oak St, River Grove, IL 60171-1696

Gauss, Erik; Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, 8609 State Rte 47, Yorkville, IL 60560
 Geaschel, Robert Earl; 11480 German Church Rd, Burr Ridge, IL 60527-7143
 Gleason, Howard Jess; Saint John Lutheran Church, PO Box 85, Burlington, IL 60109-0085
 Hess, Karl Robert; 616 Apollo Dr, Joliet, IL 60435-5120
 Hudak, David P; C/O St Peter Lutheran Church, 202 E Schaumburg Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60194-3517
 Kass, Stephen Robert; 507 Heather Ln, Carol Stream, IL 60188
 Krause, Kenneth E; 1903 Spring Brook Ave, Rockford, IL 61107-1543
 Moldenhauer, Aaron Michael; 412 Crete Blvd, Crete, IL 60417
 Nettleton, Shawn Paul; Christ Lutheran Church, 14700 S 94th Ave, Orland Park, IL 60462
 Perry, M Keith; 631 Glen Ivy Drive, Elgin, IL 60120
 Pinion, Patrick D; 614 W 16th St, Sterling, IL 61081
 Prohl, John R; 4101 Main St, Downers Grove, IL 60515-2141
 Schmidtko, Gary R; 6818 W Chelsea Rd, Tinley Park, IL 60477
 Schwichtenberg, Willis R; 321 N Holly Ave, Freeport, IL 61032-3508
 Stroup, William Everett; 6 Walnut Ln, Algonquin, IL 60102-3030
 Teller, Daniel J; 25963 West Steeplebush Ln, Round Lake, IL 60073
 Udoekong, Michael D; C/O St Paul Lutheran Church, 245 E 138th St, Dolton, IL 60419-1060
 Witt, Aaron M; 4713 W Shore Dr, McHenry, IL 60050
 Zellmer, John William; 25100 W Grand Ave, Lake Villa, IL 60046-9704
 Zobel, Jason W; 378 E Oak St, Braidwood, IL 60408-1757

Voting Lay

Blackwell, Kristine; 2917 Brentwood Ct, Woodridge, IL 60517
 Brown, Ralph D; 304 Kishwaukee Dr, Sycamore, IL 60178
 Carter, James; 1406 N Mitchell Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
 Cook, Morrie; 503 Calvin Ct, Gurnee, IL 60031
 Dominguez, Rebecca L; 2816 Landen Dr, Melrose Park, IL 60164
 Elliott, Robert; 1072 Westview Dr, Rochelle, IL 61068-1204
 Fair, Andre; 3152 191st St, Lansing, IL 60438
 Farney, Kirk; 216 E Chicago Ave, Hinsdale, IL 60521
 Gardner, Marilyn; 1630 Madison St, Evanston, IL 60202
 Hansen, Dale; 7273 N 16000 E Rd, Grant Park, IL 60940
 Harms, Elvin; 609 S Forest Ave, Batavia, IL 60510
 Harris, Steven W; 236 Harper, Glenwood, IL 60425
 Heise, Jean M; 3147 Talbot Trail, Rockford, IL 61114
 Heller, Jeffrey; 1124 Tyrell, Park Ridge, IL 60068
 Hildebrandt, Dorothy M; 17 W Glenlake Ave, Roselle, IL 60172-1133
 Howes, Kenneth; 5409 W Otto Pl, Oak Lawn, IL 60453
 Hunter, Michael Adrian; 1755 E 55th St, #903, Chicago, IL 60615
 Klecka, Paul; 9950 W Oxford Ct, Mokena, IL 60448
 Kovachevich, Victor; 284 Dublin, South Elgin, IL 60177
 Krause, Jon; 5470 Kelley Rd, Rockford, IL 61102
 Krohne, Joyce; 8739 Washtenaw, Evergreen Park, IL 60805
 Marti, Wayne A; 3122 N 250 E Rd, Chifton, IL 60927
 Mc Kee, Jack; 180 S Valley Rd, Barrington, IL 60010
 Nelson, Chris A; 213 Stillwater Ct, Oswego, IL 60543
 Prell, Paul; 16W740 90th St, Willowbrook, IL 60527
 Stanton, Derek K; 209 W Greenwood Ave, Woodstock, IL 60098
 Theel, Emma; 605B Devonshire Ct, Mc Henry, IL 60050
 Trefitz, Henry; 2174 Pointe Blvd, Aurora, IL 60504-7569

Advisory Ordained

Cate, William C; 224 E Schaumburg Rd, Schaumburg, IL 61094-3517

Advisory Commissioned

Becker, Kevin John; 118 Indian Trl, Lake in the Hills, IL 60156-1320
 Berg, Alan M; 8213 Bromley St, Orland Park, IL 60462
 Faga, Barry; 636 S 7th St, West Dundee, IL 60118
 Grube, Edward C; 19W020 Oak St, Addison, IL 60101-2405
 Ingwersen, David J; 180 W Crystal Lake Ave, Crystal Lake, IL 60014
 Laabs, Jonathan C; 116 Cambrian Ct, Roselle, IL 60172
 Niss, Muriel; 147 Bannock Ct, East Dundee, IL 60118
 Piel, Paul F; 2331 Stewart Ln, West Dundee, IL 60118-3351
 Schilling, Scott D; 91 Chateau Dr, Dyer, IN 46311-2152
 Schulze, Robert John; 935 Victoria Dr, Woodstock, IL 60098-2395
 Weidler, Jean G; 1073 Ponca Dr, Batavia, IL 60510-1145
 Zoellick, Jeffrey Lee; 606 Topeka Ct, Carol Stream, IL 60188-2909

Northwest District**Voting Ordained**

Bailey, Michael P; 801 Tieton Dr, Yakima, WA 98902
 Bertermann, Mark C; PO Box 6779, Kennewick, WA 99336
 Eilers, Keith H; 18803 SE 60th St, Issaquah, WA 98027-8638
 Gerken, Daniel J; 6016 85th St E, Puyallup, WA 98371-6461
 Griesse, Mark E; 695 Park Ln, Monroe, WA 98272
 Hoelter, Mark E; 16452 NE Fargo St, Portland, OR 97230-5528
 Kellerman, Craig W; C/O Faith Lutheran Church, 1145 N 7th E, Mountain Home, ID 83647-2032
 Kunkel, Dan Joe; PO Box 507, Tonasket, WA 98855

Lange, Eric T; 4181 NE El Camino Dr, Gresham, OR 97030-1750
 Lassman, Ernie V; 7056 35th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115-5917
 Latham, Mark E; St John Lutheran Church, 1128 Poplar St, Buhl, ID 83316-1636
 Luttmann, John B; 4525 Sunland St SE, Salem, OR 97302
 Markus, James L; 1157 Bennett Creek Rd, Cottage Grove, OR 97424-2850
 Mau, Jon C; 1832 150th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98007-6803
 Nibblett, Norman G; 435 Nugget Dr, Rogue River, OR 97537-9518
 Nickodemus, Stephen Erwin; C/O Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church 1900 W Pine St, Sandpoint, ID 83864-9328
 Pagel, Peter; C/O Faith Lutheran Church, PO Box 1280, La Pine, OR 97739-1280
 Reinke, Gerald R; St John Lutheran Church, 290 E 7th St, Idaho Falls, ID 83401
 Schoenborn, Thomas R; 51636 SW Snyder Ct, Scappoose, OR 97056-4467
 Stites, Roger E; Faith Lutheran Church, PO Box 925, Sequim, WA 98382-0925
 Warmbier, Michael G; 4373 SW Golf Course Rd, Cornelius, OR 97113
 Warren, William W; 2563 Brookstone Loop, Anchorage, AK 99515-2714
 Waterman, Steven M; Our Savior Lutheran Church, PO Box 2458, Waldport, OR 97394
 Werfelmann, Theodore; 5307 Nathan Loop SE, Auburn, WA 98092
 Wulf, Craig M; PO Box 18763, Spokane, WA 99228

Voting Lay

Brondos, Charles; 2007 S Rockwood Blvd, Spokane, WA 99203-3459
 Brunner, Karl; 1120 19th Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112-3505
 Burke, Vern; 301 Lonesome Pine Rd, Yakima, WA 98903
 Canning, Don; 4681 Northwind Ct, Boise, ID 83714
 Freitag, Arthur; 999 Callahan Dr, Bremerton, WA 98310-4200
 Hamilton, Jim; 2284 Waterford St SE, Albany, OR 97322
 Holl, Carroll; 278 Grangeville Salmon Rd, Grangeville, ID 83530-5120
 Huettig, Myron; 1369 S 2000 E, Hazelton, ID 83335
 Ikerd, Cliff; 5333 Recklau SE, Olympia, WA 98513
 Jutzi, Curt; 3220 SW Upper Dr, Lake Oswego, OR 97035
 Larer, Bill; PO Box 3493, Kent, WA 98089
 Maggiora, Mark A; PO Box 5888, Vancouver, WA 98668
 Miller, Rod; 1808 Filbert, Forest Grove, OR 97116
 Neider, Shawn; PO Box 181, Winthrop, WA 98840
 Nelson, Eric; 2004½ Cove Ave, La Grande, OR 97850
 Northrup, Barbara; PO Box 1156, Eagle Point, OR 97524
 Rash, Jody; 814 W Nebo, Roseburg, OR 97470
 Riess, Julia; 15902 SE 35th St, Vancouver, WA 98683
 Schenk, Rick; 1020 208th St SW, Lynnwood, WA 98036-8662
 Schilling, David; 4563 E 75 N, Rigby, ID 83442
 Schmidt, Norbert; 44111 228th Ave SE, Enumclaw, WA 98022-7455
 Schutz, Paul; 4721 Dalke Ct NE, Salem, OR 97305
 Smith, Clarke; 215 W 52nd Ave, Eugene, OR 97405
 Tarver, Gary; 10206 C St E, Tacoma, WA 98445
 Zellar, Gerald; 2873 N Kalmbach Lake Dr, Wasilla, AK 99654

Advisory Ordained

Bauer, Erhart L; 215 SE 76th Ave, Portland, OR 97215-1465
 Engelbrecht, Luther T; 610 NW 73rd St, Seattle, WA 98117-4951
 Kiessling, Richard E; 1283 SW 175th Ave, Beaverton, OR 97006-7561

Advisory Commissioned

Christian, Robert E; 4618 SW Othello St, Seattle, WA 98136-2023
 Fossum, Robert B; 2275 SW 188th Ct, Aloha, OR 97006
 Kranich, Jeffrey D; 2431 SW Myrtle St, Seattle, WA 98106-1683
 Wrye, Karen A; 6306 NE 26th Ave, Portland, OR 97211-6049
 Wrye, Richard F; 6306 NE 26th Ave, Portland, OR 97211-6049

Ohio District**Voting Ordained**

Dobbins, Dennis L; 3554 Surry Ridge Way, Dayton, OH 45424
 Eiwen, John G; 316 Ellen Ave, Akron, OH 44305-3979
 Habrecht, Richard A; 2414 Kimberly Dr, Toledo, OH 43615-2741
 Hageman, Michael Scott; 2062 E 30th St, Cleveland, OH 44115
 Johnson, Jeffrey D; 3542 Lloyd Rd, Cleveland, OH 44111-4678
 Kern, Dale B; 23120 U.S. Hwy 6, Stryker, OH 43557-9452
 Kloha, Mark A; 1403 29th St, Ashland, KY 41101-4064
 Luecke, David S; 9419 Misty Oakes Dr, Broadview Hts, OH 44147-3125
 Matzke, Mark G; 250 Bowhall Rd, Painesville, OH 44077-5219
 Mueller, John W; 6297 Inverness Way, Mason, OH 45040
 O'Donnell, Lance Armstrong; 106 Boyd Ave, Van Wert, OH 45891
 Richard, Gary L; 8889 Barton Dr, Strongsville, OH 44149
 Rodencal, Larry J; 5367 Rawhide Ct, Cincinnati, OH 45238
 Wittenberger, Denis J; 1146 Yorkwood Rd, Mansfield, OH 44907
 Zehnder, George; 12104 Parker Dr, Chesterland, OH 44026-1917
 Zoehl, George T; 5996 Carnegie Cove Ct, Columbus, OH 43213-5116

Voting Lay

Baker, Luke; E 363 State Rte 108, Holgate, OH 43527
 Beal, Larry; 75 Hill St, Logan, OH 43138-1509
 Black, Chris; 334 S Hambden, Chardon, OH 44024
 Eslinger, Larry; 5576 Wilson Dr, Mentor, OH 44060-1541
 Henkel, Charles; 6767 Hendrickson Rd, Middletown, OH 45044
 Jovanazzo, Anthony; 994 Rome Beauty Dr, Amherst, OH 44001
 Johnson, Steve; 6166 Delcrest Ct, Fairfield, OH 45014
 Kress, Joe; 4238 Quail Hollow Cir, Stow, OH 44224
 Krone, Stephen; 28672 Bassett Rd, Westlake, OH 44145
 Prahst, James; 3900 Pine Forest, Parma, OH 44134
 Rausch, Carl A; 13-212 Rd L, Napoleon, OH 43545
 Shockley, Michael; 5775 Highland Rd, Highland Heights, OH 44143-2009
 Strieter, Winfred I; 4819 Starboard Dr, Maumee, OH 43537-8675
 Vollbracht, Karen; 1584 Hilltree, Cincinnati, OH 45255
 Worst, Terry; 250 N Westmoor, Newark, OH 43055
 Young, Rob; 4167 Pewter Ct, Gahanna, OH 43230

Advisory Ordained

Weiss, Donald E; 7903 White Cap Ln, Holland, OH 43528-9174

Advisory Commissioned

Graves, Christopher T E; 1262 Meadowbright, Cincinnati, OH 45230
 Schepmann, Gilbert F; 7874 Golden Meadow Dr, Mason, OH 45040-7300
 Spohn, Christine A; 4057 Autumn View Ct, Toledo, OH 43614-3330

Oklahoma District**Voting Ordained**

Brown, Eric; PO Box 128, Lahoma, OK 73754
 Ersland, David Paul; St John Lutheran Church, PO Box 66, Okarche, OK 73762-0066
 Mayer, Richard Herman; 5547 NW Eisenhower Dr, Lawton, OK 73505-5826
 Mc Clellan, Gary Wayne; PO Box 456, Shattuck, OK 73858-0456
 Raddatz, John F; 7835 S 66th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133-3406
 Rains, W; 11908 Sundance Mtn Rd, Oklahoma City, OK 73162-1521
 Schroeder, Leo G; PO Box 219, Fairland, OK 74343
 Stoll, Steven E; Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 545, Blackwell, OK 74631-0545
 Wangerin, Timothy P; 1032 NW 12, Moore, OK 73160

Voting Lay

Collison, John; 1204 Banner Ave, Edmond, OK 73013
 Hilst, Wilbur D; 1 Ridgeline Dr, Wewoka, OK 74884-3441
 Koch, Vernon; 205 NE 20th St, Guymon, OK 73942
 Moffett, Wesley A; 71 Charlotte Dr, Lawton, OK 73507-9094
 Nicholson, Jim; 401 C SW, Miami, OK 74354
 Piel, Marty; 24201 Blackjack, Perry, OK 73077
 Scheuerman, Perry; 1008 Kathys Place, Elk City, OK 73644
 Watkins, Andy; 500 S Hughes, Morris, OK 74445
 Yeager, Rick; 308 W Jackson, Box 32, Lamont, OK 74643

Advisory Ordained

Henschel, Marvin A; 7320 NW 114th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73162-2703

Advisory Commissioned

Morris, Edward William; 6725 E 8th St, Tulsa, OK 74112

Pacific Southwest District**Voting Ordained**

Barnett, Douglas B; 1373 European Dr, Henderson, NV 89052-4020
 Bloedel, David L; 1480 Manzanita St, Carpinteria, CA 93013
 Brinkley, David R; 5213 Huntley St, #50, Simi Valley, CA 93063
 Busch, Lewis M; 14735 Bettyjean Ave, Bellflower, CA 90706-3003
 Demel, Mark W; 1544 Linda St, Fallbrook, CA 92028-2427
 Friedrich, Mark D; 2575 W Ironstone Ave, PO Box 868, Apache Junction, AZ 85220
 Hallerberg, James W; Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1111 5th St, Coronado, CA 92118-1807
 Hallmann, James A; 1300 W Menlo Ave, Spc 191, Hemet, CA 92543-3760
 Kappler, Steve A; 14226 W White Rock Dr, Sun City West, AZ 85375-5643
 Knauff, Jess M; 21421 Howard Ave, Torrance, CA 90503
 Krueger, Dennis J; 11650 Perris Blvd, Moreno Valley, CA 92557-6536
 Larson, Brian T; 4412 E Verde View Dr, Cottonwood, AZ 86326-5844
 Martin, Ronald L; 1895 N Shattuck Pl, Orange, CA 92865-4640
 Moon, Harry H B; 2481 Via Castillo, Tustin, CA 92782-9034
 Muller, Timothy B; Messiah Lutheran Church, 8494 Philodendron Way, Buena Park, CA 90620
 Oehlerts, Gary L; Lamb of God Lutheran Church, 6220 N Jones Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89101
 Page, Fred Loyd; 16740 Bear Creek Ave, Chino Hills, CA 91709
 Pearson, Charles W; Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 2723 Orange Ave, La Crescenta, CA 91214-2124
 Rachuy, Gregory S; Fountain of Life Lutheran Church, 710 S Kolb Rd, Tucson, AZ 85710-4998
 Reich, Keith A; 937 Maple Ave, Holtville, CA 92250-1313

Reimnitz, Elroi; 3883 San Marcos Ct, Newbury Park, CA 91320-3725
 Roberts, Kenneth H; 11459 Scripps Creek Dr, San Diego, CA 92131
 Schaar, Christopher G; 920 Starcrest Dr, Glendora, CA 91740-4743
 Schleef, Dietrich N; 3442 W 83rd St, Inglewood, CA 90305-1607
 Schmidt, Michael John; 4551 E Hunter Ct, Cave Creek, AZ 85331
 Springer, Jeffrey D; 11070 Lorene St, Whittier, CA 90601
 Stamm, Shawn Owen; C/O Resurrection Lutheran Church, 42217 55th St West, Quartz Hill, CA 93536-3669
 Strand, Gregory A; 105 Camino del Oro, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688-3140
 Terhune, Paul C; 1419 E Dalton Ave, Glendora, CA 91741
 Wells, Steven; 3450 Clairemont Drive, San Diego, CA 92117
 Wiley, Don C; 1032 S Fillmore Ave, Rialto, CA 92376-7850
 Zeile, John C; C/O Christ Lutheran Church, 28850 S Western Ave, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-0803

Voting Lay

Anderson, Kathi A; 6971 Wine River Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89119
 Axelson, Allen; 14960 E Mountainview Ct, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
 Biber, Richard H; 5001 W Florida Ave, #314, Hemet, CA 92545
 Chamberlin, Robert; 1318 E Sunburst Ln, Tempe, AZ 85284
 Concannon, Amy; 3192 Rancho Del Sol, Escondido, CA 92025
 Corum, Steve; 10445 Santa Marta, Cypress, CA 90630
 Doering, Robert; 5193 Mertensent St, Oceanside, CA 94056
 Du Vall, Marcine L; 5805 Maybrook Cir, Riverside, CA 92506
 Gaston, Victoria; 9668 Bickley Dr, Huntington Beach, CA 92646
 Grabowski, Daniel; 1054 Winn Dr, Upland, CA 91786
 Havemann, Russell V; 115 S London Ct, Anaheim, CA 92806
 Inouye, Brian C; 310 N Redrock St, Anaheim Hills, CA 92807
 Jesse, Albert F; 10810 Vista Del Sur, Spring Valley, CA 91978
 Kramer, Arlene; 25582 Goldenspring Dr, Dana Point, CA 92629
 Lang, Paul; 600 27th St, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
 Larson, Brandon D; 2889 Country Hills Rd, Bullhead City, AZ 86442
 Madding, Curtis L; 28641 Valley Oak Rd, Keene, CA 93531
 Mathiowetz, Don; 1834 Brabham St, El Cajon, CA 92019
 Mc Donald, Andrea M; 13726 W Montebello Ave, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340
 Milton, Oliver; 5733 Oakdale Ave, Woodland Hills, CA 91367
 Nilson, Barbara; 1966 E Theisen Rd, Holtville, CA 92250
 Norris, Walter; 80 Watkins Way, Oak View, CA 93022-9607
 Oberhaus, Russ; 10810 N 91st Ave, #146, Peoria, AZ 85345
 Page, Laura G; 1926 Preuss Rd, Los Angeles, CA 90034-1107
 Peters, Richard D; 873 White Pines Trail, Amery, WI 54001
 Pink, James; 556 S Fair Oaks Ave, #163, Pasadena, CA 91105
 Roberts, Kenneth; 10720 Lakewood Blvd, #338, Downey, CA 90241
 Smith, Edward P; 2158 N Apache Dr, Apache Junction, AZ 85220
 Stueve, John; 2538 Rochelle, Monrovia, CA 91016
 Terwall, Richard A; 17821 Silverstream Dr, Canyon Country, CA 91387
 Torres, Carlos; PO Box 2071, Paramount, CA 90273
 Wampole, Kurt; 5589 Sycamore, Rialto, CA 92377

Advisory Ordained

Armstrong, Clinton J; 17111 Bastanchury Rd, Yorba Linda, CA 92886-1703
 Bunnett, Thomas T; 500 W Harbor Dr, Unit 501, San Diego, CA 92101-7721
 Manske, Charles L; 19 Spinnaker, Irvine, CA 92614-7062

Advisory Commissioned

Beyer, Gary A; 5029 E Almond Ave, #1, Orange, CA 92869
 Dammann, Dean W; 14772 Briarcliff Pl, Tustin, CA 92780-6639
 Klitzing, Rachel; 8 Cosenza, Irvine, CA 92614-5344
 Norton, Gary P; 8106 Vista Dr, La Mesa, CA 91941
 Robson, Wendell L; 2414 W Comstock Dr, Chandler, AZ 85224
 Rueter, David L; 5432 E Snow Wood Cir, #B, Anaheim, CA 92807-1309
 Sims, Carolyn C; 27042 Pinjara Cir, Mission Viejo, CA 92691-4444
 Sprouse, Michelle Lee; 214 Trenier Dr, Henderson, NV 89015-9230
 Stratton, Kristi L; 27522 Halcon, 23262 El Toro Rd, Mission Viejo, CA 92691
 Vroom, Nola J; 27522 Halcon, Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Rocky Mountain District**Voting Ordained**

Barnette, Norman B; 29595 Washington Rd, Calhan, CO 80808
 Christensen, Trenton David; 421 W 7th St, Julesburg, CO 80737
 Gusewelle, Monte W; St Paul's Lutheran Church, PO Box 2823, Durango, CO 81302-2282
 Hafeman, Greg S; 1440 Grand Ave, Windsor, CO 80550-5815
 Harmon, Robert D; 648 S Bellflower Dr, Pueblo West, CO 81007-1776
 Heithold, Donavon William; PO Box 337, High Rolls Mtn Pk, NM 88325-0337
 Lindemood, Bryan N; 475 Herbert Ave, Salt Lake City, UT 84111
 Melius, Jared; 1981 W 82nd Pl, Denver, CO 80221
 Nierman, Mark Jason; 7209 Dericson Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Peters, Greg; 12095 W Bowles Pl, Littleton, CO 80127-2317
 Piepkorn, Gary A; 8168 NM 206, Portales, NM 88130
 Rasmussen, Christian James; Christ Lutheran Church, PO Box 4118, Breckenridge, CO 80424-4118
 Robinson, James W; Christ Lutheran Church, 2695 S Franklin St, Denver, CO 80210-5924
 Schnegelberger, Kent E; 1351 Francis St, Longmont, CO 80501-2511
 Sterle, Roger D; PO Box 342, Vernal, UT 84078-0342

Voting Lay

Anderson, Gary; 1157 Prim Rose Ln, Fruita, CO 81521
 Andrews, Lonn; 25325 Co Rd M, Cortez, CO 81321-8813
 Appel, David; 53 Mayhew Dr, Lamar, CO 81052
 Baldwin, Dave; 4905 26th Ave NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144
 Dreher, Kent; 17601 WCR 10, Brighton, CO 80603
 Dufresne, Thomas; PO Box 722, Layton, UT 84041
 Harthun, Denny; 7794 S Hill Dr, Littleton, CO 80120
 Hoffmann, Gary J; 3860 W 66th Ave, Arvada, CO 80003
 McEwen, Jerry; 5581 W Co Rd 8E, Berthoud, CO 80513
 Meyer, Jon P; 14315 Berry Rd, Golden, CO 80401
 Mixell, Tim; 2225 S Stuart St, Denver, CO 80219
 Pugh, Donald E; 39606 Co Rd 16, Holyoke, CO 80734
 Schuelke, John P; 210 Kiowa Ave, Woodland Park, CO 80863-8336
 Taylor, Hugh; 1901 S Washington, Roswell, NM 88203
 Viramontes, Jorge L; 13119 Grand River, El Paso, TX 79928

Advisory Ordained

Gross, Gordon A; 940 Maple, Salida, CO 81201

Advisory Commissioned

Berlinski, Donald W; 13943 E Arkansas Dr, Aurora, CO 80012-5570
 Bower, Kristine E; 1135 Ash St, Broomfield, CO 80020
 Brandenburger, Corey James; 3171 W 8565 S, West Jordan, UT 84088-9647
 Burkee, Jeffrey R; 3705 Hoyt St, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
 Fields, Jane; 5680 E Bates Ave, Denver, CO 80222-7019
 Krupski, James F; 7505 S Cove Cir, Centennial, CO 80122
 Proft, Marlene Kay; 7301 Anton Cir NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122-3379

SELC District**Voting Ordained**

Milligan, John W; 3715 Washington Pk, Newburgh Heights, OH 44105
 Ongstad, Chris Duane; 17319 Arrowhead Trace, Oak Forest, IL 60452-4536
 Schuschke, Gary Steven; 166 Northshore Cir, Casselberry, FL 32707
 Vinovskis, Waldemar R; 68 Willow St, Macungie, PA 18062

Voting Lay

Bartlett, Noel; 3921 W Valley Dr, Fairview Park, OH 44126-1733
 Hoehnke, Ronald; 1820 Marquette Ave, South Milwaukee, WI 53172-2318
 Mooney, Alan; 801 E Wildmere Ave, Longwood, FL 32750
 Sadlon, Bruce R; 37 Saw Mill Rd, Warren, NJ 07052

South Dakota District**Voting Ordained**

Anderson, Robert L; 504 Buckhorn Dr, Custer, SD 57730-1629
 Christopher, Thomas D; PO Box 126, Alexandria, SD 57311-0126
 Deardoff, Daniel H; 405 E Beechnut St, Brandon, SD 57005-1213
 Kanitz, Kim A; 100 South Dillman Ave, PO Box 32, Revillo, SD 57259
 Mc Killop, Don C; Christ Lutheran Church, 730 E 6th St, Winner, SD 57580
 Moldenhauer, Mark A; 601 East Logan Ave, Gettysburg, SD 57442
 Otten, David Gene; 40201 270th St, Dimock, SD 57331
 Redhage, Daniel Todd; 420 Iowa St PO Box 129, Centerville, SD 57014
 Redhage, Lloyd W; C/O Zion Lutheran Church, PO Box 16, Andover, SD 57422-0016
 Spiehs, Leonard Scott; 241 Commercial Ave NW, Wolsey, SD 57384-2149
 Watt, Jonathan Charles; St John Lutheran Church, PO Box 607, Howard, SD 57349-0607

Voting Lay

Baumann, Guy; 1112 W 14th St, Sioux Falls, SD 57104
 Christensen, Alan; 2413 N Canyon St, Spearfish, SD 57783
 Dorr, Jon; 521 450th St, Marcus, IA 51035
 Harberts, Carl J; 531 N 3rd St, Box 66, Emery, SD 57332-0066
 Holmquist, Randal E; 25267 Holmquist Rd, Reliance, SD 57569
 Johnson, Jim; 19230 372nd Ave, Wessington, SD 57381
 Mueller, Gary L; 1012 S 7th St, Milbank, SD 57252
 Warns, Ronald W; 45293 Country Estates St, Madison, SD 57042
 Wilson, Joel B; 39750 116th St, Houghton, SD 57449
 Wipf, Danl F; Box 243, Mitchell, SD 57301-0243
 Wulf, Jerald C; 1714 E Erskine, Pierre, SD 57501-3603

Advisory Ordained

Nix, Matthew William; 6205 N Purple Martin Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57107-1120

Advisory Commissioned

Lafrentz, Louise Jane; 3604 E 15th St, Sioux Falls, SD 57103-2908

South Wisconsin District**Voting Ordained**

Ahle Meyer, Terry L; 1223 Lynrose Ln, Neenah, WI 54956-4277
 Bender, Peter C; 4200 Elmwood Rd, Colgate, WI 53017-9702
 Bergelin, Darrel L; W3969 Skyline Rd, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
 Berlin, Mark E; N8092 Co Hwy AY, Mayville, WI 53050-2510
 Chryst, Thomas E; 2914 Green St, Racine, WI 53402
 Colgrove, R Thomas; 2928 Harvard Dr, Janesville, WI 53548-6702
 Davison, Frederick E; 1060 N Central Ave, PO Box 230, Richland Center, WI 53581
 Eckert, Mark W; St John Lutheran Church, N665 Hwy S, Kewaskum, WI 53040-1112
 Feldscher, Daniel R; 8812 Mary Dr, Racine, WI 53406-3124
 Gehlbach, Gary V; N1584 A Co K, Sharon, WI 53585-9667
 Giebel, Franklin H; 219 N State St, Neshkoro, WI 54960-9501
 Gudmundson, Thomas P; 2319 N 40th St, Sheboygan, WI 53083-3504
 Heintz, Roger V; 4720 Parkhurst Dr, Brookfield, WI 53045-1127
 Henrichs, Michael William; 6029 N Santa Monica Blvd, Whitefish Bay, WI 53217-4660
 Jabs, Frederick K; 6502 S Business Dr, Sheboygan, WI 53081-8988
 Krebs, John R; PO Box 219, Adams, WI 53910-0219
 Krueger, Mark L; 566 S Main St, Brillion, WI 54110-1433
 Krueger, Thomas I; 2520 S 68th St, Milwaukee, WI 53219-2613
 Kuhnke, Gerald J; 4729 Eisenhower St, Oregon, WI 53575
 May, Timothy Douglas; 3642 S 83rd St, Milwaukee, WI 53220
 Navurskis, Christopher; N 6404 S R 49, Weyauwega, WI 54983
 Skovgaard, Eric C; 706 Lincoln Ave, Waukesha, WI 53186
 Torkelson, Daniel T; 713 Terretorial Dr, Clyman, WI 53016
 Totsky, David W; 2945 Cottonwood Ct, Brookfield, WI 53005
 Wenger, Eric R; 830 Violet Ln, Oregon, WI 53575-3321
 Zemple, Dean D; W407 Hwy 18, Sullivan, WI 53178-9708

Voting Lay

Balgeman, Tom; 14145 W Crimson Ln, New Berlin, WI 53151
 Buss, Myron; 824 Linden Rd, Kohler, WI 53044-1453
 Carroll, Charles; 3057 N Richards, Milwaukee, WI 53212
 Chisholm, Pete; 224 Chapleau St, North Fond du Lac, WI 54937
 Christian, Keith; 279 S Madison St, Waupun, WI 53963
 Dee, Arthur; N8712 Co Hwy CH, Westfield, WI 53964
 Elmergreen, Lee; 1413 Main Ave, Sheboygan, WI 53083-4754
 Glaess, Harvey E; 4125 Farmington Ln, Racine, WI 53403-4083
 Gottschalk, Tom C; W1211-166 Woodview, Sullivan, WI 53178
 Hanschke, Timothy; 2714 Tami Trl, Fitchburg, WI 53711
 Jaeger, John; S1081 Olson Ln, Coon Valley, WI 54623
 Kabitzke, Ronald O; 6811 Hickory Rd, West Bend, WI 53090-8948
 Kempf, Al; N2405 Winnebago Pt Beach Rd, Chilton, WI 53014
 Krause, Richard; 15980 W Heatherly Dr, New Berlin, WI 53151
 Lisch, Philip; 13901 Steintal Rd, Keil, WI 53042
 Luck, David A; 413 Whitetail Way, Deerfield, WI 53531
 McCauley, Don; S2303 Horkan Rd, Reedsburg, WI 53959
 Melcher, Art; N778 Hwy 26, Watertown, WI 53098
 Messersmith, David; 6431 11th Pl, Kenosha, WI 53140
 Nowicki, Robert M; 405 N Capron St, Berlin, WI 54923
 Raebel, David A; 8405 West Cheyenne St, Milwaukee, WI 53224
 Rowe, Wayne; 3211 N Richards St, Milwaukee, WI 53212
 Saunders, Steve; 900 E Elm Rd, Oak Creek, WI 53154
 Tamminga, David P; W 7792 North Star Rd, Pardeeville, WI 53954
 Valentine, James; 541 North 111th St, Wausawata, WI 53226

Advisory Commissioned

Bueltmann, Kurtis Alfred; 530 Main St, Wild Rose, WI 54984-6908
 Eberhardt, Mary E; 1826 17th Ave, Grafton, WI 53024
 Haas, Walter D; 1800 W Mangold Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53221-5063
 Johnson, Stephen P; 419 Rich St, Horicon, WI 53032
 Ladendorf, Gene W; 865 W Autumn Path Ln, Bayside, WI 53217-1605
 Mercier, Gary L; 749 Homestead Trl, Grafton, WI 53024-1160
 Stapleton, Michael Ray; 336 Omaha Ave, Neenah, WI 54956-5050
 Wolff, Jennifer; 4000 W Rivers Edge Cir Unit 2, Brown Deer, WI 53209-1128

Southeastern District**Voting Ordained**

Alms, Paul Gregory; C/O Redeemer Lutheran Church, PO Box 187, Catawba, NC 28609-0187
 Behnke, Allen L; Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, 1200 Linden Ave, Baltimore, MD 21227
 Black, George E; 105 Manly Ln, Glen Burnie, MD 21061
 Chestnutt, Bryan J; 117 Trawick Pl, Durham, NC 27712-1016
 Daub, James M; 702 Lee Dr, Havelock, NC 28532-9379
 Jones, Howard Francis; 618 Pinehollow Dr, Anderson, SC 29621
 Kambia, Rudolf; 8800 58th Ave, Berwyn Heights, MD 20740-4308
 Loesch, Keith W; 2031 Cheltenham Crt, Woodbridge, VA 22192-2255
 Mann, William B; 20269 Rosedale Ct, Ashburn, VA 20147-3317

Pask, Wayne Marshall; 905 Bonita Rd, Richmond, VA 23227-1607
 Poulson, Quentin G; 4324 Garvin Dr, Charlotte, NC 28269-1605
 Robertson, Elliott M; 1338 S Hanover St, Baltimore, MD 21230-4221
 Schwandt, Richard L; C/O Christ Lutheran Church, 324 2nd Ave SE, Hickory, NC 28602-3043
 Sigmon, Stephen D; 5025 Timbrook Ln, Winston Salem, NC 27103-6015
 Sizemore, Paul C; 1704 Quail Valley E, Columbia, SC 29212
 Stano, Lester P; 436 Winter Walk Dr, Gaithersburg, MD 20878-7908
 Thress, Michael Paul; 154 Kirkcaldy Dr, Elkton, MD 21921-2974
 Updegrave, Stephen W; 40965 Knight Rd, Leonardtown, MD 20650-2211
 Utton, Timothy A; C/O Hope Lutheran Church, 5350 Providence Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23464
 Voelker, William J; 1172 C Franklin Turnpike, Danville, VA 24540
 Zieroth, Gary W; 713 Fox Bow Dr, Bel Air, MD 21014

Voting Lay

Blue, Preston; 8403 Bella Vista Ter, Fort Washington, MD 20744
 Brooks, Ross N; 1402 Paigewood Ct, Midlothian, VA 23114-4546
 Courtney, Penny M; 7788 Poplar Grove Rd, Severn, MD 21144
 Dovenmuehle, Robert; 6316 South Pointe Dr, Charlotte, NC 28277
 Driessnack, Richard; 110 Birchwood Ln, Conway, SC 29526
 Ernest, John; 2399 Eaglewood Dr, Mt Airy, MD 21771
 Fangmeier, Rae; PO Box 231, Montezuma, NC 28653
 Ferren, Emily H; 6725 Horseshoe Dr, La Plata, MD 20646
 Fowler, Paul; 18313 Leedstown Rd, Olney, MD 20832
 Goforth, David; 916 4th St NW, Hickory, NC 28601
 Handzo, Michael; 1605 Belvue Dr, Forest Hill, MD 21050
 Hirt, Robert L; 106 Merowe Ct, Cary, NC 27513-1703
 Kockuy, Judith; 2712 Hickory St, Alexandria, VA 22305
 Lennox, Debra L; 206 High School Ave, Georgetown, DE 19947
 Mc Daniels, Janis; 310 Apple Ridge Rd, Greensboro, NC 27406
 Meyer, Don; 595 Piney Point Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23452
 Meyer, Reginald; 7773 Shootingstar Dr, Springfield, VA 22152
 Owen, Neely; 536 Pantops Center, Box 115, Charlottesville, VA 22911
 Rochester, Nikki L; 1638 N Bradford St, Baltimore, MD 21213
 Thompson, Timothy R; 7506 Bakertown Rd, Elm City, NC 27822
 Wagner, Walter R; 309 Bobcat Tr, Simpsonville, SC 29681

Advisory Ordained

Ludwig, David J; 1974 12th St Pl NE, Hickory, NC 28601-1649
 Miller, Richard A; 33 Windy Ct, Newark, DE 19713-2820

Advisory Commissioned

Bauer, Melissa Marie; 1310 Whitman Dr, Glen Burnie, MD 21061-4124
 Bauer, Troy William Ferdinand; 1310 Whitman Dr, Glen Burnie, MD 21061-4124
 Rogers, Phillip L; 3000 Prytania Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Southern District**Voting Ordained**

Belknap, Robert H; 37148 W Powerline Rd, Pearl River, LA 70452
 Culver, Perry; 3440 Beverly Pl, Shreveport, LA 71105-2022
 Davis, Warren H; 7041 Kelvin Ter, Pensacola, FL 32503-7356
 Doroh, David A; 624 N Poplar St, Florence, AL 35630-4634
 Ehrichs, Randal Gene; 5001 Sharon Dr, Panama City, FL 32404-7333
 Ertl, James A; C/O St Paul Lutheran Church, 1625 Annette St, New Orleans, LA 70116-1322
 Holowach, James R; 321 Arapaho Ln, Madison, MS 39110
 Mendedo, Tilahun Mekonnen; 685 Monarch Dr E, Mobile, AL 36609-6409
 Miller, Charles R; 111 Orchard Dr, Lake Charles, LA 70605-4441
 Moerbe, David C; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2456 Decatur Hwy, Gardendale, AL 35071
 Nare, Limakatso; C/O Mt Zion Lutheran Church, 1400 Simon Bolivar, New Orleans, LA 70113
 Nelson, Tracy Theodore; 2229 Northbrook Dr, Gretna, LA 70056
 Nye, Ferry L; 3317 Cross Creek Dr, Montgomery, AL 36116-3605
 Wismar, Stefan K; 324 Cawthorn Dr, Slidell, LA 70458

Voting Lay

Bien, Brad; 10 Holly Rd, Crestview, FL 32539
 Bragg, Ray C; PO Box 357, Vredenburgh, AL 36481
 Cermak, Josef; 218 River Oaks Dr, Luling, LA 70070
 Craig, Charles; 1511 Lock Four Rd, Lincoln, AL 35096
 Douglas, Gary; 5205 Ferndale Ave, Mobile, AL 36618
 Heinicke, Robert S; 8206 Li Fair Dr, Pensacola, FL 32506
 Howard, B Douglas; 1021 Port St, New Orleans, LA 70117
 Little, Karen C; 229 Gum Bayou Ln, Kenner, LA 70065
 Martin, S Keith; 540 Riverbich Ln, Vicksburg, MS 39183
 Plauche, George; PO Box 52806, Lafayette, LA 70505
 Sass, Richard A; PO Box 7813, Gulfport, MS 39506
 Vogt, Bill; 143 Tall Timber Ln, Ball, LA 71405
 Young, Mark D; 255 Penny Laplane, Tusculumbia, AL 35674

Zoch, Erwin J; 966 Shadybrook Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70816-1287

Advisory Ordained

Scheer, Raymond P; 72 Iris St, Covington, LA 70433-9156

Advisory Commissioned

Wegener, Kenneth L; St Paul Lutheran Church, 2624 Burgundy St, New Orleans, LA 70117

Southern Illinois District**Voting Ordained**

Clayton, Kirk M; 102 S Railway St, Mascoutah, IL 62258-1934
 Curtis, Heath R; 515 Main St, Worden, IL 62097-1219
 Fouts, Ryan T; 4564 Adkins Ave, St Louis, MO 63116
 Lecke, Josepha H; 4407 Woodglen Ln, Mount Vernon, IL 62864-2171
 Mac Dougall, Steven Alan; 10241 S Prairie Rd, Red Bud, IL 62278-4611
 Meador, Nathan Michael; 918 W Miller Dr, Staunton, IL 62088-1056
 Mueller, Timothy P; 15516 State Rte 127, Nashville, IL 62263-2374
 Schultz, Martin A; 1301 Vaughn Rd, Wood River, IL 62095-1851
 Walther, Michael P; 432 Chapel Dr, Collinsville, IL 62234-4369
 Weber, Paul M; 402 Walton St, Anna, IL 62906-1251
 Zechiel, Tim Brian; C/O Saint Paul Lutheran Church, 11854 Wine Hill Rd, Steeleville, IL 62288-3000

Voting Lay

Aljets, Scott; 4581 Seiler Rd, PO Box 41, Dorsey, IL 62021
 Dyson, David E; 5437 State Rt 127, Pinckneyville, IL 62274
 Edler, Olin; 1003 N Sparta St, Steeleville, IL 62288
 Fesser, Glenn C; 31057 E 9th Rd, Morrisonville, IL 62546
 Johnson, Kurt E; 7808 Bangert Ln, Edwardsville, IL 62025
 Knolhoff, Glenn; 24480 Hugo Rd, Centralia, IL 62801
 Koester, Dale; 3 Sugar Ln, Collinsville, IL 62234-6811
 Miller, Marc; 18 Brighton Dr, Belleville, IL 62221
 Muskopf, Wayne; 41 Kimberlin Ln, Belleville, IL 62220
 Prange, Del; 9 Julie St, Ruma, IL 62278-9503
 Trammell, George; 200 Westernaire Dr, Marion, IL 62959-4817

Advisory Ordained

Bramstedt, Paul W; 2405 East B St Rd, Belleville, IL 62221

Advisory Commissioned

Knop, Margaret E; 1415 Allenale Blvd, Chester, IL 62233-1321
 Luedders, Larry A; 11355 Oak Terrace Dr, Steeleville, IL 62288
 Miller, Paul M; 420 East Macoupin, Staunton, IL 62088-1825

Texas District**Voting Ordained**

Andrjack, Joseph P; 7106 Pace St, Amarillo, TX 79108-5848
 Bogs, Ronald Allen; 23110 Naples Dr, Spring, TX 77373-6870
 Doria, Jeffrey Scott; 15810 Manes Grove, San Antonio, TX 78247
 Eckert, Allan C; 815 S 10th St, Kingsville, TX 78363
 Fraker, Donald D; 1107 River Rock, New Braunfels, TX 78130-2410
 Hasskarl, Leif R; St James Lutheran Church, PO Box 247, Lexington, TX 78947
 Heitshusen, Scott Eric; St Mark Lutheran Church, 1515 Hilendahl Blvd, Houston, TX 77055
 Helmer, Paul G; 621 E Dogwood St, Gardner, KS 66030
 Holzer, William H; 3112 Wood Creek Rd, Brenham, TX 77833-0613
 Kaufmann, Martin John; 9011 Carlota Ct, Houston, TX 77074
 Kelm, A Dean; 3120 Deering Dr, Odessa, TX 79762-5012
 Kieschnick, Clyde J; Zion Lutheran Church, 2801 Antilleys Rd, Abilene, TX 79606-5105
 Knippa, Gregory Duane; 105 Turtle Creek Cir, Belton, TX 76513
 Le Blanc, Robert Earl; PO Box 72, La Ward, TX 77970-0072
 Lindner, John T; Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 3601 W 15th St, Plano, TX 75075-7741
 Lowrey, George W; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 4400 W Arkansas Ln, Arlington, TX 76016
 Lucas, Willie C; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, PO Box 8099, Houston, TX 77004
 McCants, Elder; 6302 Mission Hills Dr, San Antonio, TX 78244-1568
 McMillian, Ric L; 26018 Beardborough, Spring, TX 77386-1463
 Meyer, Paul E; 5103 Trail West Dr, Austin, TX 78735-6331
 Mueller, Marcus R; 1095 N Dowling St, San Benito, TX 78586-5221
 Ramey, John Mike; 16313 Wellers Way, Houston, TX 77095-3900
 Rathgeber, Douglas D; 5390 Cambridge Dr, Beaumont, TX 77707-2048
 Reeves, Sean D; 303 N Ave O, Olney, TX 76374
 Rogers, Charles Fred; 8371 FM 314 N, Brownsville, TX 77576
 Rynearson, Stephen P; 809 Cheyenne Trl, Hewitt, TX 76643-3240
 Salminen, Jon D; 2322 Colleen Dr, Pearland, TX 77581-5413
 Schey, Bernard J; 610 Morris Dr, Copperas Cove, TX 76522-2942
 Schneider, Curtis W; 4220 Olive St, Texarkana, TX 75503-3023
 Sundbye, Scott Alan; 105 Pueblo Dr, Lake Kiowa, TX 76240
 Thierfelder, Thomas J; 6318 Lyons Rd, Garland, TX 75043-6624

Van Buskirk, Raymond J; Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1200 East Lobit, Baytown, TX 77520
 Waiser, Walter E; Peace Lutheran Church, 941 W Bedford Euless Rd, Hurst, TX 76053-3808
 Weiser, Delton R; 500 Windmill Ridge Rd, Hutto, TX 78634
 Westergren, Kevin T; C/O Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1500 W Anderson Ln, Austin, TX 78757-1453
 Wied, Henry C; 7612 FM 153, La Grange, TX 78945-5235
 Zell, Loren C; Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 4705 80th St, Lubbock, TX 79424

Voting Lay

Bard, Rollin L; PO Box 898, Colleyville, TX 76034
 Bazor, Jim; 408 N Manse St, Giddings, TX 78942
 Bohot, Alfred H; 8420 Schramm Rd, La Grange, TX 78945
 Brooks, Jan; 507 E Elm, Canton, TX 75103
 Davis, William Keith; 2102 Club Lake Ct, San Angelo, TX 76904
 Fickenschner, June; 1305 S Kenneth, Monahans, TX 79756
 Fox, Brent; 122 River Park Cove, Georgetown, TX 78626-1944
 Friedrich, Calvin; 480 Co Rd 515, Hamilton, TX 76531
 Frugia, Jason; 6220 Bankston Ln, Beaumont, TX 77706
 Goodwin, John B; 2225 CR 4103, Frankston, TX 75763
 Gray, Don; 345 42nd St SE, Paris, TX 75462
 Juhl, Gary; 11334 Sierra Trail, San Antonio, TX 78254
 Karle, Fred; 8100 N 23rd St, Mc Allen, TX 78504
 Kieschnick, Rebecca Rivers; 904 E Market St, Sinton, TX 78387
 Knowlton, Jae; 17000 Smyers Ln, Round Rock, TX 78681
 Koenig, James N; 700 Beutnagel Ln, Seguin, TX 78155
 Krueger, Wesley; 5326 Hialeah Dr, Houston, TX 77092-5636
 Le Blanc, Larry J; 15195 Starboard Dr, Willis, TX 77318
 Luedke, Bobby R; 450 Kirkland Hill Rd, Axrell, TX 76624
 Martino, Bill; 3623 Quietude Dr, Austin, TX 78754
 Mc Cully, Kim; 17410 W Single Rose Ct, Cypress, TX 77429
 Meyer, Laura; 16507 Dover Cliff Ct, Crosby, TX 77532
 Mitchell, Mark; Crutch Ranch, PO Box 5114, Borger, TX 79008

Moerbe, Ed H; 5407 Bent Trl, Plano, TX 75248
 Noto, Martin; 3941 Overlake Dr, Denton, TX 76210
 Ommen, Erik J; 205 Blue Jay Ln, Laredo, TX 78045
 Pabor, Louis; 9203 Woodlane Blvd, Magnolia, TX 77354
 Penland, Jan R; 1606 Trailridge Dr, Arlington, TX 76012
 Piepkorn, Peter; 1003 Primrose, Lubbock, TX 79416
 Schatte, Franklin; 1000 S 2nd, PO Box 372, Chillicothe, TX 79225
 Schreiner, Bruce; 3477 Co Rd 443, Waelder, TX 78959-5253
 Spree, Paul; 1828 Co Rd 430, Lolita, TX 77971-4010
 Turner, John; PO Box 761, Normangee, TX 77871-0761
 Weinhold, David R; 1119 Lehman, Houston, TX 77018
 Williams, John; 11514 Kirkmeadow, Houston, TX 77089
 Wittenmyer, John; 13807 Perthshire Rd, Houston, TX 77079-5810
 Zieschang, Michael; 3206 Centralia Cove, Austin, TX 78745

Advisory Ordained

Graf, Herbert C; 8 Village Hill Dr, Conroe, TX 77304-3526
 O Shoney, Glenn R; PO Box 84, Walburg, TX 78673
 Oesch, Eugene A; 307 E El Dorado Dr, Scroggins, TX 75480

Advisory Commissioned

Gatlin, Connie E; 1845 Westcreek Drive, Garland, TX 75042-4755
 Glienke, David H; 8730 Braewick Dr, Houston, TX 77074-7710
 Hoffschneider, Larry E; 2218 Cedar Cir, Carrollton, TX 75006-1913
 House, James L; 644 Wentworth, Richardson, TX 75081-5622
 Kieschnick, Glen A; 10101 Talleyran Dr, Austin, TX 78750
 Kuhlmann, Eloise S; 325 Fairlane St, Amarillo, TX 79108-4215
 Kurth, Robin Renea; 2213 Westway Ave, Mc Allen, TX 78501-6113
 Landfried, Elizabeth A; 11006 Sage Hollow Dr, Austin, TX 78758-4235

McClain, Mark A; 107 Tomahawk Ln, La Grange, TX 78945-5337
 Ryan, Richard D; 3302 Fleetwood, Amarillo, TX 79109
 Seifert, Vanessa M; 518 Rattler Bluff, San Antonio, TX 78251
 Williams, John Herbert; 3911 Forest Village Dr, Kingwood, TX 77339-1817

Wyoming District

Voting Ordained

Bourret, Ted A; 4470 Rd 89, Potter, NE 69156-6637
 Brandt, Christopher; C/O St John Lutheran Church, 70 E 5th St, Lovell, WY 82431-1902
 Cain, Paul J; PO Box 185, Morrill, NE 69358-0185
 Holthus, Daniel G; 1037 Dundee, Casper, WY 82609-3206
 Maas, Mark J; 1301 Hackamore Rd, Cheyenne, WY 82009-1247
 Shields, Scott L; 1041 Evergreen Way, Rock Springs, WY 82901-4103

Voting Lay

Carpenter, Don; 970 W Broadway, #467, Jackson, WY 83001
 Goldenstein, Eric P; 1709 Barratt St, Laramie, WY 82070-5430
 Merritt, Ronald; 1345 6th St, Gering, NE 69341
 Peterson, Edwin B; 1142 Olive Rd, Powell, WY 82435-9241
 Shepherd, Tom; 1217 Shipwheel Ln, Gillette, WY 82716-4828
 Witt, Gary L; 152 East Belmont Rd, Crawford, NE 69339

Advisory Ordained

Miskimen, Robert I; #2 Rayburn Dr, Bella Vista, AR 72714

Advisory Commissioned

Judd, Heather Catherine; 1931 Sage Ave, #4, Casper, WY 82604



B. Synod Representatives (Advisory)

Officers of the Synod

President

Kieschnick, Gerald B., St. Louis, MO

First Vice-President

Diekelman, William R., St. Louis, MO

Second Vice-President

Maier, Paul L., Kalamazoo, MI

Third Vice-President

Nadasdy, Dean W., Woodbury, MN

Fourth Vice-President

King, Robert H., Jefferson City, MO

Fifth Vice-President

Buegler, David D., Avon, OH

Secretary

Hartwig, Raymond L., St. Louis, MO

Treasurer

Kuchta, Thomas W., St. Louis, MO

Board of Directors

Ordained Ministers

Balfour, Edward, Cape Elizabeth, ME
Belton, Victor, Atlanta, GA
Fandrey, James E., Clinton Township, MI
Hartwig, Raymond L., St. Louis, MO
Kieschnick, Gerald B., St. Louis, MO
Kuhn, Robert T., Oviedo, FL

Commissioned Minister

Skinner, Elizabeth, Alexandria, VA

Laypersons

Duda, Betty, Cocoa Beach, FL
Garton, Jean, Benton, AR
Hawk, David, Fort Wayne, IN
Piehler, David, Wausau, WI
Preus, Christian, Plymouth, MN
Schmidt, Roy, Bay City, MI
Tesch, Walter, Wauwatosa, WI
Trapp, Edwin A., Jr., Dallas, TX

Non-Voting Members

Diekelman, William R., St. Louis, MO
Kuchta, Thomas W., St. Louis, MO

Staff Officer

Schultz, Ronald, St. Louis, MO

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

Arp, Gary M., Iowa East
Benke, David H., Atlantic
Boche, Richard O., Wyoming
Brunner, John G., Eastern
Bueltmann, David J., Central Illinois
Cripe, Terry L., Ohio
Diefenthaler, Jon T., Southeastern
Fondow, Donald J., Minnesota North
Forke, Terry R., Montana
Gilbert, Dan P., Northern Illinois
Golter, Randall L., Rocky Mountain
Hartman, Paul A., Oklahoma
Harvala, Larry S., North Dakota
Hennings, Kenneth M., Texas
Hoelter, Joel A., North Wisconsin
Hoesman, C. William, Michigan
Keurulainen, James, New England
Klettke, William R., New Jersey
Kohlmeier, Keith E., Kansas
Krueger, Carl H., Jr., SELC
Lampe, Kenneth E., Mid-South
May, Daniel P., Indiana
Michael, Gerhard C., Jr., Florida-Georgia
Mirly, Ray G., Missouri
Mueller, Herbert C., Jr., Southern Illinois
Newton, Robert D., California-Nevada-Hawaii
Sattgast, Dale L., South Dakota
Schultz, Kurtis D., Southern
Schumacher, Warren W., Northwest
Seitz, Lane R., Minnesota South
Sieveking, Paul G., Iowa West
Sommerfeld, Russell L., Nebraska
Stechholz, David P., English
Stoterau, Larry A., Pacific Southwest
Wille, John C., South Wisconsin

BOARD OF REGENTS AND FACULTIES

Concordia Theological Seminary

Fort Wayne, IN

Board of Regents

Graumann, Wayne E., Tomball, TX

Faculty

Fickenscher, Carl C., Fort Wayne, IN
Wenthe, Dean O., Fort Wayne, IN

Concordia Seminary St. Louis, MO

Board of Regents

Ralls, James F., Liberty, MO

Faculty

Gibbs, Jeffrey, St. Louis, MO
Meyer, Dale A., St. Louis, MO

Concordia University Ann Arbor, MI

Board of Regents

Young, Ronald, Birch Run, MI

Faculty

Ahlersmeyer, Thomas, Ann Arbor, MI
Skov, Neil, Ann Arbor, MI

Concordia University Austin, TX

Board of Regents

Werchan, Alan, Austin, TX

Faculty

Cedel, Thomas E., Austin, TX
Christian, Donald A., Austin, TX

Concordia College Bronxville, NY

Faculty

George, Viji D., Bronxville, NY

Concordia University Irvine, CA

Board of Regents

Brandt, Paul M., Scottsdale, AZ

Faculty

Middendorf, Michael, Trabuco Canyon, CA
Preus, J.A.O., Irvine, CA
Senkbeil, Peter L., Orange, CA

Concordia University Wisconsin Mequon, WI

Faculty

Ferry, Patrick, Wauwatosa, WI
Hilgendorf, Mary, Cedarburg, WI

Concordia University Portland, OR

Board of Regents

Edwards, Gloria, Portola Valley, CA

Faculty

Schlimpert, Charles, Portland, OR

Concordia University Chicago River Forest, IL

Board of Regents

Schulz, Kathy, Augusta, MO

Faculty

Johnson, John F., River Forest, IL
Steinmann, Andrew, River Forest, IL

Concordia University St. Paul, MN

Board of Regents

Frerich, Harold A., Lakeville, MN

Faculty

Holst, Robert A., St. Paul, MN
Reineck, Marilyn, Roseville, MN

Concordia University Seward, NE

Board of Regents

Hinrichs, Vance, Lincoln, NE

Faculty

Friedrich, Brian, Seward, NE
Goldgrabe, Eunice, Seward, NE

PROGRAM BOARDS

Board for Black Ministry Services

Board

Anthony, Donald, Concord, NC

Staff

Campbell, Phillip, Ballwin, MO

Board for Communication Services

Board

Garbe, Ernest E., Dieterich, IL

Staff

Strand, David, St. Louis, MO

Board for District and Congregational Services

Board

Shaw, Jonathan, Lorton, VA

Staff

Schubert, Jeffery S., St. Louis, MO

Board for Human Care Services

Board

Senske, Kurt, Austin, TX

Staff

Harrison, Matthew C., St. Louis, MO

Board for Mission Services

Board

Almstedt, Butch, Weeki Wachee, FL

Staff

Roegner, Robert M., St. Louis, MO

Board for Pastoral Education

Board

Behrendt, John, Fort Wayne, IN

Staff

Hempelman, L. Dean, St. Louis, MO

Board for University Education

Board

Reinke, Ralph, Surprise, AZ

Staff

Halm, Ray, Bend, OR
Krueger, Kurt J., St. Louis, MO

COMMISSIONS

Commission on Constitutional Matters

Commission

Hartwig, Raymond L., St. Louis, MO
Little, Donald G., Kenner, LA
Lorenz, Daniel C., Portland, OR
Marcis, Albert, Parma, OH
Sohns, Wilbert J., Gatesville, TX
Tresch, Gordon, Kenmore, NY

Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support

Commission

Goodwill, Richard, Cedar Park, TX

Staff

Muench, David A., St. Louis, MO

Commission on Structure

Commission

Barber, Alan J., Greencastle, IN

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

Commission

Bergman, Shirley, Seward, NE
Brosz, Donald, Laramie, WY
Hessler, Peter, Seven Hills, OH
Kramer, Loren, Dana Point, CA
Lumpp, David, St. Paul, MN
Middendorf, Michael, Trabuco Canyon, CA
Raabe, Paul, St. Louis, MO
Scaer, David, Fort Wayne, IN
Waltz, Orville, Bennington, NE

Staff

Joersz, Jerald C., St. Louis, MO
Lehenbauer, Joel D., St. Louis, MO
Nafzger, Samuel H., St. Louis, MO

Commission on Worship

Commission

Wismar, Gregory J., Newtown, CT

Staff

Grime, Paul, Ballwin, MO

OTHER SYNODICAL ENTITIES**Concordia Historical Institute****Board**

Rast, Jr., Lawrence R., Fort Wayne, IN

Staff

Noland, Martin R., St. Louis, MO

Concordia Plan Services/Worker Benefit Plans**Board**

Beumer, Richard E., St. Louis, MO

Staff

Middeke, Paul W., St. Louis, MO

Concordia Publishing House**Board**

Knox, Robert M., Geneva, IL

Staff

Kintz, Bruce G., St. Louis, MO

LCMS Foundation**Board**

Black, George, Glen Burnie, MD

Staff

Ries, Thomas K., St. Louis, MO

Lutheran Church Extension Fund**Board**

Belasic, David, Cheektowaga, NY

Staff

Freitag, Merle, St. Louis, MO

OTHER SERVICE UNITS**President's Office**

Kieschnick, Gerald B., St. Louis, MO
 Braunersreuther, Jon M., St. Louis, MO
 Krueger, Larry G., St. Louis, MO
 Mahsman, David, St. Louis, MO

First Vice-President's Office

Diekelman, William, St. Louis, MO

Secretary's Office

Hartwig, Raymond L., St. Louis, MO
 Hobratschk, Ralph W., Friendswood, TX

Treasurer's Office

Kuchta, Thomas, St. Louis, MO

Legal Counsel

Lause, Michael, St. Louis, MO
 Strand, Sherri, St. Louis, MO

Parliamentarian

Young, Len, Blue Springs, MO

**UNITS REPORTING TO THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS****Accounting**

Rhodes, Charles, St. Louis, MO

Concordia Technology

Meyer, Alan, St. Louis, MO

General Services

Fiedler, David, St. Louis, MO

Human Resources

Ryan, Barbara, St. Louis, MO

Internal Audit

Spotanski, Joann, St. Louis, MO

OFFICIAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES**Atlantic District**

George, Janet, Bronxville, NY
 Jaekel, James, Saratoga Springs, NY

California-Nevada-Hawaii District

Hurley, Tom, San Francisco, CA
 Whaley, John H., Paso Robles, CA

Eastern District

Foerster, Robert, Williamsville, NY
 Smith, Robert, Batavia, NY

English District

Domanski, Linda, New Wilmington, PA
 Ewell, Timothy J., Farmington, MI

Florida-Georgia District

Arndt, William, Atlanta, GA
 Wilke, Wayne, Orlando, FL

Indiana District

Hilgendorf, William, North Judson, IN

Iowa District East

Rothchild, Dean F., Marion, IA

Iowa District West

Riggert, Robert, Fort Dodge IA

Kansas District

Crites, Debbie, Topeka, KS
 Hanschu, Steven, Emporia, KS

Michigan District

Kasper, Robert E., Macomb, MI
 Walther, Galen, Ypsilanti, MI

Mid-South District

Lee, Nancy D., Germantown, TN
 Wiese, Ronald J., Memphis, TN

Missouri District

Gehrke, Dennis, St. Louis, MO
 Weber, James, Jefferson City, MO

Montana District

Buck, Johnny, Laurel, MT

Nebraska District

Bergman, Marvin, Seward, NE
 Van Nelson, Glenn, North Platte, NE

New Jersey District

Steinbronn, Anthony, Howell, NJ
 Visbeck, Ray, Point Pleasant, NY

North Wisconsin District

Clauss, Dennis, Appleton, WI
 Lueck, Dwayne M., Wausau, WI

Northern Illinois District

Hetzner, Tim, Palatine, IL
 Urban, Catie, Forest Park, IL

Northwest District

Linnemann, Paul, Tigard, OR
 Rockey, Jonathan, Palmer, AK

Ohio District

Davidson, John, Lancaster, OH
 Wilson, Kevin, Marysville, OH

Oklahoma District

Goebel, Velmer, Enid, OK

Pacific Southwest District

Kosberg, Jerry, Phoenix, AZ
 Sonnenberg, Roger R., Arcadia, CA

Rocky Mountain District

Harmon, Robert D., Pueblo West, CO
 Larson, Mark C., Aurora, CO

SELC District

Cahill, Christopher, Lodi, OH
 Dzurovcik, Andrew, Clark, NJ

South Dakota District

Schwan, David E., Sioux Falls, SD

South Wisconsin District

Janetzke, Gary, Milwaukee, WI
 Raasch, Randolph H., Cedarburg, WI

Southeastern District

Brauch, Gilbert, Jr., Hickory, NC
 Gaines, Lloyd, Clinton, MD

Southern District

Peterson, Phillip M., Pensacola, FL

Southern Illinois District

Gude, George, Dorsey, IL
 Roth, Daniel, Belleville, IL

Texas District

Biar, Pat, Nederland, TX
 Hirsch, John M., Round Rock, TX

Wyoming District

Brantz, Walter, Cody, WY
 Peters, Kirk, Buffalo, WY

CHAPLAINS

Frusti, Jonathan, Alexandria, VA
 Rosenthal, Timothy, Bellevue, NE
 Waynick, Thomas, Midland, GA

MISSIONARIES

Erber, David, Jos Plateau State, Nigeria
 Hanson, Carl, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong
 Nickel, Timothy, Atlanta, GA
 Talsma, Dale, Miami Springs, FL

C. Special Representatives

AD HOC COMMITTEES**Committee for Convention Nominations**

Bokenkamp, Patricia, Tomball, TX
 Brunner, John, Williamsville, NY
 Garton, Jean, Benton, AR
 Jaeger, John, Coon Valley, WI
 Kohlmeier, Marvin, Sabetha, KS
 Krause, Roger, Parker, CO
 Rothchild, Dean F., Marion, IA
 Theiss, Paul D., Bay City, MI
 Visbeck, Ray, Point Pleasant, NJ

Blue Ribbon Task Force on Hispanic Ministry

Gonzalez, Eloy S., St. Louis, MO

**Blue Ribbon Task Force on
Synodical Structure and Governance**

Greene, Robert C., Georgetown, TX

REGISTERED DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES TABULAR SURVEY

Synod District	Delegates Present						
	Voting			Advisory			
	Pastors	Laymen	Total	President Dist. Bd. of Directors	Ordained	Commissioned	Total
Atlantic	12	12	24	3	-	2	5
California-Nevada-Hawaii	16	16	32	3	1	1	4
Eastern	16	16	32	3	1	1	5
English	19	20	39	3	1	1	5
Florida-Georgia	21	21	42	3	1	5	9
Illinois, Central	16	16	32	1	1	3	5
Illinois, Northern	28	28	56	3	1	11	15
Illinois, Southern	11	11	22	3	1	3	7
Indiana	24	23	47	2	3	3	8
Iowa East	13	13	26	2	1	-	3
Iowa West	19	18	37	2	1	1	4
Kansas	17	17	34	3	1	2	6
Michigan	44	43	87	3	2	16	21
Mid-South	12	12	24	3	-	1	4
Minnesota North	18	18	36	0	1	1	2
Minnesota South	25	25	50	1	1	4	6
Missouri	29	29	58	3	4	11	18
Montana	6	6	12	2	1	1	4
Nebraska	22	22	44	3	1	4	8
New England	9	9	18	1	1	1	3
New Jersey	5	4	9	3	1	1	5
North Dakota	6	6	12	1	1	-	2
Northwest	25	25	50	3	3	4	10
Ohio	16	16	32	3	1	2	6
Oklahoma	9	9	18	2	1	1	4
Pacific Southwest	31	30	61	3	3	10	16
Rocky Mountain	15	15	30	3	1	5	9
SELC	4	4	8	2	-	-	2
South Dakota	11	11	22	2	1	1	4
Southeastern	21	20	41	3	2	2	7
Southern	14	14	28	2	1	1	4
Texas	36	37	73	3	3	10	16
Wisconsin, North	20	20	40	3	1	2	6
Wisconsin, South	26	25	51	3	-	8	11
Wyoming	6	6	12	3	1	1	5
Boards/Commissions							66
Officials/Guests							29
Boards of Regents							9
Faculty Members							20
Missionaries/Chaplains							7
TOTALS	622	617	1,239	86	44	120	380
Ad Hoc Committee							4
District Youth Reps							0

Comparative Figures

Delegates Present	1986	1989	1992	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007
Voting	1,155	1,139	1,166	1,177	1,185	1,188	1,241	1,239
Advisory	372	363	361	379	377	382	392	380
Total	1,527	1,502	1,527	1,556	1,562	1,570	1,633	1,619

CONVENTION FLOOR COMMITTEES

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS:

C = Chairman; **DP** = District President; **VOM** = Voting Ordained Minister; **VL** = Voting Layperson; **AOM** = Advisory Ordained Minister; **ACM** = Advisory Commissioned Minister; **AL** = Advisory Layperson

District Abbreviations:

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

Committee 1

MISSIONS

C: Robert Newton (CNH)
DP: **Vice-chair:** Paul Sieveking (IW);
David Bueltmann (CI); Ken Hennings (TX)
VOM: James Guelzow (FG); Timothy Knapp (NE);
John Sharp (KS)
VL: Noel Bartlett (SELC); Brad Persinger (MT);
Nikki Rochester (SE)
AOM: Jerry Kosberg (PSW)
ACM: Allen ZumHofe (MNS)

Committee 2

DISTRICT AND CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

C: Kurtis Schultz (SO)
DP: **Vice-chair:** Randall Golter (RM);
Paul Hartman (OK); David Stechholz (EN)
VOM: Ronald Burcham (IW); Marvin Griffin (EA);
Michael Walther (SI); Kevin Westergren (TX);
Dean Zemple (SW)
VL: James Kahre (IN); John List (FG);
Michael Onnen (NEB); Jesse Yow (CNH)
ACM: Carolyn Sims (PSW); Gene Ladendorf (SW)

Committee 3

THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS

C: Gerhard Michael, Jr. (FG)
DP: **Vice-chair:** William Hoesman (MI);
Joel Hoelter (NW); Ray Mirly (MO)
VOM: Thomas Eckstein (ND); Ken Krause (NI);
Todd Jenks (IW); Jeffrey Jordan (CNH);
Charles Schmidt (NEB); Douglas Stowe (MI);
Paul Terhune (PSW)
VL: Karl Brunner (NOW); Kirk Farney (NI);
Karen Little (SO); Ray Moldenhauer (MNN)
ACM: Eloise Kuhlmann (TX)

Committee 4

PROGRAM AND FINANCE

C: Keith Kohlmeier (KS)
DP: **Vice-chair:** Kenneth Lampe (MDS);
Gary Arp (IE); James Keurulainen (NE)
VOM: Roger Carlisle (IW); Thomas Gudmundson (SW);
Mark Hoelter (NOW); Dale Kern (OH)
VL: Rae Fangmeier (SE); Carol Olson (MNS);
Louis Pabor (TX); Marvin Swan (NEB);
Jerald Wulf (SD)
AOM: Vernon Gunderman (MO)
ACM: David Frank (MO)

Committee 5

SEMINARY AND UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

C: Jon Diefenthaler (SE)
DP: **Vice-chair:** Carl Krueger, Jr. (SELC);
Richard Boche (WY); John Wille (SW)
VOM: Allen Behnke (SE); Philip Kaufmann (CI);
Chris Kellogg (RM); Michael Redeker (IN)
VL: John Bahr (AT); Kathy Meier (MNS);
Janice Nafzger (MO)
AOM: Arleigh Lutz (NW); Ronald Wiese (MDS)
ACM: Ron Bork (NEB); Jonathan Laabs (NI)

Committee 6

HUMAN CARE

C: David Benke (AT)
DP: **Vice-chair:** Herbert Mueller, Jr. (SI);
Terry Forke (MT)
VOM: Kristian Kincaid (IE); Mark Maas (WY);
Lance O'Donnell (OH)
VL: Mark Brewer (KS); Richard Steinke (NW);
Diane Stelling (NJ)
AOM: Matthew Nix (SD)
ACM: Sheila Peterson (MNN)

Committee 7

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

C: Daniel May (IN)
DP: **Vice-chair:** Donald Fondow (MNN);
Terry Cripe (OH); Warren Schumacher (NOW)
VOM: Paul Cloeter (MNN); Thomas Meyer (MI);
W.R. Rains (OK); Eric Stumpf (IN);
Waldemar Vinovskis (SELC)
VL: Harold Bohlmann (MO); Robert Fischer (EN);
Ed Moerbe (TX); John Schuelke (RM)
ACM: Richard Cohrs (MI); Jean Weidler (NI)

Committee 8

SYNOD STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

C: Lane Seitz (MNS)
DP: **Co-chair:** Larry Stoterau (PSW);
Dan Gilbert (NI); Dale Sattgast (SD)
VOM: Joel Danner (NW); John Gierke (MDS);
Jim Hallman (PSW); Jeffery Schrank (EN);
Daniel Teller (NI)
VL: Paul Crumb (AT); R. Neely Owen (SE);
Dave Schilling (NOW); Don Snyder (EA);
Kent Warneke (NEB)
ACM: David Kusch (MI)
AL: William Arndt (FG)

Committee 9

REGISTRATION, CREDENTIALS, AND ELECTIONS

C: Larry Harvala (ND)
DP: **Vice-chair:** Russell Sommerfeld (NEB);
William Klettke (NJ)
VOM: David Doroh (SO); Andrew Spallek (MO);
Daniel Torkelson (SW)
VL: Ivan Grimm (KS); Dale Orloff (MNS);
David Weinhold (TX)
ACM: Martha Milas (CI)

Committee 10

NOMINATIONS (Elected by Districts)

(Committee 10 Legend: C = Chairman; DP = District President;
O = Ordained Minister; L = Layperson)

C: John Brunner (EA)
O: **Vice-chair:** Roger Krause (RM);
Carl Anton (NE); Mark Buchhop (ND);
Robert W. Jarvis (MNN); John Lukomski (SI);
Roy Maack (SE); Dean F. Rothchild (IE);
Paul D. Theiss (MI)
L: Diana Alexander (PSW); Robert Becker (OH);
Michael Besch (EN); Patricia Bokenkamp (TX);
Jean Garton (MDS); John Jaeger (SW);
Marvin Kohlmeier (KS); Keith Meier (MT);
Ray Visbeck (NJ)

CONVENTION SCHEDULE AS ADOPTED

(Note: Floor committee meetings were held July 13–14.)

Friday, July 13, 2007

- 1:30– Floor Committee closed meetings
- 9:00
- 4:00– Training for Houston Outreach Event
- 9:00 (at Immanuel Lutheran, Houston, TX)

Saturday, July 14, 2007

- 8:30 Floor Committee open hearings
(in Grand Ballroom Meeting Rooms
of Hilton Americas-Houston Hotel)
- 10:00 Houston Outreach Event, opt.
(at Immanuel Lutheran, Houston, TX)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Floor Committee closed meetings
(if necessary)
- 1:30– ALL Delegate Orientation
- 3:00 (in General Assembly Theater on Level 3
of GRB Convention Center)
- 4:00– Opening Convention Worship Celebration
- 6:00 with Holy Communion
(in Halls C&D of GRB Convention Center)
Host Congregation: Trinity Lutheran
Church, Houston, TX
- 6:30 ALL Convention Delegate Meal
(in Grand Ballroom of Hilton Americas-
Houston Hotel)

Sunday, July 15, 2007

- 8:00 Morning Prayer Service
- 9:00 Preparation for opening business session
- 9:10 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#9)
- 9:13 Convention Opening and Presentation of Gavel
- 9:16 Standing Rules
- 9:30 Convention Schedule
- 9:35 Bible Study 1—Dr. William Diekelman
Focus: One Message—*Christ!* A Message
of Love for a Church in Mission
- 10:10 President’s Report (Part III)
- 11:20 Electronic Response System
—Getting Acquainted
- 11:30 Welcome and Greeting from Local Official
- 11:35 Welcome and Greeting from Texas District
- 11:40 Honor Retired Missionaries
- 11:48 Report on *Ablaze!*
- 12:00 Missions #1
- 12:30 Recess
- 1:55 Call to Gather—Music
- 2:00 Devotion—Dr. Robert Roegner
Theme: God’s Mission Is Our Mission
- 2:20 Adoption of Slate for President
- 2:30 Balloting for President
- 2:40 Response from Newly Elected President
- 2:50 Adoption of Slate for First Vice-President
- 3:00 Balloting for First Vice-President
- 3:10 Adoption of Slate for Second through

Fifth Vice-Presidents

- 3:20 Seminary and University Education (#5)
- 3:40 Balloting for Second through
Fifth Vice-Presidents (1st Ballot)
- 3:45 “What A Way” Initiative Report
- 3:48 Special Recognition
- 3:50 Balloting for Second through
Fifth Vice-Presidents (2nd Ballot)
- 3:55 Program and Finance (#4)
- 4:05 Balloting for Second through
Fifth Vice-Presidents (3rd Ballot)
- 4:10 Nominations (#10)
- 4:15 Balloting for Second through
Fifth Vice-Presidents (Complete Balloting)
- 4:25 Nominations (#10)
(for Secretary, VP—Finance—Treasurer, BOD)
- 4:45 Omnibus Resolutions
- 5:05 Planning and Administration (#7)
- 5:45 District and Congregational Services (#2)
- 6:30 Closing Prayer
- 6:35 Recess
- 6:35– Exhibitor Reception for Delegates
- 8:00 (in Hall E of GRB Convention Center)

Evening: Missionary Alumni Event, etc.

Monday, July 16, 2007

- 7:55 Call to Gather—Music
- 8:00 Devotion—Dr. L. Dean Hempelmann
Theme: Fools for Christ
- 8:20 Theology and Church Relations (#3)
- 9:00 Seminary and University Education (#5)
- 10:00 Bible Study 2—Dr. Paul Maier
Focus: One Message—*Christ!* A Message
of Unity to a Sectarian Culture
- 10:35 Seminary and University Education (#5)
- 11:00 Synod Structure and Governance (#8)
(Issues re 2004 Resolution 7-02A)
- 12:30 Recess
- 1:55 Call to Gather—Music
- 2:00 Devotion—Rev. David Muench
Theme: We Are Unified in the Power
of God’s Grace
- 2:20 Minutes
- 2:30 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#9)
(Balloting for Secretary, Vice-President—Finance—
Treasurer, and Board of Directors)
- 3:00 LCMS in Mission Presentation
- 3:10 Human Care (#6)
- 3:30 Nominations (#10)
(All other Boards and Commissions)
- 4:35 Program and Finance (#4)
(or Nominations [#10], if required)
- 4:55 Program and Finance (#4)
(or Nominations [#10], if required)

5:15 *Fan Into Flame* Report
 5:30 Missions (#1)
 6:00 Closing Prayer
 6:05 Recess

Evening: Chaplains, Alumni, Human Care events

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

7:55 Call to Gather—Music
 8:00 Devotion—Dr. Sam Nafzger
 Theme: The Gospel in a Nutshell
 8:20 Greetings: LWML
 Newly Elected LWML President
 8:25 Theology and Church Relations (#3)
 9:55 Bible Study 3—Dr. Dean Nadasdy
 Focus: One Message—*Christ!* A Message
 of Truth to a Post-Modern World
 10:30 Planning and Administration (#7)
 11:50 Seminary and University Education (#5)
 12:30 Recess
 1:55 Call to Gather—Music
 2:00 Devotion—Dr. Kurt Krueger
 Theme: Delivering the Message of Christ
 to a Postmodern World
 2:20 Minutes
 2:30 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#9)
 (Big Ballot for Boards and Commissions,
 Boards of Regents, Entities)
 3:00 LCMS in Mission Presentation
 3:10 Program and Finance (#4)
 4:10 Synod Structure and Governance (#8)
 5:10 District & Congregational Services (#2)
 6:00 Closing Prayer
 6:05 Recess

Evening

7:25 Call to Gather—Music
 7:30 District and Congregational Services (#2)
 8:00 Synod Structure and Governance (#8)
 9:00 Recess

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

7:55 Call to Gather—Music
 8:00 Devotion—Rev. Jon Braunersreuther
 Theme: How Jesus Ruins Funerals
 8:20 Greetings: ILLL
 Mr. Jack Kidwell
 8:25 Theology and Church Relations (#3)
 9:40 Human Care (#6)
 10:10 Memorial Service—Dr. Robert King
 Theme: One Message—*Christ!*
 Resurrection and Life

Wednesday, July 18, 2007 (continued)

10:40 Special Recognition
 10:45 Seminary and University Education (#5)
 11:30 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#9)
 (Run-off Elections)
 12:30 Recess
 1:55 Call to Gather—Music
 2:00 Devotion—Dr. Phil Campbell
 Theme: Applauding for Life in Christ
 2:20 Minutes
 2:30 Greetings: Thrivent Representative
 Mr. Brad Hewitt
 2:35 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#9)
 (Run-off Elections)
 3:00 LCMS in Mission Presentation
 3:10 Planning and Administration (#7)
 4:30 Program and Finance (#4)
 5:30 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#9)
 (Run-off Elections, if required), OR
 Program and Finance (#4), continued
 6:00 Closing Prayer
 6:05 Recess

Evening

7:30 President's Reception
*(in Grand Ballroom of Hilton Americas-
 Houston Hotel)*

Thursday, July 19, 2007

7:55 Call to Gather—Music
 8:00 Devotion—Rev. Matthew Harrison
 Theme: Courage to Carry the Message
 into a World of Hurt
 8:20 Recognize Former LCMS Officers; Partners;
 Guests; and U.S. Lutheran church leaders
 8:25 Greetings: ELCA
 ELCA Secretary Lowell Almen
 8:30 Theology and Church Relations (#3)
 9:30 Planning and Administration (#7)
 10:00 Bible Study 4—Dr. David Buegler
 Theme: One Message—*Christ!* A Message
 of Love to a Desperate People
 10:35 Program and Finance (#4)
 11:15 Seminary and University Education (#5)
 11:45 Synod Structure and Governance (#8)
 12:15 Unfinished Business
 12:45 Minutes
 12:55 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#9)
 1:00 Closing Worship
 1:15 Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE CONVENTION

Opening Worship Service July 14, 2007

Saturday Opening Worship Service

The opening worship service of the 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church of downtown Houston, Texas. The Rev. Michael Dorn, Senior Pastor, presided over the service, held in the convention auditorium of the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. The officers of the Synod, district presidents, and area pastors participated in the distribution of the Sacrament.

The Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President of the Synod, preached the sermon. Basing his message on 1 John 4:9–11, he spoke of the “One Message—*Christ! His Love Is Here for You!*” relating recent personal travel experiences to emphasize that as Christians we always have something to say to the people that God brings us into contact with in our daily lives, especially when they need a message of hope because of hardship in their lives. Whether for the cab driver who has just lost a loved one or a young mother on her way to military duty in Iraq, that message is “*Christ! His Love Is Here for You!*”

Session 1

July 15, 2007

Opening Worship

The Sunday morning Service of Prayer was developed and led by Rev. Philip Esala of Kettering, Ohio, and Rev. Walter Waizer of Hurst, Texas. The service featured Scripture readings (Eph. 6:10–12; John 12:27–28; Rom. 12:9–12; Acts 4:13; John 17:20–23) followed by brief meditations, opportunities for silent prayers, and hymns.

Following the service, President Kieschnick called the assembly to order and introduced the people on the podium before inviting the assembly to sing the hymn “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying.” He then called on the chairman of Floor Committee 9, Registration, Credentials, and Elections, Rev. Larry Harvala, President of the North Dakota District, to provide a brief introduction to the use of the electronic voting keypads for early decisions to be made.

Initial Registration Report

Chairman Harvala then provided his committee's initial registration report:

Total voting delegates	1,227
Total advisory delegates	316
Advisory district presidents	34
Ad hoc committee members	3
Former officers	2
Invited guests	2
Total registration	1,584

The committee introduced a motion to approve the report of the Registration, Credentials, and Elections Committee. In discussion that followed regarding the Report of the Convention Delegate Review Committee (*TB*, pp. 22–24),



Secretary Raymond L. Hartwig

the President responded to questions regarding the resolution of the delegate exceptions issue. He called on Rev. C. William Hoesman, President of the Michigan District and chairman of the Convention Delegate Review Committee, to summarize the committee's report. In the absence of further discussion, the motion to approve the registration report was adopted (Yes: 1,061; No: 123). The chair announced that the necessary quorum was present for the business of the convention to proceed.

Call to Order

Dr. Martin Noland, Executive Director of Concordia Historical Institute, was introduced for the presentation of the Synod's historic gavel, first used in 1911 by former President F. Pfotenhauer, made of wood from the log cabin where the Saxons first debated the formation of the Synod. After noting the carvings of the likeness of Luther and Walther on the gavel, the President proceeded to call the convention to order “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Special Standing Rules

The President then introduced the Board of Directors, the Commission on Constitutional Matters, the Council of Presidents, and the presidents of the Synod's seminaries before calling the convention's attention to the proposed Special Standing Rules (*TB*, pp. 10–12). He explained that Rule 7, if adopted, is planned to be used only for Res. 8-01. A motion was introduced to adopt the Special Standing Rules as proposed. After explanation regarding the use of microphones, an amendment was introduced to amend

Rule 14 to replace the words “prior to its being” in the final sentence with the words “immediately after it is.” After discussion, the motion to amend Rule 14 was adopted (Yes: 1,108; No: 88).

As discussion of the proposed Special Standing Rules continued, a motion was introduced to amend Rule 23 to change the required two-thirds vote to a one-third vote in its first sentence. After discussion, the motion to amend Rule 23 carried (Yes: 775; No: 418). A motion was then introduced to amend Rule 7 by adding the sentence “Any speaking in favor of the motion done by the floor committee will be considered pro speaking and will be followed by a con speaker” prior to the final sentence of the second-last paragraph. After discussion, a motion to end debate on the motion to amend and the main motion failed (Yes: 737; No: 464). After further discussion, the motion to amend Rule 7 was carried (Yes: 693; No: 503).

As discussion of the Special Standing Rules continued, a motion was introduced to change Rule 26 to Rule 27 and to add a new Rule 26 “to allow each candidate for President up to 10 minutes to speak to the convention in assembly sometime prior to the first ballot for President.” The chair asked the Commission on Constitutional Matters whether this motion would violate the Bylaws of the Synod. A member of the commission responded by reading the commission’s Opinion 04-2396:

The proposed resolution would require the addition of a particular election procedure for the office of President that differs from the general procedures currently contained in the Bylaws. The current procedures include Bylaw 3.961 e [2004 *Handbook* Bylaw 3.12.1.2] which describe the current synodical practice for disseminating biographical and other information from the candidates for president, and under the current Bylaw 3.25 [3.1.9 (i)], the President establishes the agenda, and the convention is held pursuant to parliamentary procedure. As an amendment of the Bylaws, the resolution as currently drafted is not consistent with Bylaw 14.01 1 e [7.1.1 (b)], in that it does not identify itself as an amendment to the Bylaws, and has also not been presented to a convention floor committee for their consideration. In addition, it would not comply with Bylaw 14.01 1 e [7.1.1 (d)] in that it was not presented to the Commission on Constitutional Matters prior to the presentation to the convention to assure that it is not in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod. Upon request of a member, the commission is prepared to more comprehensively review this proposed resolution to assure itself and the convention that no other unintended conflicts with the current Constitution and Bylaws exist.

The chair ruled the preceding motion out of order. When the ruling of the chair was appealed, the parliamentarian advised that even if the chair were overruled, the motion would be in violation of the Bylaws. The chair’s ruling was sustained [Yes: 836; No: 349]. This was followed by the introduction of a motion to delete Rule 24. After discussion, a motion to end debate on the motion to delete Rule 24 was carried [Yes: 1,085; No: 101] and the motion was then defeated [Yes: 432; No: 760].

A motion was introduced to cease debate on the motion to adopt the Special Standing Rules. Debate was ended [Yes: 1,025; No: 176], and the motion to adopt the Special Standing Rules (as amended) was carried [Yes: 1,079; No: 115]. The Secretary stated that the amended standing

rules would be printed in *Today’s Business*.

Convention Agenda

The President called attention to the proposed agenda for the convention. A motion to adopt the agenda was carried [Yes: 1,144; No: 32], and the chair obtained the agreement of the convention to proceed with the first of the convention’s Bible studies [Yes: 1,084; No: 47].

Bible Study 1

President Kieschnick called on Dr. Dean Wenthe, President of Concordia Theological Seminary, to introduce the Bible study leader, First Vice-President William Diekelman. His study centered around John chapter 3, the story of Nicodemus, and specifically the word “so” in verse 16, to be defined “in this manner, in this way,” used here to call attention to the extent of God’s willingness to have this world with Him eternally. After his presentation, Dr. Diekelman invited the delegates to divide into groups of four to discuss opportunities to speak to those who do not attend a Christian church and what their congregations are doing to make known the love of Christ.

President’s Report, Part III

In this third part of his report, President Kieschnick quoted extensively from a convention address by former President J. W. Behnken in 1941, noting the similarities and differences of the world he described compared to today and the appropriateness of his words for our world today (the entire Part III of the President’s Report is printed elsewhere in the *Convention Proceedings*). He also addressed current subjects such as confession subscription, process of dissent, doctrinal solidarity, and particular issues facing our Synod today (close Communion, church and ministry, service of women, worship, dispute resolution, and inter-Christian relationships), looking forward to ministry in a country and culture vastly different from the Synod’s early days. He spoke of moving ahead into the future with courage and wisdom, boldness and resolve, with the one message: “*Christ! His Love Is Here for You!*”

Special Greetings and Reports

After calling upon the chairman of Floor Committee 9 for a further demonstration of the voting system for use in the elections process, he introduced a video of U. S. President George W. Bush bringing greetings and encouragement to the Synod. He also called on Texas District President Kenneth Hennings for words of welcome, before introducing Rev. Robert Roegner, Executive Director of the Board for Mission Services, and its chairman, Butch Almstedt, who provided a brief report of the *Ablaze!* movement.

Veteran LCMS missionaries with service totaling 173 years were introduced to the assembly: Robert and Arleen Christian, Walt and Helena DeMoss, Thomas and Adrienne Going, Robert and Lynne Holst, Gerhard and Betty Kempff, Glenn and Sandra O’Shoney, Rodney and Velma Rynearson, Vernon and Belva Schindler, and David and Darlene Schneider. The President thanked them for the great example, service, and encouragement they have provided to the Synod.

Committee 1: Missions

Rev. Robert Newton, President of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District and chairman of Floor Committee 1, introduced the business of the committee. He then introduced Res. 1-01A, "To Support Revitalization of LCMS Congregations" (*TB*, p. 179) and moved its adoption on behalf of the committee. After discussion, a suggestion to amend the third *Whereas* paragraph by adding the words "and renewing its members in order that they" after the word "disciples" in place of the word "who" was agreed to by the committee. After further discussion, a motion was introduced to cease debate on Res. 1-01A. Debate was ended [Yes: 1,048; No: 89] and the resolution was adopted [Yes: 929; No: 199].

The Orders of the Day calling for noon recess, the assembly was excused with the announcement that the current total for the special convention offering was \$391,719.

Session 2**July 15, 2007***Call to Gather and Opening Devotion*

President Gerald Kieschnick called the session to order and called on Dr. Dale Meyer, President of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, to introduce the devotion leader, Dr. Robert Roegner. In his meditation, Dr. Roegner recalled the story of Jonah and Jonah's reluctance to go to Nineveh because he knew the heart of God and didn't want Nineveh to repent. Today the message of God's love is even more clear, as in John 3:16, favorite passage of many, to be shared with all people, even the least deserving in our way of thinking. This is what *Ablaze!* means, simply to share the Good News, making God's mission our mission.

Election of President

After introducing the slate of candidates for the office of President of the Synod, a motion to ratify the slate for President was carried [Yes: 1,196; No: 10]. Convention chaplain Dale Meyer was asked to lead the assembly in prayer.

Floor Committee 9 Chairman Larry Harvala provided the latest registration report:

Voting delegates	1,238
Advisory delegates	320
Advisory district presidents	34
Ad hoc committee members	3
Former officers	2
Invited guests	5
Total	1,602

After the election process was explained, the results of the first ballot were as follows:

William Diekelman	23
Gerald Kieschnick	644
Daniel Preus	23
Wallace Schulz	27
John Wohlrabe, Jr.	514

Gerald Kieschnick was declared elected. He shared the words of Phil. 1:3–5 and spoke of the blessings he has received by the grace of God, including his election to the Of-

fice of President for the third time. He spoke of lessons learned—at times from criticism received, thanked God for the daily assurance of forgiveness, and spoke of the opportunities facing the Synod in years to come. He also called attention to the service provided by the Council of Presidents, offering a special word of appreciation to Dr. Robert King for 21 years of service as a vice-president of the Synod. He also gave recognition to his family members present, saving a special word of thanks and recognition for his wife, Terry, noting her involvements as the "first lady of the LCMS."

Election of First Vice-President

After the slate of candidates for First Vice-President was introduced, a motion to ratify the slate was carried [Yes: 1,209; No: 9]. The President called on convention chaplain Dean Wenthe to lead the assembly in prayer.

The results of the first ballot for First Vice-President were as follows:

William Diekelman	590
Charles Mueller, Jr.	9
Daniel Preus	95
Wallace Schulz	102
John Wohlrabe, Jr.	424

After the name of Charles Mueller was removed from consideration upon receiving the fewest votes, the results of the second ballot for First Vice-President were as follows:

William Diekelman	614
Daniel Preus	16
Wallace Schulz	22
John Wohlrabe, Jr.	582

After the name of Daniel Preus was removed from consideration, the results of the third ballot for First Vice-President were as follows:

William Diekelman	623
Wallace Schulz	11
John Wohlrabe, Jr.	600

William Diekelman was declared elected as First Vice-President of the Synod.

After the slate of 20 candidates for vice-presidents two through five was introduced, a motion to ratify the slate as presented was carried [Yes: 1,203; No: 12]. After convention chaplain Dale Meyer led the assembly in prayer, Committee 9 Chairman Larry Harvala explained the voting process to be used upon preparation of the ballot.

Committee 5: Seminary and University Education

Committee 5 Chairman Jon Diefenthaler, President of the Southeastern District, after introducing the business to be brought before the convention by his committee, introduced Res. 5-06, "To Clarify Membership on the Board for Pastoral Education and the Board for University Education" (*TB*, pp. 104–105), for consideration by the assembly. He called attention to two changes to the resolution by the committee: (1) Immediately after the new wording proposed for Bylaw 3.8.2.1 ending with the word "Education," the committee added the words "as a voting member." (2) Similarly, after the new wording proposed for Bylaw 3.8.3.2 ending with the word "Education," the committee added the

words “as a voting member.” After discussion, the committee also added the words “at least” prior to the words “two shall be parish pastors” in the requirement for three ordained ministers under “voting members.” After a motion successfully terminated debate [Yes: 1,120; No: 72], Res. 5-06 was adopted [Yes: 1,123; No: 78].

Res. 5-05, “To Encourage Commitment to Continuing Education for Clergy” (*TB*, p. 104), was then introduced by the committee. During the discussion that followed, a suggested motion to make the necessary changes to apply the resolution to all church workers was followed by a suggestion from the chair that the committee, if it should wish to do so, should bring a separate resolution for that purpose. A motion to terminate debate was carried [Yes: 1,122; No: 68], and Res. 5-05 was adopted [Yes: 1,084; No: 132].

The committee also introduced Res. 5-08, “To Clarify Responsibility of Board for Pastoral Education re Recognized Service Organizations” (*TB*, 106–107), and provided explanation. The resolution was adopted without debate [Yes: 1,108; No: 97].

Election of Vice-Presidents Two through Five

The slate of 20 candidates for the offices of vice-presidents two through five was again presented to the assembly. The result of the first ballot was as follows:

David Adams	280
Wally Arp	42
Edward Balfour	39
David Buegler	459
Bryant Clancy	81
Eloy Gonzalez	265
Matthew Harrison	221
Glenn Huebel	55
Paul Maier	675
Elder McCants	158
Charles Mueller, Jr.	273
Herbert Mueller, Jr.	62
Scott Murray	185
Dean Nadasdy	541
Clint Poppe	32
Daniel Preus	281
Lawrence Rast	90
Wallace Schulz	395
Dean Wenthe	152
John Wohlrabe, Jr.	561

Paul Maier was declared elected second vice-president. After six names were retained according to the requirements of Bylaw 3.12.1.6, the following were the results of the second ballot:

David Adams	515
David Buegler	593
Dean Nadasdy	666
Daniel Preus	528
Wallace Schulz	563
John Wohlrabe, Jr.	685

John Wohlrabe, Jr. was declared elected third vice-president, Dean Nadasdy fourth vice-president, and David Buegler fifth vice-president.

Reports

Dr. L. Dean Hempelmann, Executive Director of the Board for Pastoral Education, provided a brief report and video of the “What A Way” initiative, also describing the many resources available to assist in efforts to encourage young people to become full-time church workers.

Dr. Ray Halm, Director of CUEnet, briefly described the continued success of this teacher colloquy program, introducing the 1,000th teacher to complete the course of study, Dr. Mary Beth Gaertner. Heather Stuve, director of the colloquy program, reminded the convention that while progress has been made, the Synod has a long way to go toward its goal of rostering all teachers in its parochial schools.

Committee 4: Program and Finance

Committee 4 Chairman Keith Kohlmeier, President of the Kansas District, initiated consideration of Res. 4-13, “To Give Thanks and Praise to God for LCMS Foundation’s 50 Years of Service” (*TB*, p. 91), by introducing Rev. Tom Ries, President of the LCMS Foundation, who spoke of the foundation’s success in helping with estate planning over the 50 years of its existence as a ministry of the Synod. After Res. 4-13 was read and introduced for action, it was adopted without further discussion [Yes: 1,027; No: 41].

The chairman of the LCMS Foundation’s Board of Trustees, Rev. George Black emphasized that the LCMS Foundation is not about money but about saving souls, and about emphasizing stewardship education according to sound biblical principles. To mark the LCMS Foundation’s 50th anniversary, he presented a check of \$50,000 to the President of the Synod for the purpose of establishing a special foundation to promote stewardship education. As he presented the check, he made the following statement:

In pursuing its mission, the Foundation teaches and practices sound principles of biblical stewardship. Stewardship education is of paramount importance to individual Christians who seek to live out lives of faithful service and witness to Jesus Christ. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, the Foundation Board of Trustees, on behalf of the members of the Foundation, hereby presents a gift of \$50,000 to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to establish a permanent, Synod-owned endowment to help fund stewardship education in the Church and assure that there will continue to be gifts for today, tomorrow, and forever for the work of the Church.

Committee 10: Nominations

Committee 10 Chairman John Brunner, President of the Eastern District, called attention to Special Standing Rule 25 and noted how the nominations process will continue to proceed. After President Kieschnick briefly described the composition of the Committee for Convention Nominations and the process it used to develop the slates to be presented to the convention, the committee chairman introduced the slate for the office of Secretary.

When the chair asked if there was an interest in offering further nominations, a motion to accept nominations from the floor was introduced and carried [Yes: 588; No: 581]. A motion was introduced to nominate Rev. Larry Harvala for the office of Secretary. When the committee chairman reported that Rev. Harvala’s name was not in the pool of

names originally nominated, the chair ruled that the current motion would satisfy the bylaw requirement for a motion to approve such nominations. The motion failed [Yes: 527; No: 656] and there were no further nominations.

The slate for the office of Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer was introduced. No motion to accept nominations from the floor was offered.

The slate for the Board of Directors of the Synod was introduced. A motion was introduced “that prior to any vote on any individual floor nominee for any board or commission, the convention delegates be told whether or not the floor nominee either was a plaintiff in the Anderson lawsuit or was party to the Motion to Intervene on the part of four members of the Board of Directors.” The chair ruled that the motion was in order and was not amendable or debatable. The motion was adopted [Yes: 626; No: 544]. A motion to allow further nominations for the Board of Directors of the Synod was introduced and carried [Yes: 650; No: 529]. The chair explained that since the entire board is an officer of the Synod, all categories would be considered at the same time.

A motion was introduced to nominate Rev. William F. Meyer from the Missouri District. After discussion, the motion failed [Yes: 341; No: 835]. A question was raised regarding the propriety of the earlier motion that delegates be told of involvements in the Anderson lawsuit in light of the Commission on Constitutional Matters opinion read earlier. The commission was asked to provide a response.

A motion was introduced to nominate Mark Stern from the Northern Illinois District. It was noted that there already was a candidate on the slate from the same district, this to satisfy the requirement of Bylaw 3.12.3.7 (b) that such information be provided. A question arose regarding the process to be used to elect the members of the Board of Directors. The chair asked the Commission on Constitutional Matters to consult with the Elections Committee to make a recommendation to the convention in this regard. The chairman of the Elections Committee proposed that the ordained members of the board be elected first, then the commissioned member, followed by the lay members. When attention returned to the motion to add the name of Mark Stern to the slate of candidates, the motion failed [Yes: 462; No: 705].

A motion was introduced to nominate David Hawk from the Indiana District. After all required consideration was given to qualifications and restrictions, the motion was defeated [Yes: 451; No: 728].

A motion was introduced to nominate Elizabeth Skinner from the Southeastern District. After all required consideration was given to qualifications and restrictions, the motion was defeated [Yes: 415; No: 762].

A motion was introduced to nominate Jonathan Dorr from the South Dakota District. After consideration was given to qualifications and restrictions, the motion was defeated [Yes: 558; No: 619].

A motion was introduced to nominate Ralph L. Reinke from the Pacific Southwest District. After consideration was given to qualifications and restrictions, the motion was defeated [Yes: 403; No: 757].

A motion was introduced “that any lawsuit designation be removed in a spirit of forgiveness and seeking God’s will.” The chair ruled the motion out of order, suggesting that a motion to reconsider the previous motion could be brought by a delegate who had voted on the prevailing side.

A motion to cease nominations for the Board of Directors of the Synod was declared out of order by the chair for not being in accord with parliamentary rules, as was also a motion “to identify all delegates who voted to identify the plaintiffs in the lawsuit.”

Noting no further speakers at the microphones, the chair observed that nominations were thereby closed. The Nominations Committee chairman then called attention to page 215 in *Today’s Business*, noting changes to the report of his committee.

Omnibus Resolutions

After the chair provided a brief explanation of the purposes served by the various omnibus resolutions, he called attention to Omnibus Res. A (*TB*, pp. 155–157). The Secretary offered several additions to the list of overtures: Ov. 3-95, “To Commit to Working Together with Other Denominations,” to be referred to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations; Ov. L3-106, “To Recognize Greater Specificity Regarding Functions of the Pastoral Office,” to be referred to the Commission on Worship; and Ov. 4-36, “To Change Appointment Process for Director of News and Information Services,” to be referred to the Commission on Structure. A motion to adopt Res. A as changed was introduced.

A motion was introduced “to amend by separating Ov. 1-01 from Omnibus A and referring it back to the committee to bring to the floor at the nearest available time.” After a discussion of parliamentary considerations, the motion was changed “to amend the resolution by deleting Ov. 1-01.” After discussion, the motion to amend failed [Yes: 255; No: 924].

A motion was introduced to amend Omnibus Res. A by changing the referral of Ov. 8-32, “To Develop Method for Review of CCM Opinions,” from the Commission on Theology and Church Relations to the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance. The committee accepted the change, and no vote was necessary.

A motion was introduced to amend Omnibus Res. A by deleting Ov. L1-19. After discussion, the motion was not carried [Yes: 566; No: 590].

A motion was introduced to amend Omnibus Res. A by deleting Ov. 3-99. After discussion, the motion was not carried [Yes: 402; No: 759].

A motion was introduced to amend Omnibus Res. A by deleting Ov. 4-20. After discussion, the motion failed [Yes: 490; No: 673].

A motion was introduced to amend Omnibus Res. A by deleting Ov. 3-30. After discussion, the motion failed [Yes: 296; No: 855].

The chair referred to Special Standing Rule 16, allowing the chair to take the initiative to put to the assembly the question whether it wishes to vote on the main motion. A motion was introduced to amend the resolve paragraph of Omnibus Res. A to include mention of “task force” after the

word “commission.” This change was adopted by common consent. After a vote to cease debate carried [Yes: 983; No: 205], the vote to adopt Omnibus Res. A as amended was carried [Yes: 1,042; No: 137].

The chair called attention to Omnibus Res. B, which was moved and seconded. A motion to amend Omnibus Res. B by removing Ov. 7-62 was introduced, discussed, and then not carried [Yes: 329; No: 830]. After a motion to terminate debate on Omnibus Res. B carried [Yes: 1,042; No: 131], the motion to adopt the resolution also carried [Yes: 1,055; No: 122].

The chair called attention to Omnibus Res. D. When moved and seconded, a motion immediately following to terminate debate without debate carried [Yes: 1,019; No: 139]. The resolution was adopted [Yes: 1,109; No: 71].

Committee 7: Planning and Administration

Committee 7 Chairman Daniel May, President of the Indiana District, explained the absence of District President Don Fondow due to health reasons. After he introduced the work of the committee, Res. 7-01A, “To Standardize Candidate Information” (*TB*, p. 200), was presented for adoption. After further explanation by the committee, a substitute motion was proposed “to consider Ov. 7-33 (*CW*, p. 247) in place of Res. 7-01A.” After the presenter of the motion and the committee offered comment, the convention declined to consider the substitute motion [Yes: 378; No: 774]. As discussion continued on Res. 7-01A, a motion was introduced to retain the word “age” in line 23 of the resolution. After brief discussion, the motion to amend was carried [Yes: 834; No: 322]. A motion to add the words, “one’s position with regard to the Anderson lawsuit until 2013” was ruled out of order since the inclusion of a definite date made the resolution other than a bylaw amendment. A motion to cease debate was then carried [Yes: 1,031; No: 142] and Res. 7-01A was adopted [Yes: 1,073; No: 100].

The committee then introduced Res. 7-02, “To Amend Bylaw 2.11.1 (k) re Roster Eligibility” (*TB*, pp. 123–124), noting one change to the second WHEREAS paragraph, replacing the word “Unclearity” with the words “A lack of clarity.” The resolution was adopted without discussion [Yes: 1,077; No: 84].

The committee introduced Res. 7-03A, “To Amend Bylaw 3.2.5” (*TB*, pp. 200–201). During discussion, the parliamentarian was asked to discuss the relationship of bylaws to parliamentary rules. The propriety of a motion to amend the resolution by deleting the word “not” from the proposed wording was discussed. A motion to introduce the change as a substitute motion was declared out of order on the basis of parliamentary rules. Discussion and further clarification by the committee of the main motion followed. The Commission on Constitutional Matters, asked to produce an opinion on the subject, called attention to Opinions 05-2439; 05-2440; 05-2442 in the *Convention Workbook*. After further discussion, a motion to cease debate carried [Yes: 1,003; No: 154] and Res. 7-03A was adopted [Yes: 774; No: 399].

Closing Prayer

Session 2 was concluded with closing prayer by convention chaplain Dean Wenthe and the announcement that the convention offering now totaled \$409,157.

Session 3

July 16, 2007

Morning Devotion

President Gerald Kieschnick called the assembly to order and called on convention chaplain Dean Wenthe to introduce Dr. L. Dean Hempelmann, Executive Director of the Board for Pastoral Education, the morning devotion leader. Basing his message on 1 Cor. 1:18–25, he spoke of the wisdom of the world as foolishness and the foolishness of God’s wisdom in the eyes of the world. Because we preach Christ crucified and disgraced, we are fools for Christ, the Crucified One. But we are wise fools, not ashamed of the Gospel, the power of God.

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

Committee 3 Chairman Gerhard Michael, President of the Florida-Georgia District, presented Res. 3-01, “To Declare Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the American Association of Lutheran Churches” (*TB*, pp. 69–70). Given its significance, the entire resolution was read by a member of the committee, and the resolution was moved by the committee for adoption. Dr. Samuel Nafzger, Executive Director of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, further explained the process that resulted in the proposed resolution, reporting that the AALC recently took its own action to declare altar and pulpit fellowship with the LCMS.

Extensive discussion followed in response to specific issues and concerns raised by the assembly. It was assured that agreements will be put into place to handle unique church-worker issues in a manner that will satisfy both church bodies. A motion was introduced to amend the resolution by substituting two resolves for the second-last resolve in the proposed resolution as follows: “*Resolved*, That the LCMS request the American Association of Lutheran Churches to make known publicly its positions with respect to Christians having membership in secret societies such as lodges and to Christians participating with heterodox congregations in worship; and be it further *Resolved*, That pastors of Missouri Synod congregations may exercise pastoral care with respect to altar and pulpit fellowship in the extraordinary circumstances of having a nearby AALC congregation that allows membership in secret societies such as lodges or that publicly worships with heterodox congregations; and be it finally.” After discussion, the amendment failed [Yes: 288; No: 891].

As discussion continued on the main motion, it was clarified that the AALC professes a *quia* and not a *quatenus* subscription to the Lutheran Confessions. A motion was introduced to terminate debate on Res. 3-01. The motion failed [Yes: 739; No: 457] and allotted time was extended for discussion to continue. An amendment was introduced to add the words “and for reconciliation” after the word “relationship” in the fourth resolve. After discussion, this

amendment was adopted [Yes: 823; No: 366]. During the discussion that continued, the chair explained the decision to allow AALC students to commune as part of the Concordia Theological Seminary community. After twenty minutes of debate had elapsed, the chair asked the assembly whether it wished to cease debate. Debate was ended [Yes: 787; No: 388] and Res. 3-01 was adopted as amended [Yes: 846; No: 345]. In accord with the final resolve of the resolution, the assembly stood to sing the Common Doxology to the glory of God.

AALC Presiding Pastor Tom Aadland was introduced and spoke to the convention on behalf of the AALC and its Presiding Pastor-Elect. The text of his message to the convention will be printed in the *Convention Proceedings*. Formal protocol documents were signed by the heads of the two church bodies.

Committee 5: Seminary and University Education

Committee 5 Chairman Jon Diefenthaler introduced the subject of the proposed establishment of the Specific Ministry Pastor Program. He clarified that the introductory material preceding Res. 5-01A (*TB*, pp. 186–194) is to be regarded as background information to inform the convention's decision. Dr. L. Dean Hempelmann, Executive Director of the Board for Pastoral Education, Dr. Andrew Bartelt, Academic Dean of Concordia Seminary, and Dr. Larry Rast, Academic Dean of Concordia Theological Seminary, outlined the proposed program, responded to concerns raised, and reported on the support that the proposal enjoys and the positive reception it has received on both seminary campuses.

Given time constraints, the chair recommended that the resolution not be formally introduced and that the brief time remaining be spent asking and responding to questions regarding the proposal.

Bible Study

The chair called on convention chaplain Dale Meyer to introduce the Bible study leader, Dr. Paul Maier, Second Vice-President-elect of the Synod and Professor of Ancient History at Western Michigan University. His Bible study focused on the first chapter of 1 Cor. and its historical setting, the Grecian capital established by Rome, presumably the worst seedbed for the Gospel, given the city's great vices and false religions. But the church start was surprisingly successful—at least until Paul left, when the church suffered, occasioning this letter from Paul.

Delegates were asked to form groups of four to discuss the biblical text in light of its historical setting, after which Dr. Maier made application, noting the “perfect parallel” of our present day with that of Corinth, especially in light of some of the relational difficulties our Synod faces today. The remedy is still the same, to focus on Christ, to take these words literally, leaving this convention as if Jesus Himself had been present and had addressed the convention with words like those of Paul.

Committee 5: Seminary and University Education

Committee 5 Chairman Jon Diefenthaler called attention to a resolution requiring early attention, given its po-

tential effect on ballot preparations, Res. 5-04, “To Strengthen College and University Boards of Regents” (*TB*, pp. 102–103). He introduced Dr. Jacob Preus, President of Concordia University, Irvine, who spoke in support of the proposed resolution and assured that the resolution is not intended in any way to create greater separation from the Synod but to provide greater support for the Synod's schools by providing the wisdom and support needed to operate schools in this day and age. Vice-President-Finance—Treasurer Tom Kuchta added his support as Treasurer of the Synod, following which the resolution was introduced by the committee for consideration. During discussion, a motion was introduced to amend the resolution by adding the prefix “non” to the word “voting” in proposed wording for Bylaw 3.8.3.6.2 in its third numbered sentence. Given time constraints, the chair tested the will of the assembly to continue discussion of the amendment. The assembly voted to terminate debate [Yes: 991; No: 173] and then defeated the motion to amend [Yes: 341; No: 809]. The chair again tested the will of the assembly to continue discussion of the main motion. As the vote was being taken, it was determined that a number of keypads were not operative, and the vote was taken by having the delegates vote by standing. After the vote was taken, the chair ruled that the motion to terminate debate was carried. By rising vote, the convention also adopted Res. 5-04.

A motion was introduced “to allow delegates to register their negative votes.” It was determined by voice vote that the motion received the required one-third affirmative vote. The following delegates registered their negative votes in writing with the Secretary: Steven J. Anderson, Benjamin Ball, Sean Ballard, Arie Bertsch, Bruce Blocker, Neal Breitbarth, Paul E. Bremer, R. Thomas Colgrove, Loren D. Cooper, Perry Culver, Wm. Keith Davis, Frederick E. Davison, Charlie A. Dietrich, Roger Dilger, Rebecca Dominguez, Everett Doyle, Thomas Dufresne, Mark Eckert, Paul Egger, Roger Gallup, Gary V. Gehlbach, H. Glaess, Timothy Hafner, Jim Hamilton, John W. Hamilton, Gregg Hein, Gary Held, Jeffrey Heller, Charles Henkel, Karl Hess, Gary Hoffmann, Daniel G. Holthus, Robert Jahns, Ronald Kabitzke, Chad Kendall, Harold King, Jessie King, Mark A. Kloha, Tim Koch, Henry J. Koopmann, Richard Kreutzer, Larry Le Blanc, Bryan Lindemood, David Lord, David Markworth, Michael Mathews, Timothy D. May, Jon P. Meyer, Alan Miller, Aaron Moldenhauer, Bruce Nathan, Shawn Nettleton, Lydia Nighswander, Charles Olander, Fred Page, Raymond Parent, Peter Piepkorn, Donald E. Prevallet, Davin Quiram, Steve Rasmussen, Russell D. Reimers, John Riley, Franklin Schatte, Tim Schenks, Dana Schnelle, V. Schroeder, Larry Smallfield, Ken Sparbel, Roger Sterle, Winfried Strieter, D. Richard Stuckwisch, Le Roy B. Sundbom, David Teigen, Matthew Theriault, Magdalen Veitenruber, Charlie Wachlin, Paul M. Weber, Keith R. Weise, Stephen Weiss, Craig E. Whitson, Henry C. Wied, Alan Wollenburg, Robert Wurst.

Committee 8: Synod Structure and Governance

Committee 8 Chairman Lane Seitz, President of the Minnesota South District, introduced Res. 8-01, “To Adopt Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

re Resolution 7-02A" (*TB*, pp. 143–145) on behalf of the committee and reviewed the history of the issues addressed by the resolution and the Report of the Res. 7-02A Committee (*TB*, pp. 26–38). This introduction satisfied the first expectation of Special Standing Rule 7. After noting the change made by the convention to the standing rule in an earlier session, the 30-minute debate on the main motion was begun. After the 30-minute period had elapsed, discussion of Res. 8-01 moved into the final 45-minute period of debate. A motion was introduced to amend Res. 8-01 by deleting the proposed wording for Bylaw 3.9.2.1.1 and inserting two new paragraphs: "(a) The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall be elected by the Synod in convention. (b) In the event of a vacancy, the President shall nominate a replacement with the consent of three vice-presidents, that nomination to be effective upon ratification by a majority vote of the Council of Presidents." The chair questioned the propriety of the motion to amend since it included a bylaw change and had not been reviewed by the Commission on Constitutional Matters. He asked that the commission look into the matter. As discussion continued on the resolution, it was noted that amendments to the Bylaws also need to be first considered by a convention floor committee. The maker of the amendment was asked to take the matter to the floor committee prior to its consideration by the convention. Discussion continued on Res. 8-01 until the chair tested the interest of the assembly in terminating the debate. After the convention voted to end debate [Yes: 814; No: 384], Res. 8-01 was adopted without amendment [Yes: 905; No: 292].

Recess

Session 4 July 16, 2007

Afternoon Devotion

President Gerald Kieschnick called on convention chaplain Dean Wenthe to introduce the afternoon devotion leader, Rev. David Muench, Director of the Synod's Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support. Following the singing of "A Mighty Fortress" and prayer, 1 Cor. 1:16ff served as the text for his devotion. Rev. Muench spoke of the danger of emptying the cross of Christ by divisive speech and energy, a danger for the Corinthian church and the church in our day as well. There are times when standing up is necessary, but not at the expense of the power of the Gospel which is to be found in its pure and simple proclamation.

Minutes

Attention was called to the minutes of Session 1 of the convention (*TB*, pp. 259–261). The chair asked for additions or corrections. Hearing none, he declared the minutes approved as printed. He then invited the newly elected vice-presidents to the podium and introduced them to the assembly. He spoke of their responsibilities as vice-presidents, providing counsel and assistance to the President of the Synod.

Elections of Secretary and Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer

The chair called on convention chaplain Dale Meyer to lead in prayer before the elections. Elections Committee Chairman Larry Harvala then introduced the slate for the office of Secretary of the Synod. The result of the ballot was as follows:

Philip J. Esala	425
Raymond L. Hartwig	708
David L. Mahsman	64

Raymond L. Hartwig was declared elected.

The slate for the office of Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer of the Synod was then presented. The result of the ballot was as follows:

Thomas W. Kuchta	1147
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Thomas W. Kuchta was declared elected.

The slate for the ordained minister members of the Synod's Board of Directors was presented. The electronic voting equipment malfunctioned, and the balloting was postponed to a later time.

Committee 6: Human Care

Committee 6 Chairman David Benke, President of the Atlantic District, introduced Res. 6-02, "To State LCMS Position on Stem Cell Research" (*TB*, pp. 113–114). During discussion, a friendly amendment to the second-last resolve, adding the word "embryonic" before the words "stem cell research," was agreed to by the committee. A motion was introduced to amend the fifth WHEREAS paragraph by deleting the words "and has so far shown no success for treatment in humans even though touted in the media as the source of great cures in the future." After discussion, a motion to terminate debate on the amendment was carried [Yes: 1,095; No: 108] but the amendment failed [Yes: 410; No: 786]. After further discussion of the main motion, the chair tested the assembly's interest in terminating debate [Yes: 1,163; No: 33]. Res. 6-02 was then adopted [Yes: 1,165; No: 41].

Election of Board of Directors

Elections Committee Chairman Larry Harvala advised that the earlier initial ballot for ordained minister members of the Board of Directors of the Synod needed to be redone because of a malfunction of the electronic voting equipment. The following was the result of the repeated first ballot:

James E. Fandrey	438
Vernon D. Gundermann	490
Robert T. Kuhn	599
Ulmer Marshall, Jr.	198
Donald K. Muchow	527
Jeffrey T. Schrank	166

No candidate having received the required majority of the votes cast, the result of the second ballot for ordained minister members of the Board of Directors was as follows:

James E. Fandrey	461
Vernon D. Gundermann	528
Robert T. Kuhn	640
Ulmer Marshall, Jr.	163

Donald K. Muchow 629

Robert T. Kuhn and Donald K. Muchow were declared elected. Balloting continued for the commissioned minister member position. The result of the ballot was as follows:

Jonathan C. Laabs 526
Kurt Senske 646

Kurt Senske was declared elected. Balloting continued for the lay positions on the Board of Directors. Discussion followed regarding the removal of names of candidates because of the bylaw prohibiting two board members from being elected from the same district. Upon suggestion of the chair, a motion was introduced “that in view of the earlier election of members of the Board of Directors from the Missouri, Southeastern, and Texas Districts, any remaining candidates from those districts will be eliminated from the slate.” The suggested motion was carried. The result of the ballot for lay members for the Board of Directors of the Synod was as follows:

Walter Brantz 638
Kermit Brashear 905
Gloria Edwards 710
Richard Peters 607
Irma Pinkerton 539
Curtis Pohl 804

Given the large totals of votes received, discussion followed regarding the validity of the vote. The chair ruled that the decision of the chairman of the Elections Committee would stand. Walter Brantz, Kermit Brashear, Gloria Edwards, and Curtis Pohl were declared elected.

Committee 6: Human Care

Committee 6 Chairman David Benke called attention to Res. 6-01, “To Give Thanks for Disaster Relief and Support” (*TB*, p. 113). After a video of recent natural disasters was viewed, Rev. Kurt Schultz, President of the Southern District, spoke of the destruction and relief efforts surrounding Hurricane Katrina. Reading 2 Cor. 1:8–11, he spoke of the long recovery journey yet to come, but also expressed thanks for God-given partners without whom the people in the stricken area could not have come this far. A scroll of thanksgiving prepared by the floor committee with signatures of the President of the Synod and the district presidents will be permanently placed in the Synod’s International Center, with copies provided to districts. After attention was returned to Res. 6-01, and after brief further discussion, the resolution was adopted [Yes: 1,177; No: 4]. President Kieschnick, speaking to the delegates as representatives of the entire Synod, expressed appreciation for all of the contributions in response to recent disasters and especially Hurricane Katrina.

Committee 4: Program and Finance

Committee 4 Chairman Keith Kohlmeier, President of the Kansas District, introduced Res. 4-04, “To Authorize Exception to 2004 Res. 4-11 re Property Reversionary Provisions” (*TB*, pp. 80–81). The resolution was adopted without discussion [Yes: 1,039; No: 86].

Res. 4-05, “To Amend Bylaws 3.8.3.6.4 (e) (2) and 3.8.3.6.4 (i) (2) re Financial Management” (*TB*, pp. 81–82),

was introduced by the committee and adopted without discussion [Yes: 1,037; No: 87].

Res. 4-06, “To Revise Bylaw Sections re Name Change to Concordia Plans and Concordia Plan Services” (*TB*, pp. 82–86), was introduced by the committee without reading the entire resolve section. After four editorial changes were made (words underscored to indicate new wording), the resolution was adopted after brief discussion [Yes: 1,133; No: 17].

Res. 4-07, “To Amend Bylaw 3.7.1.2 re Membership of Board of Directors—Concordia Plan Services and Board of Trustees—Concordia Plans” (*TB*, pp. 86–87), was introduced by the committee and adopted without discussion [Yes: 1,121; No: 31].

Res. 4-08, “To Amend Bylaw 3.8.2.2.5 (i) (2) re Financial Management” (*TB*, pp. 87–88), was introduced by the committee and adopted without discussion [Yes: 1,093; No: 52].

Res. 4-01A, “To Plan Summit to Restore Harmony” (*TB*, p. 242), was introduced by the committee. During discussion, a motion to amend the resolution by deleting the words “to clarify” and “a strategy” in the first resolve was agreed to by the committee. After further discussion, a motion to amend the resolution by deleting the parenthetical statement in the final resolve “(including the Great Commission)” was carried [Yes: 650; No: 503] before debate was terminated [Yes: 1,082; No: 89] and Res. 4-01A was adopted [Yes: 1,014; No: 169].

Res. 4-03, “To Develop Program to Emphasize Biblical Whole Life Stewardship” (*TB*, p. 80), was introduced by the committee and adopted without discussion [Yes: 941; No: 226].

Res. 4-09A, “To Provide Financial Support and Adopt Funding Model for Seminaries” (*TB*, pp. 242–243), was introduced by the committee. Discussion was ended by a motion to cease debate [Yes: 1,026; No: 103], after which the resolution was adopted [Yes: 1,051; No: 89].

Commission on Constitutional Matters Opinions

A member of the Commission on Constitutional Matters reported that the chairman of the Elections Committee has requested opinions regarding the following issues:

Question 1: Based on the election of a candidate to become a member of the Synod’s Board of Directors, may another candidate from the same district remain on the ballot or be elected?

Opinion: No. Bylaw 3.3.5.1 (1) precludes the election of more than one elected member of the Board of Directors from any one district. The election of one member from a district renders ineligible any other candidate from the same district. Other candidates from that district must be removed from the ballot as ineligible.

Question 2: If the number of candidates remaining eligible for election to a category (i.e., ordained, commissioned, or lay) on the Synod’s Board of Directors is less than two times the number of positions to be elected because of the prior election of another candidate from the same district, must additional nominations be added before the election?

Opinion: No. Bylaw 3.12.3.6 (a) requires the Committee for Convention Nominations to make initial nominations of at least two candidates for each such position. Once those candidates have been nominated at the convention, that bylaw has been fulfilled. Should a candidate become ineligible, withdraw,

or in some other manner the number of candidates is narrowed before balloting, there is no provision in the Constitution or By-laws which requires or allows the nominations committee to add additional names.

Question 3: In what order should the election of members to the Synod's Board of Directors take place?

Opinion: Bylaw 3.12.4 (c) provides: "The committee shall be empowered to adopt procedures and methods that will insure efficiency and accuracy, including the use of mechanical, electronic, or other methods of casting, recording, or tabulating votes." The Committee on Elections must therefore determine the order in which it chooses to present the slate for election.

On another matter, the chairman of the convention requested clarification of the reason why the Commission on Constitutional Matters previously opined that a motion from the floor to require 10-minute presentations by presidential candidates would be inconsistent with the Bylaws but that requiring disclosure of whether a floor nominee was a plaintiff in litigation against the Synod is consistent with the Bylaws. The Commission responded as follows:

Opinion: The proposal to require a 10-minute presentation by candidates for President would change the process directed by the Bylaws for election, as described in CCM Opinion 04-2396. The request for information requiring disclosure as to whether a potential nominee was a plaintiff in the lawsuit is a request for information regarding qualifications and does not change the process of elections. Bylaw 3.12.3.6 (c) requires the Committee for Convention Nominations to provide information such as age, occupation, etc. Nothing precludes the convention from requesting or requiring additional information to be supplied as a condition of their consideration of floor nominations.

Committee 10: Nominations

Committee 10 Chairman John Brunner, after introducing the members of the Committee for Convention Nominations presently assisting in the floor nominations process, introduced Res. 10-01, "To Consider Additional Nominations for Board for Black Ministry Services" (TB, p. 153). During the discussion that followed, a question was raised how the resolve paragraph should be understood. The committee chairman interpreted the resolution as intending to place the names in question immediately on the ballot. The resolution was then adopted [Yes: 1,002; No: 133].

A motion was introduced "to open the floor for nominations." The motion was carried [Yes: 869; No: 250] and the committee prepared to receive nominations from the floor.

A motion to nominate Dr. Jonathan Laabs to the commissioned minister slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia, Bronxville was introduced and adopted [Yes: 783; No: 288].

A motion to nominate Deaconess Emily Carder to the commissioned minister slate for the Board for Black Ministry Services was introduced and carried [Yes: 795; No: 192].

A motion to nominate William Doubek to the ordained minister slate for the Board for Pastoral Education was introduced and carried [Yes: 706; No: 278].

A motion to nominate Paul Sauer to the ordained minister slate for the Commission on Theology and Church Relations was introduced and carried [Yes: 729; No: 286].

A motion to nominate Sandra Ostapowich to the layperson slate for the Board of Directors of Concordia Publishing House was introduced and carried [Yes: 740; No: 250].

A motion to nominate Georgann McKee to the layperson slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Irvine was introduced and carried [Yes: 694; No: 266].

A motion to nominate Ralph L. Reinke for the ordained or commissioned slate for the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund was introduced and carried [Yes: 753; No: 236].

A motion to nominate Tom Hurley to the layperson slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Portland was introduced and carried [Yes: 688; No: 268].

Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer Tom Kuchta reported that Kermit Brashear, recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Synod, asked him to inform the nominations and elections committees that he wished to have his name removed from the slate for Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

A motion to nominate Andrew B. Bates to the commissioned minister slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Austin was introduced and carried [Yes: 698; No: 268].

A motion to nominate Karol Selle to the layperson slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Portland was introduced and carried [Yes: 644; No: 284].

A motion to nominate Irma S. Pinkerton to the layperson slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Portland was introduced and carried [Yes: 672; No: 269].

A motion was introduced to reconsider the action taken in Session 2 of the convention, "that prior to any vote on any individual floor nominee for any board or commission, the convention delegates be told whether or not the floor nominee either was a plaintiff in the Anderson lawsuit or was party to the Motion to Intervene on the part of four members of the Board of Directors." After it was determined that the delegate bringing the motion voted on the prevailing side when the action was taken, and after brief discussion, the parliamentarian advised that the motion was not debatable. After the chair explained that this motion would bring the motion that had been adopted in Session 2 back to the floor for reconsideration, the motion to reconsider was carried [Yes: 661; No: 473]. The motion was again read: "that prior to any vote on any individual floor nominee for any board or commission, the convention delegates be told whether or not the floor nominee either was a plaintiff in the Anderson lawsuit or was party to the Motion to Intervene on the part of four members of the Board of Directors," after which it was defeated [Yes: 475; No: 662].

A motion to nominate Ginny Valleau to the layperson slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Austin was introduced and carried [Yes: 687; No: 287].

A motion to nominate Peter C. Bender to the ordained minister slate for the Board for Pastoral Education was introduced and carried [Yes: 684; No: 299].

A motion to nominate Christopher Esget to the ordained minister slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia Col-

lege, Bronxville was introduced and carried [Yes: 660; No: 280].

A motion to nominate Aaron Wolf to the layperson slate for the Board of Directors of Concordia Publishing House was introduced and carried [Yes: 652; No: 300].

In response to an inquiry, the chair suggested that the names brought forward by Res. 10-01 be specifically nominated by resolution to the slates for the Board for Black Ministry Services. A motion to do so was introduced in each case and Jeffrey Howell was nominated to the commissioned minister slate [Yes: 785; No: 127] and Karen Wiggins was nominated to the layperson slate [Yes: 781; No: 126] of the Board for Black Ministry Services.

A motion to reconsider the standing rule governing floor nominations was declared out of order by the chair, since the standing rule is based upon a bylaw requirement.

A motion to nominate Jim Linnell to the layperson slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Austin was introduced and carried [Yes: 643; No: 231].

A motion to nominate David Ritt to the ordained minister slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne was introduced and carried [Yes: 625; No: 275].

A motion to nominate Charles Froh to the ordained minister slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Irvine was introduced and carried [Yes: 604; No: 268].

A motion to nominate Michael S. Taylor to the ordained minister slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia College, Selma was introduced and carried [Yes: 617; No: 254].

A motion to nominate Dale Hartmann to the commissioned minister slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Irvine was introduced and carried [Yes: 599; No: 249].

A motion to nominate Glenn Huebel to the ordained minister slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Austin was introduced and carried [Yes: 618; No: 270].

A motion to nominate David Brazeal to the layperson slate of the Board of Regents of Concordia College, Selma was introduced and carried [Yes: 638; No: 262].

A delegate called for the Orders of the Day. It was noted that Special Standing Rule 25 allows the assembly to indicate its will to stop the nominations process if it chooses to do so. It was noted that 45 minutes had elapsed in the initial 60-minutes period. A subsequent motion to end the process failed to achieve the necessary two-thirds vote [Yes: 700; No: 361].

A motion to nominate Karen L. Gabriel to the commissioned minister slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Portland was introduced and carried [Yes: 585; No: 279].

A motion to nominate Gene A. Ott to the ordained minister slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Seward was introduced and carried [Yes: 609; No: 279].

A motion to nominate Ron D. Maxwell to the ordained minister slate for the LCMS Foundation was introduced and carried [Yes: 625; No: 262].

A motion to nominate Tom Buuck to the layperson slate for the LCEF Board of Directors was introduced and carried [Yes: 592; No: 294].

A motion to nominate Hans Otten to the commissioned minister slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis was introduced and carried [Yes: 539; No: 390].

Mr. Walter Brantz at this time went to a microphone and announced his withdrawal of his name from the layperson slate of the Board of Directors of Concordia Publishing House due to his election to the Board of Directors of the Synod.

A motion to nominate David Fleming to the ordained minister slate for the Board for Communication Services was introduced and carried [Yes: 585; No: 300].

A motion to nominate Walter Disen to the layperson slate for the LCEF Board of Directors was introduced and carried [Yes: 603; No: 329].

A motion to nominate Philip Tesch to the ordained minister slate for the LCMS Foundation Board of Trustees was introduced and failed [Yes: 475; No: 509].

A motion to nominate Douglas J. Stowe to the ordained minister slate for the Board of Regents of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis was introduced and failed [Yes: 438; No: 594].

A motion to nominate Mark Loest to the ordained minister slate for the Board of Governors of Concordia Historical Institute was introduced and carried [Yes: 590; No: 422].

A motion to nominate Daniel Brege to the ordained minister slate for the Board for Pastoral Education was introduced and carried [Yes: 615; No: 354].

The chair announced that the allotted sixty minutes of time had elapsed. A motion to terminate the nominations process was carried [Yes: 942; No: 171].

Committee 1: Missions

Committee 1 Chairman Robert Newton introduced Res. 1-06, "To Commend Our Chaplains" (*TB*, p. 57). The resolution was adopted without discussion [Yes: 1,102; No: 13]. Dr. Robert Roegner, Executive Director of the Board for Mission Services, introduced three military chaplains present to represent the Synod's chaplains in the Armed Services: Tom Waynick (Army), Jon Fruisti (Navy), and Tim Rosenthal (Air Force). The chaplains received a standing ovation from the convention.

Res. 1-07, "To Give Thanks and Commend the Lutheran Women's Missionary League for 65 Years of Service" (*TB*, p. 58), was introduced by the committee and adopted without discussion [Yes: 1,070; No: 27].

Closing Prayer and Recess

In keeping with the Orders of the Day, convention chaplain Dale Meyer was called upon to lead the convention in closing prayer (*TB*, p. 231) as the convention was recessed for the day.

Session 5
July 17, 2007

Call to Order and Morning Devotion

President Gerald Kieschnick called the session to order and called on convention chaplain Dale Meyer to introduce the devotion leader, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Nafzger, Executive Director of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, who led the convention in morning devotions (*TB*, pp. 268–269). In his message based on John 3:16–18, Dr. Nafzger related a personal poisonous food experience to speak of the great antidote from the poison of sin that threatens all of us with death. He encouraged careful listening to the message from John's Gospel.

Special Greetings: LWML

Newly elected LWML President, Mrs. Jan Wendorf, spoke of the auxiliary's recent convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, describing the Bible studies, presentations, and decisions made, including the establishment of a record mission goal of \$1.7 million.

Following her greetings, the chair called attention to *Today's Business* for Tuesday in two parts and their content. A question was raised by a delegate regarding the timing of elections, given the large amount of new material to study as a result of floor nominations. The chair agreed to give the matter his attention.

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

Committee 3 Chairman Gerhard Michael introduced on behalf of his committee Res. 3-02, "To Encourage Confessional Study in Preparation for 2017" (*TB*, p. 71). The resolution was adopted without debate [Yes: 1,093; No: 38].

Upon introduction of Res. 3-03, "To Request the CTCR to Develop a Plan for Confessional Leadership" (*TB*, pp. 71–72), by the committee, a motion was introduced to amend the resolution by adding a new resolve prior to the final resolve: "That the CTCR be encouraged to assist in encouraging the translating of the Lutheran Confessions into the languages of the world." The floor committee agreed to the amendment. A motion was introduced to amend the resolution by adding the words "and the Synod will provide funding for this publication" at the end of the third resolve. After discussion of the amendment and a decision by the assembly to cease debate [Yes: 958; No: 71], the amendment was defeated [Yes: 490; No: 549]. A motion to amend the first resolve by adding the words "and our seminaries" after the word "President" was agreed to by the committee. An amendment to delete the entire third resolve was followed by a vote to cease debate [Yes: 858; No: 166] and a vote on the amendment [Yes: 216; No: 809]. A following motion to cease debate on the resolution carried [Yes: 939; No: 92] and Res. 3-03 was adopted as changed [Yes: 959; No: 81].

The committee introduced Res. 3-04A, "To Call for a Study of the Natural Knowledge of God and Its Implications for Public Witness" (*TB*, p. 184). A motion was immediately introduced to amend the first resolve by deleting the phrase "in spirit and truth (John 4:23ff)." A suggestion was

made to insert "1 John 2:23" in place of the deleted phrase. After discussion of the amendment to delete the phrase, a motion to terminate discussion of the amendment was carried [Yes: 938; No: 106], and the amendment failed [Yes: 374; No: 675]. A motion followed to cease debate on Res. 3-04A [Yes: 949; No: 113], and the resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 980; No: 96].

Res. 3-05, "To Provide Further Discussion and Guidance on the Matter of Serial Prayer" (*TB*, pp. 72–73), was introduced by the committee. As discussion began, an amendment was offered to replace the final WHEREAS and the resolve with the following: "WHEREAS, The CTCR report itself notes, 'The members of the Commission disagree about the issue of so-called "serial" or "seriatim" prayers involving representatives of different religious (Christian and/or non-Christian) groups or churches' (p. 19); and WHEREAS, Seven districts (Minnesota North, Southern Illinois, Missouri, South Dakota, Rocky Mountain, Pacific Southwest, and Northern Illinois), three congregations, one circuit forum, and one pastors conference have submitted overtures in the *Convention Workbook* which recognize this ambiguity as to serial prayer and call for further clarification or restudy or, in several cases, for the rescision of 2004 Res. 3-06A; therefore be it *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention withdraw its commendation of those *Guidelines*; and be it further *Resolved*, That the Synod assign to the CTCR and the seminary faculties the task of providing further guidance for participation in civic events that includes the offering of serial prayer." The chair ruled that the proposed amendment was a substitute motion. After the maker of the motion and the committee were given opportunity to speak, the assembly voted not to consider the substitute motion [Yes: 505; No: 546]. Discussion returned to Res. 3-05 as proposed by the committee. A motion to amend the final resolve by striking "CTCR" and replacing it with "President of the Synod" was introduced and discussed. The amendment failed [Yes: 108; No: 951], and discussion continued on the main motion. After a motion to terminate debate was carried [Yes: 956; No: 127], Res. 3-05 was adopted without amendment [Yes: 935; No: 163].

Res. 3-06, "To Assign CTCR to Address Environmental Issues" (*TB*, p. 73), was introduced by the committee. Debate was terminated without discussion [Yes: 806; No: 240], and Res. 3-06 was adopted [Yes: 831; No: 219].

Res. 3-08, "To Encourage Use of CTCR's Web Resource on 'Religious Organizations and Movements'" (*TB*, p. 74), was introduced by the committee by reading the entire resolution. After discussion and upon suggestion of a delegate and agreement by the chair, the words "and to Express Appreciation to Dr. Jerald Joersz for His 30 Years of Service" were added to the title of the resolution. After brief discussion, Res. 3-08 was adopted as changed [Yes: 1,001; No: 17].

Res. 3-07, "To Study CTCR Reports Relating to the Service of Women in the Church" (*TB*, pp. 73–74), was introduced by the committee. During discussion, a substitute resolution was offered: "WHEREAS, At the 1995 LCMS convention, Synod declined to approve the 1994 CTCR document *The Service of Women in the Congregational Offices*, citing a dissenting opinion by five theologians (CTCR members) which stated that the CTCR document lacked consid-

eration of God's order of creation; and WHEREAS, President Dr. Al Barry in 1994 published his 'regret' in the *Reporter* concerning both the content of this document and the manner in which the CTCR's executive committee distributed the document; and WHEREAS, At the 1995 LCMS convention, the Synod (Res. 3-06A) directed the CTCR to continue to study this document along with dissenting opinions, and to do so 'in consultation with the faculties of the seminaries;' and WHEREAS, The CTCR has not reported to any succeeding convention any record of such communication with or from the seminaries on the topic of the role of women in the church, nor has any further report been issued; and WHEREAS, The 1994 report reappeared on the docket of the 2004 convention unchanged, without informing delegates as to the Synod's previous mandate for the CTCR to seek seminary input; and WHEREAS, The 2004 LCMS convention approved Resolution 3-08A by a vote of 576–520; and WHEREAS, This approved resolution (3-08A) may violate God's order of creation and His instruction 'to all congregations of the saints' (1 Cor. 14:33b–38; 1 Tim. 2: 11–12); and WHEREAS, Seven (7) districts submitted overtures to this 2007 convention requesting that we rescind Resolution 3-08A; therefore be it *Resolved*, That we praise God for creating us uniquely male and female, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do (Eph. 2:10); and be it further *Resolved*, That we praise God for the more than 4,000 women serving in full-time church service in our Synod; and be it further *Resolved*, That 2004 Resolution 3-08A be rescinded, along with any policies or administrative procedures that have stemmed from it; and be it further *Resolved*, That the CTCR complete the work mandated to it by the Synod (1995 Resolution 3-06A), receiving input from the faculties of our two seminaries, and publish seminary input online; and be it finally *Resolved*, That the CTCR author a new document concerning the service of women in congregational offices to be presented for discussion and possible approval at the 2010 LCMS convention." After the presenter and the floor committee were given opportunity to speak, the motion to introduce a substitute resolution failed [Yes: 414; No: 628]. Discussion of the resolution was ended by the Orders of the Day.

Bible Study

The chair called on convention chaplain Dean Wenthe to introduce the Bible study leader, Dr. Dean Nadasdy, Third Vice-President of the Synod (Outline of study, *TB*, p. 267). Using Acts 17:16–34, the story of Paul in the meeting of the Areopagus, Dr. Nadasdy spoke of the lack of truth in our culture, suggesting that we can bash our culture, dash from it, or cash in and just go with it. Or we can do what the church has been sent to do: to transform the world by Jesus Christ. He noted how Paul operated in such an environment: he stood alone, presenting a God who is so much bigger by witnessing to the resurrection.

The assembly was asked to discuss in small groups what keeps the LCMS from being a more visible player in our culture's debate of ideas and truths and what aspect of Paul's witness in Athens is most significant for our church

today. The Bible study closed with the singing of the hymn "Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide."

The chair suggested a possible revised agenda in response to the interest expressed earlier for more time to study the ballot. He suggested moving the time for the ballot to the end of the afternoon session. A motion was offered to change the Orders of the Day as explained by the chair. The motion failed to receive the required two-thirds vote necessary to change the Orders of the Day [Yes: 705; No: 386].

Floor Committee 7: Planning and Administration

Committee Chairman Daniel May introduced Res. 7-04A, "To Amend Bylaw 2.11.2.1 re Emeritus Members" (*TB*, p. 201). An amendment was proposed to add the words "or a representative identified by his district president" after the words "emeritus member" in paragraph (a) of Bylaw 2.11.2.1. The chair referenced a recent CCM opinion to the effect that Bylaw 7.1.1 allows the consideration of "minor" amendments without separate referral to the floor committee and CCM if they are considered by the floor committee to be within the scope of that which the committee has already considered and if they are within the scope of what the CCM examined in advance. The committee chairman and the CCM agreed that the proposed amendment in this case was acceptable. The committee also agreed to accept the change. After discussion continued, a motion to cease debate carried [Yes: 1,040; No: 88], and Res. 7-04A was adopted as changed [Yes: 965; No: 172].

Res. 7-05B, "To Promote Transparency in Governance of Synod and Its Institutions" (*TB*, p. 283), was introduced by the committee. The parliamentarian advised that this resolution would require a two-thirds vote. A motion was introduced to amend the resolution by adding a new second resolve: "*Resolved*, That all bylaws and procedures of our boards and commissions allow for a one-fifth minority of any board or commission to call for a roll call vote of its members at any time; and be it further." Concern was expressed by the CCM that this would constitute a bylaw change requiring consideration by the floor committee and the CCM prior to its consideration by the convention. With the approval of the CCM and the floor committee, the amendment was discussed. The word "bylaws" in the proposed amendment was changed by common consent to "policies." When the chair asked whether assembly was ready to end debate on the amendment, the assembly agreed [Yes: 1,026; No: 115]. The vote on the amendment failed [Yes: 538; No: 613]. Given the parliamentary question regarding the required vote, the chair suggested that this item of business be left for the next time that the floor committee appears before the convention, to allow time for the parliamentary question to be given more consideration. When it was determined that the Orders of the Day provided additional time for Committee 7, the parliamentarian advised that accurate registration information would be necessary to decide Res. 7-05B. The President asked the committee to move on to other business until such information was available.

The committee introduced Res. 7-06A, "To Amend By-laws 3.9.2.2.4 and 3.3.5.3" (*TB*, pp. 202–203). The resolution was adopted without discussion [Yes: 1,044; No: 80].

The chair recalled attention to Res. 7-05B, the voting delegate registration total having been determined to be 1,239. Discussion of the resolution continued, and a proposed amendment to add the words "or electronic via e-mail" after the word "written" in the second resolve was agreed to by the committee. The Orders of the Day again becoming an issue, the chair tested the will of the assembly regarding ending debate [Yes: 1,076; No: 71]. Res. 7-05B was then adopted [Yes: 1,053; No: 109].

Committee 5: Seminary and University Education

The question-and-answer session prior to formal consideration of Res. 5-01B (*TB*, pp. 280ff) continued from the committee's previous appearance before the convention. The chair asked whether the assembly was ready for formal discussion of the resolution [Yes: 794; No: 298]. Res. 5-01B was introduced by the committee, and discussion followed until the current appearance of Committee 5 before the convention was ended by the Orders of the Day.

Recess

Session 6 July 17, 2007

Afternoon Devotion

President Gerald Kieschnick called the session to order and invited convention chaplain Dale Meyer to introduce the devotion leader, Dr. Kurt Krueger, Executive Director of the Board for University Education and President of the Concordia University System. With Acts 17:10–12 as his text and "One Message—*Christ!* A Message of Truth to a Postmodern World" as his theme, Dr. Krueger spoke of the bad and good news of postmodern belief: the bad news being that there is no absolute truth but only relative truth, and the good news being that the postmodern worldview replaced the modern worldview, which was no friend of Christianity with its denial of the miraculous or spiritual. The fact that postmodernists are open to new ideas and are more likely to listen to all truth claims, including the truth of the Gospel, offers opportunity for the Gospel. The inquisitiveness of the Bereans in the text bears some similarity to the postmodernists of today. The devotion concluded with the hymn "How Shall They Hear, Who Have Not Heard" and prayer.

Minutes

The chair called attention to the minutes for Sessions 2 and 3 printed in the Tuesday edition of *Today's Business* (pp. 294–302) and asked for corrections. None were offered, and the chair declared the minutes approved as printed.

Several concerns associated with the "big ballot" were noted, including an ongoing concern for delegates having sufficient time. The chair asked that the assembly again consider changing the Orders of the Day in the manner previously described [Yes: 853; No: 295]. This time the required two-thirds vote was obtained to change the Orders of the Day. Copies of the new schedule for the afternoon were distributed to delegates.

LCMS in Mission Presentation

Scott Snow, Director of Outreach for LCMS World Mission, after a personal witnessing story was shared with the assembly out of Kenya, encouraged delegates to share their own stories while at the convention and to share their faith using the multicolored bracelets provided at registration.

Committee 4: Program and Finance

Res. 4-02, "To Begin a Stewardship Renewal Through Enhanced Communication" (*TB*, pp. 79–80) was introduced by Floor Committee 4. A motion followed to amend the resolution: "WHEREAS, Godly, pious stewardship is part of a Christian's sanctified life that flows from being justified by God's grace; and WHEREAS, Justification is accomplished through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments; and WHEREAS, The lectionaries of our Synod are designed to communicate the whole counsel of God to God's people; and WHEREAS, The amount of money received by the Synod is not an accurate or reliable measure of the stewardship of individuals, congregations, or districts of the Synod; and WHEREAS, Individuals, congregations, and districts also exercise their stewardship through support of recognized service organizations, planting of new congregations, supporting the ever-increasing costs of Concordia Plans Services, disaster relief, etc.; therefore be it *Resolved*, That the President of the Synod, district presidents, and circuit counselors encourage the pastors under their ecclesiastical supervision to continue administering the Sacraments and preaching to their congregations the whole counsel of God with the Gospel predominating." After the chair ruled this proposal to be a substitute motion, the assembly voted not to consider it [Yes: 403; No: 764], and Res. 4-02 was again the subject of discussion. After debate was ended [Yes: 935; No: 240], Res. 4-02 was adopted [Yes: 914; No: 277].

Res. 4-12A, "To Encourage Participation in Concordia Plan Services, LCEF, and LCMS Foundation" (*TB*, pp. 243–244), was introduced by the committee. After discussion, debate was ended [Yes: 827; No: 341], and the resolution was not adopted [Yes: 521; No: 654]. Committee 4 then volunteered the remainder of its time slot to the *Fan Into Flame* Report and Floor Committee 1.

Fan Into Flame Report

First Vice-President William Diekelman provided a progress report of involvement by districts and congregations in the *Fan Into Flame* funding effort. LCMS World Mission Director Robert Roegner explained the purpose and mechanics of the funding effort, emphasizing unique features not a part of previous major funding efforts by the Synod. It was particularly noted that *Fan Into Flame* has exceeded its goal of \$20 million by the time of this convention.

Committee 1: Missions

Committee 1 Chairman Robert Newton introduced Res. 1-09, "To Report Detailed Accounting of *Fan Into Flame* Funds" (*TB*, p. 59). The resolution was adopted without discussion [Yes: 1,094; No: 62].

Res. 1-05S, "To Make Outreach the Top Priority in Worker Training" (*TB*, p. 57), was introduced for consider-

ation by the committee. A motion to amend the resolve paragraph by replacing the words “place outreach to the lost as the top priority” with “give greater attention to outreach to the lost” was introduced. After discussion, the chair asked if the assembly was ready to end debate [Yes: 955; No: 205], following which the motion to amend failed [Yes: 508; No: 664]. A motion to amend the title of the resolution and its resolve by replacing “the” with “a” was ruled by the chair to be a substitute resolution. The assembly voted to consider the substitute resolution [Yes: 618; No: 514]. After discussion, the Orders of the Day prompted the chair to ask the assembly whether it was ready to cease debate [Yes: 949; No: 155]. The substitute resolution (Res. 1-05S) was adopted [Yes: 706; No: 419].

Committee 8: Synod Structure and Governance

Committee 8 Chairman Lane Seitz introduced Res. 8-02A, “To Affirm Christian Resolution of Disputes” (*TB*, pp. 212–213). The entire resolution was read, and discussion continued until a motion to terminate debate carried [Yes: 667; No: 330]. The resolution was adopted [Yes: 665; No: 341]. After the resolution was declared adopted, a motion was carried to allow delegates to have their votes recorded in the minutes [Yes: 705; No: 303]. The following delegates asked to have their negative votes recorded in the minutes: Steven J. Anderson, Benjamin Ball, Chris Balvanz, Norman Barnette, Guy Baumann, Richard A. Becker, Paul Beisel, Arie Bertsch, Bruce Blocker, Steven W. Bohler, Richard A. Bolland, Ted Bourret, Mark P. Braden, Neal Breitbarth, Paul E. Bremer, Steven C. Briel, Daniel R. Burns, Myron G. Buss, Paul J. Cain, Don M. Carpenter, Kevin Church, Loren Cooper, Cynthia L. Cunningham, James Daub, Wm. Keith Davis, F. E. Davison, Roger Dilger, Dennis L. Dobbins, Rebecca Dominguez, Justin Dragosani-Brantingham, David Dyson, B. F. Eckardt, Allan Eckert, Mark Eckert, Paul Egger, Larry L. Feldt, Stephen Fisher, Ryan Fouts, Roger Gallup, Gary V. Gehlbach, Tom Gottschalk, Robert W. Grimm, Dale Gust, Timothy Hafner, Carl Harberts, Robert Harmon, Norman Hauschildt, Gregg Hein, Gary Held, Karl Hess, Daniel G. Holthus, William H. Holzer, Kenneth Howes, Frederick Jabs, Robert Jahns, Ronald Kabitzke, Craig Kellerman, Chad Kendall, Harold King, Jessie King, Tim Koch, Henry J. Koopmann, Richard Kreutzer, Michael E. Lang, Larry J. Le Blanc, Robert E. Le Blanc, Bryan Lindemood, David Lord, Steven A. MacDougall, David Markworth, Timothy D. May, Elder McCants, Don Meyer, Jon P. Meyer, Philip C. Meyer, Timothy Miille, Chris Nelson, James L. Nelson, Larry Nichols, James Nickel, Mark Nierman, Lydia Nighswander, Robert Nowicki, Ron Ohnesorge, Charles Olander, Justin Panzer, Mike Parnow, Mark Peterson, Peter Piepkorn, Glenn Piper, Davin Quiram, Fritz Raedeke, John Rahe, Steve Rasmussen, Sean D. Reeves, Russell D. Reimers, John Riley, Marlin Roos, Stephen Saunders, Frank Schatte, Tim Schenks, Dana Schnelle, Bruce Schreiner, Wayne Schwiesow, Scott Shields, Randy Short, L. Scott Spiehs, Timothy J. Steckling, Roger D. Sterle, Winfried Strieter, D. Richard Stuckwisch, Le Roy B. Sundbom, David Teigen, Bruce Timm, Kelly Todd, Gary Urban, David Vik, Charlie Wachlin, Jonathan Watt, Paul Weber, Lee C. Wensky,

David Werly, Melvin L. Weseloh, Henry C. Wied, Jim Wiese, Dan L. Wipf, Alan Wollenburg. John M. Young requested that his positive vote be recorded in the minutes.

Using the voting keypads, Committee 8 used the remainder of its time to collect information from the delegates for use by the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance.

Committee 2: District and Congregational Services

Committee 2 Chairman Kurt Schultz, President of the Southern District, introduced Res. 2-01, “To Foster Greater Understanding of Worship through Theological Conferences” (*TB*, p. 61). A motion was introduced to amend the final resolve to read: “*Resolved*, That the Commission on Worship, in consultation with the faculties of our seminaries, prepare studies on this topic for use in circuits and congregations.” After discussion, debate was ended [Yes: 930; No: 103], and the motion to amend failed [Yes: 261; No: 791]. A motion to end debate on the main motion carried [Yes: 888; No: 188], and Res. 2-01 was adopted [Yes: 838; No: 260].

Res. 2-02A, “To Provide Guidance and Direction for Use of Diverse/Contemporary Worship Resources” (*TB*, p. 180) was introduced by the committee. A substitute motion was proposed: “WHEREAS, Res. 2-01 invites the Synod to engage in a ‘model theological conference’ in order to ‘build greater understanding of our theology of worship and foster further discussion of worship practices that are consistent with that theology’; and WHEREAS, It would be inadvisable, prior to coming to a God-pleasing theological consensus, for the Commission on Worship to establish such mechanisms, seminars, and conferences to educate the Synod on matters which are not yet settled among us; and WHEREAS, It is critical for all worship forms employed by our congregations to be centered on Jesus Christ, on justification by grace through faith, and promote the unity of the Church; therefore be it *Resolved*, That efforts to bring about a common understanding of the theology of worship precede the implementation of mechanisms, seminars, and conferences which seek to assist and promote the fostering of various worship forms among us; and be it finally *Resolved*, That Res. 2-02A be tabled until the 2010 convention or until the provisions of Res. 2-01 can bring about a common theology of worship among us.” The parliamentarian advised and the chair ruled that the substitute motion was not in order in that a convention cannot postpone an action from one convention to another. As discussion of Res. 2-02A continued, a motion to amend the first WHEREAS by deleting “to the glory of God and the edification of His people” was defeated [Yes: 236; No: 873]. A motion to amend the main motion by including at the end of the resolution the referenced text from the *Convention Workbook* was agreed to by the committee. After debate was terminated on the main motion [Yes: 902; No: 244], Res. 2-02A was adopted as amended [Yes: 856; No: 310]. This was followed by a motion to allow dissenters to register their negative vote with the Secretary [Yes: 746; No: 384]. The following delegates asked to have their negative votes recorded in the minutes: Steven J. Anderson, Benjamin Ball, Guy Baumann, Paul Beisel, Arie Bertsch, Steven S. Billings, Bruce Blocker,

Steven W. Bohler, Neal Breitbarth, Paul E. Bremer, Loren Cooper, Cynthia L. Cunningham, Frederick Davison, Chadric Dietrich, Roger Dilger, Dennis Dobbins, Rebecca Dominguez, Burnell F. Eckardt, Jr., Paul Egger, Larry L. Feldt, Stephen Fisher, Ryan Fouts, Gary V. Gehlbach, Benjamin L. Harju, Gregg Hein, Karl Hess, Gary Hoffmann, Craig Howell, Kenneth Howes, Chad Kendall, Harold King, Jessie King, Vernon Koch, Richard Kreutzer, David Kuhfal, Larry Le Blanc, David Lord, Daniel Mackey, David Markworth, Timothy D. May, Don Meyer, Alan Miller, Aaron Moldenhauer, Chris Nelson, Bob Nowicki, Michael O'Connor, Raymond Parent, Gary Piepkorn, Peter Piepkorn, Davin Quiram, John Rahe, Steve Rasmussen, Sean Reeves, Russell D. Reimers, John Riley, Frank Schatte, Tim Schenks, Bruce Schreiner, Scott H. Spiehs, Don Stauty, Roger D. Sterle, Leroy B. Sundbom, Charlie Wachlin, Paul Weber, Henry C. Wied, Allan Wierschke, Jim Wiese, Don Wiley, Alan Wollenburg, Robert Wurst.

The committee introduced Res. 2-03A, "To Commend Commission on Worship for *Lutheran Service Book*" (TB, p. 181). Given its content, the entire resolution was read prior to discussion. The committee agreed to amending the resolution by adding the following resolve prior to the final resolve: "Resolved, That the Synod in convention offer its heartfelt thanks to the executive director of the Commission on Worship, the Rev. Dr. Paul Grime, for his more than ten years of leadership in the development of *Lutheran Service Book* as he leaves his current call to continue to serve the church at the Fort Wayne seminary; and be it." The committee also agreed to add the words "continue to" prior to the word "purchase" in the second resolve, change the word "Pastor's" to "Pastoral Care" in the second WHEREAS, and delete the letter "s" from the word "gives" in the first resolve. The chair asked the assembly whether it was ready to vote [Yes: 1,123; No: 33], after which Res. 2-03A was adopted [Yes: 1,081; No: 49].

Dr. Paul Grime was called to the podium for recognition. He called to the stage representatives from Concordia Publishing House, and he named persons on his staff at the International Center with whom he wished to share recognition. Dr. Greg Wismar, chairman of the Commission on Worship, presented a specially engraved copy of *Lutheran Service Book* to the President of the Synod in recognition of his ready support throughout the hymnal project.

Evening Prayer

The chair called upon convention chaplain Dean Wenthe to lead the assembly in evening prayer prior to the balloting process for boards and commissions and close of session.

Committee 9: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

Committee 9 Chairman Larry Harvala called on Committee 10 Chairman John Brunner to explain a number of discrepancies in the nominations information supplied to the delegates. In the case of the mistaken omission of a candidate for the layperson slate for the Board of Directors of LCEF, Mr. Tom Buuck, his biographical information and personal statement were provided orally. Given this omission and the difficulties that this caused for the large ballot that had already been prepared, Chairman Harvala re-

ported that the only practical method for taking this vote for two laypersons to the Board of Directors of LCEF would be to do so electronically prior to the written ballot.

Election

The candidates for the layperson slate for the Board of Directors of LCEF were presented: Tom Buuck, Walter Dis- sen, Ronald Reinking, David Wuenscher, and Robert Wurl. The following was the result of the first electronic ballot:

Tom Buuck	578
Walter Dis- sen	379
Ronald Reinking	356
David Wuenscher	537
Robert Wurl	505

There was no election from the first ballot. The following was the result of the second ballot:

Tom Buuck	704
Walter Dis- sen	392
David Wuenscher	690
Robert Wurl	606

Tom Buuck and David Wuenscher were declared elected to the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

In preparation for the major written ballot, Committee 9 Chairman Larry Harvala provided an updated registration report:

Voting delegates	1,239
Advisory delegates	328
Advisory district presidents	34
Ad hoc committee members	3
Former officers	2
Invited guests	7
Total	1,613

Announcements and instructions preceded the balloting process.

Recess

Session 7

July 17, 2007

Call to Order

President Gerald Kieschnick called the evening session to order. Convention chaplain Dale Meyer led in evening prayer.

Committee 2: District and Congregational Services

Committee 2 Chairman Kurt Schultz directed the assembly's attention to Res. 2-05, "To Support Synod National Youth Gatherings" (TB, pp. 63-64). The resolution was adopted without discussion [Yes: 724; No: 130].

Res. 2-04A, "To Create Position of Director for Strategic Development of Hispanic Ministries (DSDHM)" (TB, pp. 181-182), was introduced by the committee. During the discussion that followed, "Board of Missions" in the first resolve was corrected to read "Board for Mission Services." A motion to end debate carried [Yes: 886; No: 86], and the resolution was adopted without amendment [Yes: 875; No: 112].

Res. 2-08, "To Celebrate Significant Synod Anniversaries" (*TB*, pp. 65–66), was introduced by the committee. A motion to amend the final resolve with the addition of "be encouraged to" prior to the word "prepare" was agreed to by the committee. A motion to amend the resolution by striking all references to Wilhelm Loehe throughout the resolution was introduced and discussed. A motion to terminate debate on the amendment was carried [Yes: 950; No: 125], and the amendment failed [Yes: 174; No: 904]. After further discussion of the main motion, a motion to terminate debate was carried [Yes: 1,044; No: 60], and Res. 2-08 was adopted as changed [Yes: 1041; No: 88].

Committee 8: Synod Structure and Governance

Committee 8 Chairman Lane Seitz directed attention to Res. 8-07A, "To Call Special Convention to Amend Synod Structure and Governance" (*TB*, pp. 213–214). The resolution was introduced by the committee, calling on former Synod Presidents Ralph Bohlmann and Robert Kuhn for supportive comments. Committee 8 Co-chairman Larry Stoterau, President of the Pacific Southwest District, reminded the assembly that the issue before it is merely to determine when the matter of restructuring, which must be faced, will be faced. A motion was introduced to insert a new resolve following the first resolve: "*Resolved*, That since Articles II, VI, and XIV do not pertain to structure and governance, amendments thereto are specifically prohibited." After discussion, a motion to cease debate was carried [Yes: 981; No: 154], and the motion to amend failed [Yes: 529; No: 629]. Extensive discussion continued on the main motion until the assembly was asked by the chair whether it was ready to terminate debate of the resolution [Yes: 586; No: 592]. With the assembly not ready to end debate, discussion continued until the Orders of the Day were called.

Closing Prayer

The chair called upon convention chaplain Dale Meyer for the closing prayer.

Recess

Session 8 July 18, 2007

Morning Devotion

President Gerald Kieschnick called the session to order and asked convention chaplain Dale Meyer to introduce the devotion leader, Rev. Jon Braunersreuther, senior assistant to the President of the Synod. Basing his message on Luke 7:11–17, Rev. Braunersreuther spoke of our reluctance to approach death, whether our own or that of another. But the time comes when we have no choice but to face death and its consequences, as was the case with the woman from Nain. But Jesus walked up to death and touched it, confronted it, and ruined the funeral. This is exactly what He has done for us as well, for the entire world.

Greetings from ILL

Mr. Jack Kidwell, President of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, addressed the convention. He

spoke of the convention theme, "One Message—Christ!" and shared some of the work done by the ILL in light of that theme and the *Ablaze!* movement. He spoke of a bright future for the International Lutheran Laymen's League, with many opportunities before it as it moves into the future.

The chair shared plans for making schedule adjustments to provide opportunity for addressing actions that in his judgment must be acted upon before adjournment, noting that such changes are evident in the schedule for the day.

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

Committee 3 Chairman Gerhard Michael directed the assembly's attention to Res. 3-07, "To Study CTCR Reports Relating to the Service of Women in the Church" (*TB*, pp. 73–74), already introduced to the convention, and asked Dr. Samuel Nafzger, Executive Director of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, to provide background information. A motion was introduced to amend the first WHEREAS by deleting "on issues like the order of creation" and replacing those words with the words "of the Scriptures and issues like the order of creation, the order of redemption (e.g. Gal. 3:28)." The committee agreed to the change. After discussion, a motion to end debate carried [Yes: 944; No: 198], and Res. 3-07 was adopted [Yes: 870; No: 286].

Res. 3-09, "To Address Administration of the Lord's Supper" (*TB*, pp. 74–75), was introduced by the committee. A motion to amend the resolution by adding a new second "*Resolved*, That all pastors and congregations who have established and practice Communion fellowship contrary to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions are encouraged by the 2007 LCMS convention to immediately cease such practice and return to a faithful practice and administration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and be it further" was agreed to by the committee, as was the additional amendment added to the end of the new resolve: "by practicing close(d) Communion." When an amendment was introduced to insert into the first resolve the words "and 1995 convention Res. 3-08" after the word "*Supper*," the committee suggested the wording "and the resolutions of the Synod adopted on this topic." With all parties agreeing to these changes, a motion to cease debate was carried [Yes: 1,083; No: 67], and Res. 3-09 was adopted as changed [Yes: 986; No: 177].

Res. 3-10, "To Encourage Publication of Theological Literature" (*TB*, p. 75), was introduced by the committee. During discussion, a motion was introduced to amend the resolution by adding the word "orthodox" in the title and first WHEREAS. After debate was ended [Yes: 1,039; No: 107], the amendment failed [Yes: 405; No: 748]. Discussion returned to the main motion and continued until a motion to cease debate carried [Yes: 1,047; No: 91], and the resolution was adopted [Yes: 947; No: 210].

Res. 3-11, "To Endeavor to Keep the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace" (*TB*, p. 76), was introduced by the committee. After he finished reading the resolution, Dr. C. William Hoesman, Chairman of the Council of Presidents and President of the Michigan District, was recognized by the chair for his service to the church. The assembly rose to applaud. During discussion of the resolution, an amend-

ment was proposed to insert a new third WHEREAS: "Our Synod in recent years has shown signs of theological disunity in many areas; and." After a motion to cease debate carried [Yes: 1,004; No: 104], the motion to amend failed [Yes: 553; No: 570]. A motion "to amend by deleting 'unity' in the second WHEREAS and replacing it with 'concord'" also failed [Yes: 396; No: 716]. A motion was introduced to amend by adding "and taking attendance" in the first resolve after "participation." After discussion of the motion to amend, a motion to end debate was carried [Yes: 969; No: 137], and the motion to amend failed [Yes: 212; No: 908]. The chair tested the will of the assembly regarding terminating debate. The vote was favorable [Yes: 1,022; No: 101], and Res. 3-11 was adopted [Yes: 1,018; No: 112].

Res. 3-13, "To Respectfully Decline Overtures" (*TB*, p. 77) was introduced by the chairman of the committee. It was noted that necessary wording would need to be added to form a resolution: "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:" Prior to discussion, a motion was introduced to end debate [Yes: 867; No: 204] and the resolution was adopted [Yes: 919; No: 167].

Committee 6: Human Care

Committee Chairman David Benke directed attention to Res. 6-06, "To Develop Abuse Education Materials and Programs" (*TB*, pp. 117–118), which was introduced by a member of the committee. A motion was offered to delete the words "recognized the gravity of this issue and" in the second WHEREAS. The chair advised that the resolution be referred back to the committee to resolve concerns with wording. The committee attempted to resolve the matter by changing "sexual misconduct" to "domestic violence" in the second WHEREAS. Additional amendments adding "and professional church worker" after "seminary" in the second resolve and changing the title by inserting "Domestic and Child" before the word "Abuse" were agreed to by the committee. A motion was introduced to amend the resolution by deleting the sixth WHEREAS, which led to a motion to recommit the resolution to the committee because the meaning of the motion had been changed. After discussion, a motion to end debate on the motion to recommit the resolution was carried [Yes: 969; No: 63], but the motion to recommit failed [Yes: 438; No: 612]. The chair asked if the assembly was ready to cease debate on the motion to amend. Debate was ended [Yes: 953; No: 88], and the motion to amend by deleting the sixth WHEREAS failed [Yes: 135; No: 898]. Discussion continued on the main motion as changed. When debate was ended [Yes: 1,006; No: 62], Res. 6-06 was adopted with the agreed-upon changes [Yes: 1,027; No: 48].

The committee introduced Res. 6-03A, "To Care for Foster and Adoptive Children in a Pure and Undefined Way re Not Placing Children in Morally Ambiguous Contexts" (*TB*, p. 197). During discussion, the committee agreed to add the words "and revealed" after "natural" in the final resolve. Noting the Orders of the Day, the chair asked the assembly

whether it was ready to end debate [Yes: 995; No: 63]. Debate ended, Res. 6-03A was adopted as changed [Yes: 1,017; No: 52].

The committee requested and was granted opportunity for Ralston Deffenbaugh, Director of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, to address the convention briefly in the interest of refugee resettlement.

Memorial Service

The chair called on Dr. Robert King and Dr. Ralph Bohlmann to lead worship in remembrance of those departed since the last convention (*TB*, pp. 365–367). Dr. King's theme for his message was "Christ—The 'I AM' of Resurrection and Life," basing his message on the story of Jesus' raising of Lazarus from the dead (John 11:20–27).

Special Recognition

After the memorial service, Dr. Robert King was honored for his service to the Synod since his ordination in 1949, including service as a vice-president of the Synod for 21 years. He was presented with a gift: a marble base inscribed with mention of his service to the Synod, and a crystal cross to stand on the base, a gift intended also for Mrs. King. The assembly honored Dr. King with a prolonged standing ovation.

Committee 5: Seminary and University Education

Committee 5 Chairman Jon Diefenthaler called attention to editorial changes to Res. 5-01B, "To Establish Specific Ministry Pastor Program" (*TB*, pp. 278–282) and its introductory materials (*TB*, pp. 274–278) before the resolution was again placed before the convention for discussion and action. A lengthy amendment was proposed for the introductory materials accompanying the resolution. The chair ruled that the proposed amendment was in effect a substitute motion and would be treated as such. After two-minute speeches by the maker of the motion and the committee, the assembly determined not to consider the substitute motion [Yes: 320; No: 793]. As discussion continued, the committee agreed to an amendment to delete the words "others responsible for the program" in the first resolve and replace them with "Board for Pastoral Education, and Council of Presidents." A motion was introduced to delete the remainder of the first paragraph under "Step Six" after the word "Program" and replace it with the words "will be expected, whenever possible, to pursue the path to become a 'general ministry pastor.' To accomplish this:"—also deleting the next line, "1. They may remain rostered as a specific ministry pastor." An amendment to the amendment was introduced to replace the word "expected" in the amendment with "encouraged." After debate was ended [Yes: 1,035; No: 70], the amendment to the amendment was adopted [Yes: 685; No: 429]. A motion to terminate debate on the amended amendment was carried [Yes: 1,016; No: 113] but the amended amendment failed [Yes: 474; No: 665]. As discussion returned to the original resolution, a motion was introduced to amend it by adding a final resolve: "*Resolved*, That the Specific Ministry Pastor Committee submit a progress report to the Synod at least nine months prior to the 2010 convention." The committee

agreed to this change. The chair encouraged a motion to terminate debate [Yes: 904; No: 270], and Res. 5-01B was adopted as changed [Yes: 908; No: 287]. A motion was introduced and carried to allow votes to be recorded in the minutes [Yes: 962; No: 198]. The following delegates submitted their negative votes to be recorded: Sean Ballard, Gregory H. Becker, Arie Bertsch, Bruce Blocker, Steven W. Bohler, Neal Breitbarth, Eric J. Brown, Ted Bourret, Paul E. Bremer, Daniel R. Burns, Robert Burnside, Myron G. Buss, Don G. Carpenter, Kevin G. Church, George Clausen, Loren Cooper, Cynthia L. Cunningham, Frederick E. Davison, Roger Dilger, Walter C. Dissen, Rebecca Dominguez, Justin Dragosani-Brantingham, Mark Eckert, Mark R. Eddy, Paul Egger, Gary J. Ellul, Stephen Fisher, Dale Gust, Timothy Hafner, David C. Hansen, Norman Hauschildt, Gregg Hein, Chuck Henkel, Karl Hess, Daniel G. Holthus, Craig Howell, Robert Jahns, Ronald Kabitzke, Craig Kellerman, Vernon Koch, Larry J. LeBlanc, David Luck, Daniel Mackey, David Markworth, Michael Mathews, Wayne McBride, Jared Melius, Don Meyer, Alan Miller, Bruce A. Nathan, Shawn P. Nettleton, Robert Nowicki, Michael P. O'Connor, Ron Ohnesorge, Fred Page, Raymond Parent, Gary Piepkorn, Peter Piepkorn, Davin Quiram, Russell D. Reimers, John Riley, Frank Schatte, Tim Schenks, Bruce Schreiner, Wayne W. Schwiesow, Scott Shields, Randy Short, Lowell S. Sorenson, Edward Steeh, Eric A. Stinnett, Winfried Strieter, Le Roy B. Sundbom, Matthew J. Theriault, Brian J. Thoson, Bruce Timm, Kelly Todd, Gary Urban, Magdalen Veitengruber, Charles Wachlin, Steve Wageman, Paul Weber, Lee Wenskay, Melvin Wesseloh, Keith R. Weise, Henry C. Wied, Allan D. Wierschke, George Williams, Dan L. Wipf, Robert Wurst, Loren C. Zell.

Committee 9: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

In preparation for the report and runoff balloting by Committee 9, the chair called on convention chaplain Dean Wenthe to lead the convention in prayer. While preparations were being made, President Kieschnick introduced Dr. Franklin Hayes, Presiding Pastor-Elect of the American Association of Lutheran Churches. Dr. Hayes briefly addressed the assembly, thanking the Missouri Synod for its hospitality and fellowship.

Completion of Elections of Boards and Commissions

Committee 9 Chairman Larry Harvala walked the delegates through the results of the big ballot for the election of members of boards and commissions. He reported elections that were completed and used the electronic response system to resolve elections not decided. The results of the elections are as follows (bold type indicates elections):

Board for Black Ministry Services

<i>Ordained Ministers</i>	<i>Ballots</i>			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Samuel Cosby	749			
Bertram Lewis, Sr.	435			
<i>Commissioned Ministers</i>				
Jonathan Cleveland	579	661		
Emily Carder	427	497		
Jeffrey Howell	175			

<i>Laypersons</i>		
Ceretha Cartwright	525	642
Annette Gard	508	535
Karen Wiggins	153	

Board for Communication Services

<i>Ordained Ministers</i>		
John Bush	437	701
David Fleming	322	438
David Kluth	150	
Glenn Zander	141	
David Albertin	140	

Commissioned Ministers

David Berger	630	
David Bangert	562	

Board for District and Congregational Services

<i>Ordained Ministers</i>			
Jon Coyne	499	589	
Bruce Keseman	468	588	
Robert Jarvis	222		
<i>Commissioned Ministers</i>			
David Saving	440	513	628
David Brown	339	368	530
Jill Hasstedt	281	275	
Steven Christopher	108		

<i>Laypersons</i>			
K. Allan Voss	568		
Ida Mall	561	557	654
Cornelia Schulz	488	463	535
Jesse Yow, Jr.	459	165	
Patti Mitschke	181		

Board for Human Care Ministries

<i>Ordained Ministers</i>		
Bernhard Seter	877	
John Frerking	163	
Elwin Rethinasamy	155	

Commissioned Ministers

Robert Miles	654	
Sandra Bowers	525	

Board for Mission Services

<i>Ordained Ministers</i>			
John Temple	589		
Philip Kuehnert	560	555	673
Phillip Saywayne	487	181	
Ralph Patrick	482	443	506
James Vehling	182		

Commissioned Ministers

Roger Buck	541	619	
Jennie Waters	499	564	
Emily Carder	137		
<i>Laypersons</i>			
Kermit Almstedt	608		
Linda Reiser	565	644	
Susan Christian	521	452	
Lil Spilde	391	80	
Joseph Harwell	133		
John Friend	107		

Board for Pastoral Education*Ordained Ministers*

Kenton Wendorf	625
Peter Bender	18
Richard Allsing	156
William Doubek	69

Commissioned Ministers

Richard Cohrs	829
Judith Meyer	331

Board for University Education*Ordained Ministers*

David Smith	960
William Ameiss	225

Commission on Theology and Church Relations*Ordained Ministers*

Paul Sauer	390	492	510
Walter Lehenbauer	346	452	663
Holger Sonntag	257	246	
Brent Kuhlman	194		

Laypersons

Jean Garton	495	552	601
Mark Kalthoff	424	464	591
Kathy Schulz	207	179	
Elizabeth Goodine	64		

Concordia Historical Institute Board of Governors*Ordained Ministers*

Cameron MacKenzie	900		
James Kalthoff	540	674	
Kurt Bodling	513	506	
Mark Loest	138		
Eugene Juergensen	118		
James Rassbach	87		

Commissioned Ministers

Kathy Graumann	539	618	
Constance Seddon	517	552	
Peggi Lawrence	101		

Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors*Laypersons*

Heidi Abegg	687		
Elaine Graff	643		
Robert Beumer	593		
Karol Selle	549	483	685
Nancy Kaul	508	168	
John Mollwitz	503	120	
Aaron Wolf	467	277	495
Sandra Ostapowich	413	131	
Katherine Hallock	192		

LCMS Foundation Board of Trustees*Ordained Ministers*

Richard Drews	765
Ron Maxwell	407

Laypersons

Mark Sheldon	714
Carol Geisler	418

Lutheran Church Extension Fund**Board of Directors***Ordained or Commissioned Ministers*

David Belasic	528	591
Roger Krause	509	590
Ralph Reinke	111	

Laypersons

Tom Buuck	578	704
David Wuenscher	537	690
Robert Wurl	505	606
Walter Dissen	379	392
Ronald Reinking	356	

Concordia University, Ann Arbor*Ordained Ministers*

Donald Luhning	598
Martin Moehring	475
Gene Ott	95

Commissioned Ministers

Jeanne Ollhoff	628
Kelly Lamkin	525

Laypersons

Sandra Hardies	647	
Julie Stiegmeyer	548	667
Kaaren Kayser	513	495
Glen Piper	507	

Concordia University, Austin*Ordained Ministers*

Michael Dorn	676
Glenn Huebel	410
Steven Morfitt	79

Commissioned Ministers

David Beringer	599
Andrew Bates	349
Tim Meisner	196

The allotted time did not allow for the completion of the elections process, to be completed at a later time.

*Recess***Session 9****July 18, 2007***Afternoon Devotion*

President Gerald Kieschnick called on convention chaplain Dean Wenthe to introduce the devotion leader, Dr. Philip Campbell, Executive Director of the Board for Black Ministry Services. In his meditation, "Applauding for Life in Christ," Dr. Campbell recalled applauding soldiers in the St. Louis airport on their way to Iraq, applauding in hope that they were marching off to war with Christ in their hearts.

Minutes

The chair called attention to the minutes of Sessions 4 and 5 printed in the Wednesday edition of *Today's Business*, pages 383–391. After asking for corrections and hearing none, he declared the minutes approved as printed.

Special Greetings

Mr. Brad Hewitt brought greetings from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, reminding the convention of the long history and relationship of Thrivent's parent organizations with the Synod and our common Lutheran heritage. He highlighted some of the ways in which Thrivent has been able to support the LCMS and its congregations, including a \$500,000 grant in support of *Fan Into Flame*.

Committee 9: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

Convention chaplain Dean Wenthe was asked to lead the convention in prayer prior to the continuation of the election process. Committee 9 Chairman Larry Harvala then proceeded to complete the process of runoff elections as necessary.

Concordia University, Austin*Laypersons*

	Ballots			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Ginny Valleau	350	488	540	475
Jim Linnell	348	477	504	552
Paul Feucht	335	499	590	
Dale Heitshusen	243	306	292	
Rebecca Kieschnick	243	363	413	
Albert Carrion, Jr.	228	209		
Janet Hurta	132			
Christopher Leslie	105			

Concordia College, Bronxville*Ordained Ministers*

Arthur Scherer	549	704
Christopher Esget	322	384
Dien Taylor	166	
William Flammann	111	

Commissioned Ministers

H. Allen Herbst	653
Jonathan Laabs	503

Laypersons

Sharon Dever	653
Alice Bruening	648
Ed Mahn	462
David Lord	456

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne*Ordained Ministers*

Wayne Graumann	634		
James Pragman	519	511	621
Jack Baumgarn	512	350	493
John Hill	511	237	
David Ritt	107		

Commissioned Ministers

David Held	899
Karen Gabriel	264

Laypersons

Janet Johnson	468	584
Johnny Buck	445	546
Roger Potratz	104	
John Lang	84	

Concordia University, Irvine*Ordained Ministers*

J. L. Precup	595
Charles Froh	395
Kevin Kritzer	152

Commissioned Ministers

Paul Brandt	657
Dale Hartman	381
Erna Schmid	114

Laypersons

Kathi Romsa	694
Gene Haertling	679
Barbara Grimm-Marshall	217
Michael Besch	200
Melvin de la Motte	109
Al Panhorst	109
Georgann McKee	78

Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon*Ordained Ministers*

Wayne Braun	673
John Struve	411

Commissioned Ministers

Dwayne Jobst	448	606
Lynette Fredericksen	419	491
Steven Buuck	268	

Laypersons

Craig Schmidt	599	
Frederick Anderson	490	664
Greta Martin	462	459
Robert Schjerven	300	
Robert Weber	184	

Concordia University, Portland*Ordained Ministers*

Steve Eaton	667
Daryl Windermuth	401

Commissioned Ministers

Joel Koerschen	451	620
Karen Gabriel	401	496
Chuck Gerken	282	

Laypersons

Gary Hoover	532	646
Kathy Schulz	431	578
Tom Hurley	392	430
Irma Pinkerton	380	359
Leslie Sramek	329	250
Karol Selle	116	

Concordia University Chicago, River Forest*Ordained Ministers*

Kent Tibben	528	646
William Tucker	461	489
David Stein	173	

Commissioned Ministers

Thomas Buck	595
Michelle Bauman	457
Shirley Wallace	106

Laypersons

Kirk Farney	652	
Kathleen Mills	609	
Greta Martin	359	
Merton Troeger	336	

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis*Ordained Ministers*

David Disen	531	678
Ulmer Marshall	528	624
Mark Grunst	408	504
Dennis Schwab	401	459
Ken Schurb	235	
William F. Meyer	184	

Commissioned Ministers

LeRoy Wilke	598	
Hans Otten	305	
Robert Libka	256	

Laypersons

Alan Stumpf	558	686
Ralph Cavalieri	387	441
Jean Garton	213	

Concordia University, St. Paul*Ordained Ministers*

Christopher Dodge	621	
Robert Jarvis	533	

Commissioned Ministers

Paul Crisler	538	
Harold Frerich	534	

Laypersons

Gregg Hein	505	628
David Teigen	458	535
Kenneth Behm	437	575
Lori Utech	371	499
Michael Hunter II	299	

Concordia College, Selma*Ordained Ministers*

Dien Taylor	582	
Michael Taylor	314	
Thomas Eggebrecht	249	

Commissioned Ministers

Ruth Drum	757	
Erna Schmid	317	

Laypersons

Ulysses Floyd	690	
Debbie Gallerson	565	
Glen Piper	534	
David Brazeal	344	

Concordia University, Seward*Ordained Ministers*

David Block	582	
Gene Ott	321	
John Hill	133	
Luke Biggs	110	

Commissioned Ministers

Vance Hinrichs	640	
Jan Lohmeyer	525	

Laypersons

Tim Moll	714	
William Hartmann	709	
Max Wake	381	
John Hughes	350	

LCMS in Mission Presentation

Rev. Scott Snow, Director of Outreach in LCMS World Mission, provided the convention with another unique Gospel-sharing experience, this time from the hearing-impaired community.

Committee 7: Planning and Administration

Committee 7 Chairman Daniel May directed the convention's attention to Res. 7-07A, "To Revise Bylaw Section 1.5 and to Add Definitions to *Handbook*" (TB, pp. 203–211), and an accompanying amendment printed on page 375 of *Today's Business* agreed to by the committee, to be inserted as 1.5.2 (a) (4) on pages 205 and 208: "All such disclosures shall be reported to the respective board or commission to determine 'by a vote of its remaining impartial members' whether an inappropriate interest exists, 'and such vote shall be recorded in its official minutes.'" In the case of officers, all such disclosures shall be reported to the President of the Synod to determine whether an inappropriate interest exists." After calling attention to recent changes to the proposed bylaw revision, the committee moved its adoption and discussion followed. A motion to cease debate was carried [Yes: 989; No: 118], and Res. 7-07A was adopted as changed [Yes: 997; No: 116]. A motion was introduced and carried to allow delegates to have their votes recorded in the minutes [Yes: 836; No: 287]. The following requested that their negative votes be recorded: Steven W. Bohler, R. Thomas Colgrove, Loren Cooper, Frederick E. Davison, David Dyson, Mark Eckert, Gary V. Gehlbach, Harold King, Donald Prevallet, Frank Schatte, Le Roy Sundborn, Charles Wachlin.

Res. 7-08A, "To Add Bylaw re Removal of Individual Members from Board or Commission Membership" (TB, pp. 284–285), was introduced by the committee and discussed. A motion to cease debate failed [Yes: 632; No: 464] and discussion continued. An amendment was offered to delete the phrase "5. insubordination;" under proposed Bylaw 1.5.3. After extensive discussion, the committee agreed to the deletion. A question was addressed to legal counsel regarding the resolution in light of Missouri law. A motion was introduced to add the words "failure to disclose" immediately after "(8)" under proposed Bylaw 1.5.3. The committee did not agree to the change, and the motion was ruled out of order by the chair because it had not been properly reviewed. After 20 minutes of debate, the question was automatically called, but the assembly chose to continue its discussion [Yes: 717; No: 411]. As discussion continued, a motion was introduced to amend the resolution by deleting the first two WHEREAS paragraphs of the resolution. When a motion to end debate on the amendment was carried [Yes: 837; No: 192], it was determined that a number of keypads were not working. The chair decided to proceed, judging

that debate was ended and the amendment was defeated by standing vote. When legal counsel was again asked for input, the committee offered to take the matter back for additional attention.

Res. 7-12, "To Equalize Terms of Office" (*TB*, pp. 141–142), was introduced by the committee. An amendment was offered and agreed to by the committee to move the proposed paragraph (c) from under Bylaw 3.8.4.1.1 and locate the same as paragraph 3 under Bylaw 3.8.4.1. An amendment changing "may" to "shall" in paragraph 3.2.4.2 (a) was ruled out of order as the committee's allotted time ran out.

Committee 5: Seminary and University Education

Committee 5 Chairman Jon Diefenthaler directed attention to Res. 5-02, "To Address Licensed Lay Deacons," on page 101 of *Today's Business*. He reported that Committees 3 and 5 had harmonized their nearly identical resolutions according to the text of Res. 5-02. Dr. Samuel Nafzger was asked to address the convention regarding the licensed lay deacon program. The committee then introduced Res. 5-02 for consideration. A substitute motion was offered: "Resolved, That all laymen licensed by synodical or district programs to conduct Word and Sacrament ministry be enrolled in the specific ministry pastor program by August 1, 2009, or such licensure shall be rescinded." The assembly voted not to consider the substitute resolution: [Yes: 489; No: 585]. Discussion continued on Res. 5-02 until a motion was introduced to amend the resolution by replacing the second and third paragraphs with the following: "WHEREAS, The need for such licensed lay deacons continues to be crucial and necessary, 'lest God's people be deprived of the opportunity for corporate worship and the celebration of the Sacraments' (*Convention Proceedings*, 1989, p. 112); therefore be it Resolved, That the Board for Pastoral Education and the Council of Presidents be requested to study the situations currently served by licensed lay deacons and to present that report with recommendations at the 2010 convention of the Synod." The chair ruled this to be a substitute resolution, and the assembly voted not to consider it [Yes: 550; No: 557], causing debate to return to the main resolution. An amendment was introduced to add the following words to the resolve, following the word "Synod": "and additionally, to study this program as it relates to Augustana XIV." A motion to cease debate on the amendment carried [Yes: 901; No: 196], and the motion to amend failed [Yes: 550; No: 577], leaving Res. 5-02 without amendment. An amendment was proposed to add a resolve paragraph before the existing resolve paragraph as follows: "Resolved, That the Board for Pastoral Education be encouraged to develop financial incentives for licensed lay deacons to enroll in the Specific Ministry Pastor Program (SMPP); and be it further." This proposed amendment was ruled out of order because it addresses funding. A motion to cease debate on the motion to amend was introduced and carried nonetheless [Yes: 974; No: 117], but the amendment failed [Yes: 391; No: 723]. As attention was returned to the resolution as presented by the committee, the chair called for the Orders of the Day. He asked whether the assembly was ready

to end debate on Res. 5-02. Debate was ended [Yes: 967; No: 156], and the resolution was adopted [Yes: 948; No: 202].

This mutual effort with Committee 5 marked the end of the work of Committee 3, and the committee was dismissed with thanks.

Committee 8: Synod Structure and Governance

Res. 8-07A (*TB*, pp. 213–214) was brought before the assembly by Committee 8. A substitute motion was then presented by the committee (Substitute Resolution 8-07). A motion to consider the substitute resolution was introduced and carried [Yes: 883; No: 267]. In discussion that followed, an amendment was offered: "Resolved that the said special convention shall have no authority to impair the title of congregations to their assets, most particularly to their land and buildings." Chair ruled the motion out of order upon advice of the parliamentarian and was supported in his ruling [Yes: 697; No: 410]. After further discussion of the substitute motion, and after the Treasurer of the Synod addressed the question of urgency, the chair tested the will of the assembly to continue debate. Debate was not ended [Yes: 741; No: 422] and will continue when the committee returns at a later time.

Closing Prayer

The chair called on convention chaplain Dale Meyer for a closing devotion.

Recess

Session 10

July 19, 2007

Call to Order

President Gerald Kieschnick called the final session of the convention to order and asked convention chaplain Dale Meyer to introduce the devotion leader, Rev. Matthew Harrison, Executive Director of the Board for Human Care Ministries. With Mark 1:38 as his text, he spoke of Jesus as a Savior on the move, with marching orders for His church as well: "Let's go!" Referencing the presidency of F. C. D. Wyneken as one of the great missionary times of the church, he spoke of the importance of the message of repentance to accompany the "One Message—Christ!"

Recognition of Former Officers and Church Body Leaders

President Kieschnick recognized the service of former officers of the Synod present for the convention: Presidents Ralph Bohlmann and Robert Kuhn, First Vice-President Daniel Preus, former Treasurer Paul Middeke, and former Chief Administrative Officers John Schuelke and Brad Hewitt.

He then introduced special guests in attendance from other Lutheran church bodies in the United States: Rev. Thomas Aadland, Presiding Pastor of the American Association of Lutheran Churches; Rev. Franklin Hays, Presiding Pastor-Elect of the American Association of Lutheran Churches; Rev. James Pope, a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod's Commission on Inter-Church Relations; Rev. Glenn Obenberger, Vice-President of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod; and Rev. Lowell Almen, Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Also introduced were the following leaders of Lutheran church bodies around the world in Houston to attend an *Ablaze!* International Summit:

Rev. Peter Ahlers, Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa

Rev. Thomas Bernard, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti

Rev. James Cerdeñola, The Lutheran Church in the Philippines

Rev. Edgardo Elseser, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina

Rt. Rev. Dr. Paul Fynn, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana

Rev. Alceu Figur, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay

The Rev. Jean Haessig & Rev. Philippe Volff, Evangelical Lutheran Church—Synod France & Belgium

Rev. Arri Kugappi & Rev. Olav Panchu, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia

Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan, Lutheran Church—Canada

Rev. Mario Lehenbauer, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil

Most Rev. Walter Obare, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya

Rev. David Piso, Gutnius Lutheran Church, Papua New Guinea

Rev. Reginald Quirk, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of England

Rev. S. Rajagambeeram, India Evangelical Lutheran Church

Rev. Carlos Schumann, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Republic of Chile

Rev. Kimio Takano & Rev. Masaki Shirai, Japan Lutheran Church

Rev. Dr. David Tswaedi, Lutheran Church in Southern Africa

Rev. Dr. Hyun-Sup Um, Lutheran Church in Korea

Rev. Janis Vanags, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia

Rev. Gijsbertus van Hattem, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Belgium

Rev. Hans-Jörg Voigt, Independent Evangelical—Lutheran Church, Germany

Following a standing ovation by the convention, each of the foreign church leaders was presented with a special and timely gift intended to mark the occasion.

Committee 1: Missions

Committee 1 Chairman Robert Newton called the convention's attention to Res. 1-13, "To Commend International Church Partners and Worldwide Mission Effort" (*TB*, p. 179). After it was read in its entirety and introduced by the committee, the resolution was adopted without discussion (Yes: 1,006; No: 14).

Greetings from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Reverend Lowell G. Almen, Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, brought his church body's official greetings to the convention. Speaking of the relationship between the ELCA and the LCMS, he emphasized the very different histories of the two church bodies and the need to stay in contact and work together as much as possible (the text of his presentation will be provided in the *Convention Proceedings*).

Committee 8: Synod Structure and Governance

After the President called the convention's attention to Special Standing Rule 2 and its importance for the final session of the convention, Committee 8 Cochairman Larry Stoterau introduced Res. 8-07S (substitute), "To Call Special Convention to Amend Synod Structure and Governance" (handout), introducing a motion on behalf of the committee "that a two-thirds majority vote be required for this substitute resolution." The chair outlined a process to be used to consider the substitute resolution in light of the committee's motion, also expressing his own support. After the speakers at the convention floor microphones returned to their seats to vote, the convention first agreed to requiring a two-thirds vote to adopt the substitute resolution (Yes: 620; No: 490), then voted to end debate on the substitute resolution (Yes: 874; No: 241), and then voted to adopt Res. 8-07S by the necessary two-thirds vote (Yes: 793; No: 325).

When a motion was introduced to permit delegates to have their votes entered into the minutes, the chair ruled that for the remainder of the convention, delegate votes would be allowed to be registered as desired. The following delegates asked to have their negative votes on Res. 8-07S entered into the minutes: Benjamin Ball, Richard A. Becker, Peter Bender, Arie Bertsch, Bruce Blocker, Steven W. Bohler, Richard A. Bolland, Daniel Brege, Neal Breitbarth, Paul E. Bremer, Steven C. Briel, Eric J. Brown, Christopher C. Browne, Doris Burns, Myron G. Buss, John Casebeer, Kirk Clayton, Russell Davies, William Keith Davis, Roger Dilger, W. C. Dissen, Justin Dragosani-Brantingham, Burnell F. Eckardt, Jr., Mark Eckert, Paul Egger, Shawn Ethridge, Stephen Fisher, Ryan Fouts, Gary V. Gehlbach, Timothy Hafner, David Hansen, Carl J. Harberts, Benjamin Harju, Norman Hauschildt, Gregg Hein, Charles Henkel, Gary Hoffmann, Daniel G. Holthus, William H. Holzer, Craig Howell, Frederick K. Jabs, Al Jacobs, Ronald Kabitzke, Richard R. Kreutzer, Henry J. Koopmann, Josepha Lecke, Ken Mangold, David Markworth, Wendel K. Marotzke, Wayne Mc Bride, Philip G. Meyer, Alan Miller, Chris Nelson, Ron Ohnesorge, Bruce D. Osborne, Raymond Parent, Gary A. Piepkorn, Peter Piepkorn, Glen Piper, Michael Poynter, Davin Quiram, Fritz A. Raedeke, Russell D. Reimers, John Riley, Elliott M. Robertson, Frank Schatte, Tim Schenks, Dana Schnelle, Bruce Schreiner, S. R. Schumacher, Ken Sparbel, Don Stauty, Roger D. Sterle, Eric A. Stinnett, Winfried Strieter, Le Roy B. Sundbom, David Teigen, Matthew J. Theriault, Bruce Timm, Magdalen Veitenruber, Donald Wagner, Douglas Wanderer, Paul M. Weber, Henry C. Wied, Allan D. Wierschke, Danl Wipf, Alan Wollenburg, Robert Wurst, Loren C. Zell.

Res. 8-13, "To Amend Bylaws for Special Convention" (handout), was introduced by the committee. After discussion, during which the committee estimated that the special convention would meet for two to three days, a motion to end debate was carried (Yes: 968; No: 118), and Res. 8-13 was adopted (Yes: 937; No: 156). The following delegates asked to have their negative votes recorded in the minutes: Frederick Davidson, Ron Ohnesorge.

Res. 8-04, "To Provide Wording for Congregations' Constitutions and Bylaws" (*TB*, p. 147), was introduced with

introductory comments by the committee. During discussion, an amendment to change “may” in the last resolve to “be encouraged to” was agreed to by the committee. Upon question of the chair, the assembly agreed to cease debate (Yes: 1,007; No: 66), and Res. 8-04 was adopted as changed (Yes: 1,054; No: 35). The following delegates asked to have their negative votes recorded in the minutes: Stanley Abraham, James W. Hallerberg.

Res. 8-05A, “To Encourage the Study of CTCR Documents Relating to Public Rebuke of Public Sin” (*TB*, pp. 290–291), was read in its entirety and introduced by the committee. During discussion that followed, the committee agreed to replace the word “recognize” in the first resolve with the word “affirm” and to add the words “and to Amend the Synod’s Bylaws Relating to Matthew 18” to the title of the resolution. When a lengthy amendment was offered expressing concern regarding the ecclesiastical supervisory responsibility of district presidents (*TB*, p. 377), the chair was supported in his ruling that the amendment was not germane to Res. 8-05A (Yes: 732; No: 287). When the chair asked the assembly whether it was ready to end debate, the assembly agreed (Yes: 904; No: 147), and the resolution was adopted as changed (Yes: 950; No: 122). The following delegates asked to have their negative votes recorded in the minutes: Steven W. Bohler, Mark Eckert, Charles Henkel, Harold King, Wendel K. Marotzke, Bruce A. Nathan, Ron Ohnesorge, Davin Quiram, Paul Weber, Jim Wiese.

Committee 5: Seminary and University Education

After attention was called to Res. 5-03A (*TB*, pp. 194–195) and the presidents of the Synod’s seminaries spoke in support, the resolution was introduced by the committee. During discussion, an amendment was offered to insert a new #5 under Bylaw 3.8.2.5.2, “5. Appointed members may not vote on the appointment of other members of the Board.” The committee agreed to this amendment initially but changed its mind, leaving the amendment for the assembly to decide. When the Commission on Constitutional Matters asked for time to consider the amendment, debate continued on the main motion. After the commission reported that the amendment would affect other appointed members of the board such as the officers of the Synod, discussion continued until the Orders of the Day prompted the chair to ask whether the assembly was ready to terminate debate on the amendment. After the assembly voted to cease debate (Yes: 860; No: 69), the amendment was adopted (Yes: 471; No: 467). When asked whether it was ready to end debate on the amended motion, the assembly ended debate (Yes: 832; No: 106), and Res. 5-03A was adopted as amended (Yes: 742; No: 214). The following delegates asked to have their negative votes recorded in the minutes: Benjamin Ball, William Keith Davis, Mark Eckert, Daniel G. Holthus, Kenneth Howes, Robert Jahns, Bryan Lindemood, Timothy D. May, David Teigen, Paul Weber.

Bible Study

The chair called on convention chaplain Dean Wenthe to introduce Dr. David Buegler, former Ohio District President and current Fifth Vice-President of the Synod, to provide the final Bible study of the convention. Focusing his study on Acts 3 and 4, he used the verbiage of two favorite

hymns to lead the delegates in a study of “One Message—Christ! A Message of Love to a Desperate People.”

Committee 4: Program and Finance

Res. 4-16, “To Hold 2010 Convention in Houston, Texas” (*TB*, p. 245) was introduced by the committee. The committee asked that “and with the recommendation of” be inserted after “Meeting Planning”; that “Synod’s” be inserted before “Board of Directors”; that “recommends to the 2007 convention that” be deleted; and that the word “will” be inserted in the final line before the words “be held in Houston, Texas.” After a motion to terminate debate was carried (Yes: 809; No: 97), Res. 4-16 with changes offered by the committee was adopted (Yes: 805; No: 118).

Res. 4-10, “To Encourage Funding for Center for Hispanic Studies” (*TB*, p. 89), was introduced by the committee and was adopted without discussion (Yes: 837; No: 74).

Committee chairman Keith Kohlmeier announced that his committee would yield the balance of its allotted time to the chair for use at his discretion. The members of Floor Committee 4 were thanked for their service to the convention.

Committee 6: Human Care

Res. 6-04A, “To Encourage and Assist Congregations to Respond to the Ministry Needs of the Immigrants in Their Midst” (*TB*, pp. 197–198), was introduced by the committee. During the discussion that followed, the committee agreed to change #3 of the resolve to read, “Encourage Board for Human Care Ministries to provide legal and counseling services to undocumented immigrants responding to legislation enabling them to become residents and citizens.” After a motion to amend the resolution by striking #3 in the resolve, new wording was proposed for #3: “Encourage the Board for Human Care Ministries to assist congregations by providing information regarding legal and counseling services possibly needed by undocumented immigrants responding to legislation enabling them to become residents and citizens.” The chair asked the assembly whether it was ready to terminate debate (Yes: 766; No: 148). The motion to amend the resolution by deleting #3 in the resolve failed (Yes: 393; No: 526). After a motion to end debate was carried (Yes: 783; No: 142), Res. 6-04A with the new wording for #3 of the resolve was adopted (Yes: 744; No: 204). The following delegate asked to have his negative vote recorded in the minutes: Tom Schenks.

Board for Human Care Ministries Executive Director Matthew Harrison was given opportunity to introduce Rev. Wilhelm Torgerson, Director of the International Lutheran Welcome Center in Wittenberg, Germany.

Res. 6-07, “To Include People with Disabilities in All Aspects of the Church’s Life” (*TB*, pp. 118–119), was introduced by the committee. After discussion, the chair asked the assembly whether it was ready to vote on the resolution (Yes: 847; No: 76). Debate ended, and Res. 6-07 was adopted (Yes: 926; No: 13).

Committee 7: Planning and Administration

Res. 7-10A, “To Amend Bylaws 1.9 and 3.9.3 Pertaining to Doctrinal Review Process” (*TB*, pp. 285–289), was introduced by the committee, reading only the lines that in-

cluded bylaw changes. A motion to amend Bylaw 1.9.1.1 (b) by adding the words “Each page of the document shall be prominently marked ‘not doctrinally reviewed’” was defeated (Yes: 395; No: 457). A motion to amend Bylaw 1.9.1.1 (b) by deleting in its first sentence the words “or immediately following the title page” and replacing them with the words “the cover and title page in print not smaller than fourteen-point type” also failed (Yes: 404; No: 467). A motion to divide the question was ruled by the chair to be a substitute motion, which the assembly decided not to consider (Yes: 227; No: 633). Returning to the resolution as presented, the chair asked the assembly whether it was ready to cease debate (Yes: 750; No: 116). Debate ended, Res. 7-10A was adopted (Yes: 761; No: 119). The following delegate asked to have his negative vote recorded in the minutes: John Riley.

Committee 1: Missions

Res. 1-08, “To Commend Lutheran Hour Ministries for Its Faithful Mission Focus” (*TB*, pp. 58–59), was introduced by the committee. After the entire resolution was read, the resolution was adopted without discussion (Yes: 735; No: 95). The following delegate asked to have his negative vote recorded in the minutes: Benjamin Ball.

Res. 1-03, “To Prepare New Study and Increase Emphasis on Priesthood of All Believers” (*TB*, p. 56), was introduced by the committee, reading the entire resolution. A motion immediately to end debate was not carried (Yes: 391; No: 457). In the discussion that followed, the committee responded to a motion to strike the final resolve with a suggestion that “after approval by the Synod in convention” be inserted into the final resolve after the word “That.” This was agreed to by the delegate who had made the motion to amend. An additional amendment to insert “and Luther’s teaching on vocation” after “priesthood” in the first resolve was also agreed to by the committee. After the assembly agreed to end debate (Yes: 732; No: 117), Res. 1-03 was adopted (Yes: 714; No: 151). The following delegates asked to have their negative votes recorded in the minutes: Ronald Kabitzke, Henry J. Koopmann.

Res. 1-04, “To Encourage an Intentional Mission Development Focus” (*TB*, pp. 56–57), was introduced by the committee and adopted without discussion (Yes: 708; No: 115).

Res. 1-10, “To Encourage Creative Partnerships between Districts and Congregations and the LCMS Sister and Partner Churches” (*TB*, p. 59), was introduced by the committee. During discussion, changes were made to the resolves, inserting “individuals, congregations, institutions, organizations, and auxiliaries” after “districts” in the first resolve, and replacing “congregations within these districts” with “all these entities” in the second resolve. Resolution 1-10 was then adopted as changed (Yes: 768; No: 57).

Res. 1-11, “To Continue Assessing LCMS Campus Ministry and Its Association with the ELCA” (*TB*, p. 60), was introduced by the committee. During discussion, an amendment was offered to delete from the final WHEREAS paragraph the words “I believe it is important for me to state my ongoing impression that, at many levels, the ELCA continues to demonstrate a vastly different understanding of the authority of Holy Scripture and interpretation of the

Lutheran Confessions than does The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” (*CW*, p. 8). The chair tested the will of the assembly for terminating debate on the amendment, and debate was ended by voice vote. The amendment was defeated (Yes: 202; No: 613). After again terminating debate by voice vote, Res. 1-11 was adopted as presented (Yes: 689; No: 137).

Committee 8: Synod Structure and Governance

Res. 8-06, “To Recommend Further Study of Composition of Hearing Panels in Bylaws 2.14, 2.15, and 2.17” (*TB*, pp. 148–149), was introduced by the committee. An amendment to replace the reference to the 2010 convention in the final resolve with reference to the 2009 special convention was offered and then withdrawn. Res. 8-06 was adopted as presented (Yes: 654; No: 89).

Res. 8-10, “To Refer for Theological Study CCM Opinions 02-2296, 02-2309, and 02-2320” (*TB*, p. 151), was introduced by the committee. During discussion, a substitute resolution was proposed (*TB*, p. 378). After comments by the delegate proposing the substitute resolution and the floor committee, the chair invited comment from the Commission on Constitutional Matters. When a delegate challenged this action by the chair on the basis of Special Standing Rule 15, the assembly upheld the action of the chair (Yes: 469; No: 333). After the assembly voted not to consider the substitute resolution (Yes: 375; No: 426), discussion continued on the main motion. A motion was offered to amend the resolution with Overture 8-37 (*CW*, p. 273). After the chair had ruled the amendment a substitute resolution and after the maker of the motion and the floor committee had been given opportunity to speak, the assembly declined to consider the substitute resolution (Yes: 272; No: 513). After debate was terminated (Yes: 615; No: 175), Res. 8-10 was adopted (Yes: 603; No: 191). The following delegates asked to have their negative votes recorded in the minutes: Frederick Davison, Henry J. Koopmann, Le Roy B. Sundbom.

Committee 5: Seminary and University Education

Res. 5-07A, “To Change CUS Membership Structure” (*TB*, pp. 195–196), was introduced by the committee and further explanation was offered by Dr. Alan Borcharding of the Board for University Education staff. When the presence of a quorum was questioned, the chair asked delegates to use their keypads to indicate their attendance (706 delegates voted). A quorum being present, Res. 5-07A was voted on and adopted (Yes: 611; No: 78).

Floor Committee 5 having completed its work, Committee Chairman Jon Diefenthaler recognized Dr. L. Dean Hempelmann, retiring Executive Director of the Board for Pastoral Education, for his service to the Synod. Dr. Hempelmann received a standing ovation from the assembly.

Committee 2: District and Congregational Services

Res. 2-09, “To Initiate Planning for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation” (*TB*, pp. 66–67), was introduced by the committee. The resolution was adopted (Yes: 627; No: 85) without discussion.

Committee 6: Human Care

Res. 6-09, "To Encourage Ministry to Armed Forces Personnel and Families" (*TB*, p. 120) was introduced by the committee and adopted without discussion (Yes: 715; No: 10).

Res. 6-08, "To Encourage Congregations to Provide Professional Church Worker Sabbaticals" (*TB*, pp. 119–120), was introduced by the committee. After brief discussion, the chair asked the assembly whether it was ready to vote on the resolution. After debate was ended by a voice vote, Res. 6-08 was adopted (Yes: 680; No: 59).

Committee 2: District and Congregational Services

Res. 2-07A, "To Encourage Christian Forgiveness and Greater Use of Individual Confession and Absolution" (*TB*, p. 182), was introduced by the committee. After discussion, a voice vote indicated the assembly's readiness to vote on the resolution. Res. 2-07A was adopted (Yes: 690; No: 31).

Final Business

As the convention prepared to adjourn, a survey question of interest for planning a 2009 convention was asked of the delegates: 1. Delegate seating for a number of conventions has been according to a computer-generated random plan. 2. Some have expressed an interest in being seated according to circuit delegations. The assembly was asked to vote for one of the two options: #1: 516; #2: 173.

The chair called attention to the minutes for Sessions 6–9 (*TB*, pp. 421–436) and asked for corrections or additions. None were offered, and the minutes were declared approved.

After asking the members of his committee to be recognized, Committee 9 Chairman Larry Harvala provided the final Registration Report:

Voting delegates:	1,239
Pastors	620
Laymen	619
Advisory delegates	328
District presidents	34
Ad hoc committee members	3
Former officers	2
Invited guests	27

The members of the *Today's Business* staff were introduced and thanked with a standing ovation: Ann Schmidt, Pearl Houghton, Allison Zehnder, Kathy Ledbetter, Brenda Wilson, Kathryn Gritts, and Christine Presson.

Adjournment

The chair declared the 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adjourned "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." The historic gavel was returned to Dr. Martin Noland, Director of Concordia Historical Institute, for safekeeping until its next use. Convention chaplain Dale Meyer led the convention in a closing devotion.

Following the devotion, President Kieschnick offered a "strong personal presidential word of appreciation" to the delegates attending the convention, noting in particular the "sharing of personal conviction with such high respect and proper demeanor." He sent the delegates on their homeward way with final words of benediction.

Raymond L. Hartwig, *Secretary*



ELECTION RESULTS

ELECTION RESULTS

PRESIDENT	Nominating Ballots	Election Ballots			
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
*Gerald Kieschnick 1,055	644				
John Wohlrabe, Jr.	514				
Wallace Schulz	27				
William Diekelman	23				
Daniel Preus	23				
William Hoesman					
Dale Meyer					
Herbert Mueller, Jr.					
Dean Wenthe					
Matthew Harrison					
Edward Balfour					
Raymond Hartwig					
Jacob Preus					
Dean Nadasdy					

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

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT	Nominating Ballots	Election Ballots			
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
*William Diekelman 909	590	614	623		
Wallace Schulz	102	22	11		
John Wohlrabe, Jr.	424	582	600		
Charles Mueller, Jr.	9				
Daniel Preus	95	16			
Paul Maier	70				
Herbert Mueller, Jr.	69				
William Hoesman	65				
Matthew Harrison	57				
David Adams	55				
Edward Balfour	54				
Dale Meyer	48				
Dean Nadasdy	46				
Gerald Kieschnick	39				
Dean Wenthe	33				

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

OTHER VICE-PRESIDENTS	Nominating Ballots	Election Ballots			
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
*Paul Maier	825	675			
*Dean Nadasdy	664	541	666		
David Adams	586	280	515		
*David Buegler	547	459	593		
Scott Murray	294	185			
Elder McCants	223	158			
Lawrence Rast	215	90			
Glenn Huebel	198	55			
Charles Mueller, Jr.	178	273			
*John Wohlrabe, Jr.	164	561	685		
Wallace Schulz	161	395	563		
Robert King	152	(D)			
Thomas Zehnder	133	(D)			
Dean Wenthe	119	152			
Daniel Preus	117	281	528		
Dale Meyer	95	(D)			
Laurence White	78	(D)			
Edward Balfour	70	39			
Matthew Harrison	64	221			

Herbert Mueller, Jr.	62	62
Eloy Gonzalez	60	265
Wally Arp	58	42
Bryant Clancy	56	81
Clint Poppe	49	32

* Elected

SECRETARY	Election Ballots			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
<i>Ordained Ministers</i>				
Philip Esala	425			
*Raymond L. Hartwig . . .708				
David Mahsman	64			

VICE-PRESIDENT—FINANCE—TREASURER

Layperson

***Thomas Kuchta 1,147**

LCMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ordained Ministers

James Fandrey	438	461
Vernon Gundermann	490	528
*Robert Kuhn	599	640
Ulmer Marshall, Jr.	198	163
*Donald Muchow	527	629
Jeffrey Schrank	166	

Commissioned

Jonathan Laabs	526	
*Kurt Senske	646	

Laypersons

*Walter Brantz	638	
*Kermit Brashear	905	
*Gloria Edwards	710	
Richard Peters	607	
Irma Pinkerton	539	
*Curtis Pohl	804	

BOARD BLACK MINISTRY SERVICES

Ordained Ministers

*Samuel Cosby	749	
Bertram Lewis, Sr.	435	

Commissioned Ministers

*Jonathan Cleveland . . .579	661	
Emily Carder	427	497
Jeffrey Howell	175	

Laypersons

*Ceretha Cartwright . . .525	642	
Annette Gard	508	535
Karen Wiggins	153	

BOARD FOR COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Ordained Ministers

David Albertin	140	
*John Bush	437	701
David Fleming	322	438
David Kluth	150	
Glenn Zander	141	

Commissioned Ministers

David Bangert	562	
*David Berger	630	

BOARD FOR DISTRICT AND CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

Ordained Ministers

*Jon Coyne	499	589
Robert Jarvis	222	
Bruce Keseman	468	588

Commissioned Ministers

David Brown	339	368	530
Steven Christopher	108		
Jill Hasstedt	281	275	
*David Saving	440	513	628

Laypersons

*Ida Mall	561	557	654
Patti Mitschke	181		
Cornelia Schulz	488	463	535
*K. Allan Voss	568		
Jesse Yow, Jr.	459	165	

BOARD FOR HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES

Ordained Ministers

John Frerking	163
Elwin Rethinasamy	155
*Bernhard Seter	877

Commissioned Ministers

Sandra Bowers	525
*Robert Miles	654

BOARD FOR MISSION SERVICES

Ordained Ministers

*Philip Kuehnert	560	555	673
Ralph Patrick	482	443	506
Phillip Saywayne	487	181	
*John Temple	589		
James Vehling	182		

Commissioned Ministers

*Roger Buck	541	619
Emily Carder	137	
Jennie Waters	499	564

Laypersons

*Kermit Almstedt	608	
Susan Christian	521	452
John Friend	107	
Joseph Harwell	133	
*Linda Reiser	565	644
Lil Spilde	391	80

BOARD FOR PASTORAL EDUCATION

Ordained Ministers

Richard Allsing	156
Peter Bender	318
William Doubek	69
*Kenton Wendorf	625

Commissioned Ministers

*Richard Cohrs	829
Judith Meyer	331

BOARD FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Ordained Ministers

William Ameiss	225
*David Smith	960

COMMISSION ON THEOLOGY & CHURCH RELATIONS

Ordained Ministers

Brent Kuhlman	194			
*Walter Lehenbauer	...346	452	663	
Paul Sauer	390	492	510	
Holger Sonntag	257			

Laypersons

*Jean Garton	495	552	601
Elizabeth Goodine	64		
Mark Kalthoff	424	464	591
Kathy Schulz	207	179	

CHI BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Ordained Ministers

Kurt Bodling	513	506
Eugene Juergensen	118	
*James Kalthoff	540	674
Mark Loest	138	
*Cameron MacKenzie	900	
James Rassbach	87	

Commissioned Ministers

*Kathy Graumann	539	618
Peggi Lawrence	101	
Constance Seddon	517	552

CPH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laypersons

*Heidi Abegg	687	
*Robert Beumer	593	
*Elaine Graff	643	
Katherine Hallock	192	
Nancy Kaul	508	168
John Mollwitz	503	120
Sandra Ostapowich	413	131
*Karol Selle	549	483
Aaron Wolf	467	277
		495

LCEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ordained or Commissioned Ministers

*David Belasic	528	591
Roger Krause	509	590
Ralph Reinke	111	

Laypersons

*Tom Buuck	578	704
Walter Dissen	379	392
Ronald Reinking	356	
*David Wuenschner	537	690
Robert Wurl	505	606

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY—ANN ARBOR

Ordained Ministers

*Donald Luhning	598
Martin Moehring	475
Gene Ott	95

Commissioned Ministers

Kelly Lamkin	525
*Jeanne Ollhoff	628

Laypersons

*Sandra Hardies	647	
Kaaren Kayser	513	495
Glen Piper	507	
*Julie Stiegemeier	548	667

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY—AUSTIN

Ordained Ministers

*Michael Dorn	676
Glenn Huebel	410
Steven Morfitt	79

Commissioned Ministers

Andrew Bates	349
*David Beringer	599
Tim Meisner	196

Laypersons

Albert Carrion, Jr.	228	290	
*Paul Feucht	335	499	590
Dale Heitshusen	243	306	292
Janet Hurta	132		
Rebecca Kieschnick	243	363	413
Christopher Leslie	105		
*Jim Linnell	348	477	504 552
Ginny Valleau	350	488	540 475

CONCORDIA COLLEGE—BRONXVILLE

Ordained Ministers

Christopher Esget	322	384
William Flammann	111	
*Arthur Scherer	549	704
Dien Taylor	166	

Commissioned Ministers

*H. Allen Herbst	653
Jonathan Laabs	503

Laypersons

*Alice Bruening	648
*Sharon Dever	653
David Lord	456
Ed Mahn	462

CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY—FORT WAYNE

Ordained Ministers

Jack Baumgarn	512	350	493
*Wayne Graumann	634		
John Hill	511	237	
*James Pragman	519	511	621
David Ritt	107		

Commissioned Ministers

Karen Gabriel	264
*David Held	899

Laypersons

Johnny Buck	445	546
*Janet Johnson	468	584
John Lang	84	
Roger Potratz	104	

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY—IRVINE

Ordained Ministers

Charles Froh	395
Kevin Kritzer	152
*J. L. Precup	595

Commissioned Ministers

*Paul Brandt	657
Dale Hartman	381
Erna Schmid	114

Laypersons

Michael Besch	200
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Melvin de la Motte	109
Barbara Grimm-Marshall .	217
*Gene Haertling	679
Georgann McKee	78
Al Panhorst	109
*Kathi Romsa	694

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY—MEQUON

Ordained Ministers

*Wayne Braun	673
John Struve	411

Commissioned Ministers

Steven Buuck	268	
Lynette Fredericksen	419	491
*Dwayne Jobst	448	606

Laypersons

*Frederick Anderson ...	490	664
Greta Martin	462	459
Robert Schjerven	300	
*Craig Schmidt	599	
Robert Weber	184	

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY—PORTLAND

Ordained Ministers

*Steve Eaton	667
Daryl Windermuth	401

Commissioned Ministers

Karen Gabriel	401	496
Chuck Gerken	282	
*Joel Koerschen	451	620

Laypersons

*Gary Hoover	532	646
Tom Hurley	392	430
Irma Pinkerton	380	359
*Kathy Schulz	431	578
Karol Selle	116	
Leslie Sramek	329	250

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY—RIVER FOREST

Ordained Ministers

David Stein	173	
*Kent Tibben	528	646
William Tucker	461	489

Commissioned Ministers

Michelle Baumann	457
*Thomas Buck	595
Shirley Wallace	106

Laypersons

*Kirk Farney	652
Greta Martin	359
*Kathleen Mills	609
Merton Troeger	336

CONCORDIA SEMINARY—ST. LOUIS

Ordained Ministers

*David Dissen	531	678
Mark Grunst	408	504
*Ulmer Marshall	528	624
William F. Meyer	184	
Ken Schurb	235	
Dennis Schwab	401	459

Commissioned Ministers

Robert Libka 256
 Hans Otten 305
***LeRoy Wilke 598**

Laypersons

Ralph Cavalieri 387 441
 Jean Garton 213
***Alan Stumpf 558 686**

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY—ST. PAUL

Ordained Ministers

***Christopher Dodge 621**
 Robert Jarvis 533

Commissioned Ministers

***Paul Crisler 538**
 Harold Frerich 534

Laypersons

***Kenneth Behm 437 575**
***Gregg Hein 505 628**
 Michael Hunter, II 299
 David Teigen 458 535
 Lori Utech 371 499

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY—SELMA

Ordained Ministers

Thomas Eggebrecht 249
***Dien Taylor 582**

Michael Taylor 314

Commissioned Ministers

***Ruth Drum 757**
 Erna Schmid 317

Laypersons

David Brazeal 344
***Ulysses Floyd 690**
***Debbie Gallerson 565**
 Glen Piper 534

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY—SEWARD

Ordained Ministers

Luke Biggs 110
***David Block 582**
 John Hill 133
 Gene Ott 321

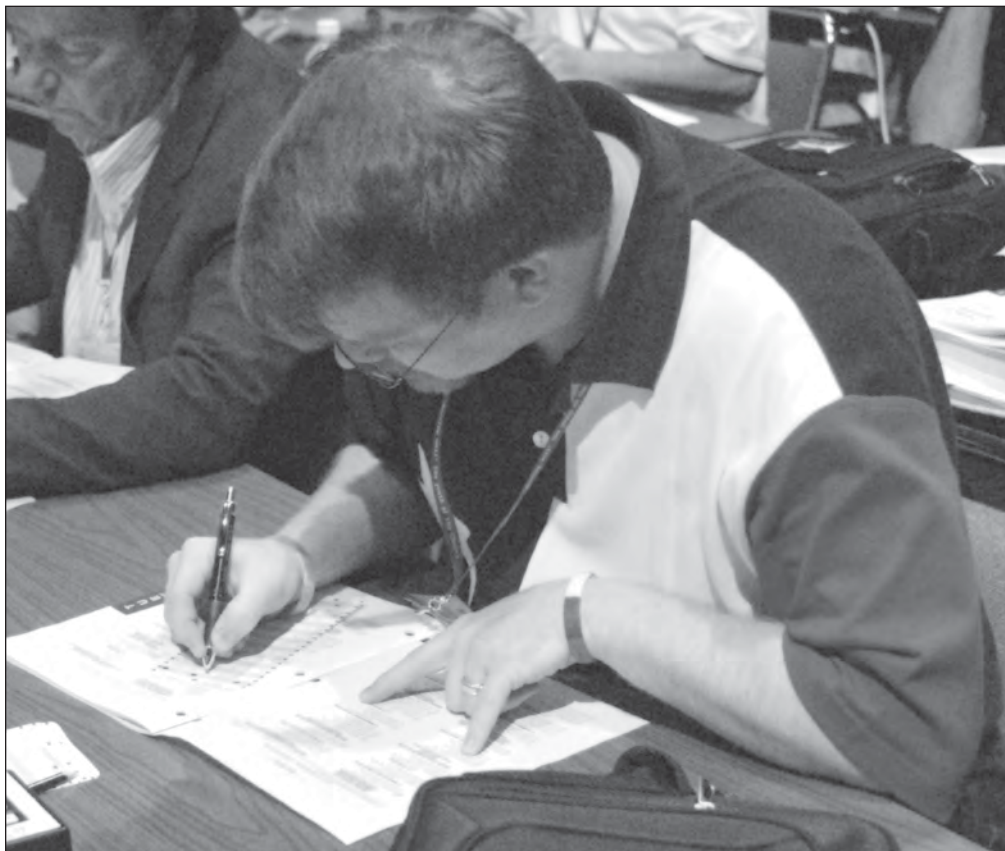
Commissioned Ministers

***Vance Hinrichs 640**
 Jan Lohmeyer 525

Laypersons

***William Hartmann 709**
 John Hughes 350
***Tim Moll 714**
 Max Wake 381

* = Elected



SPECIAL STANDING RULES

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

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

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

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

8. The preface, preamble, rationale, and whereas sections shall be regarded as integral parts of resolutions and therefore subject to the same consideration and adoption as the main motion.
9. Except in unusual circumstances where the reading of the whereas sections of a resolution is necessary due to their

technical nature, these whereas sections of resolutions from floor committees that are printed in *Today's Business* will not be read by the chairman or presenting member of the floor committee. In addition, the chair of the convention is not required to read each resolution as he states the questions and then as he takes the vote.

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

Seating Area of Convention Hall	Type of Use Permitted in Designated Area		
	Voice	Text Messages	Other Data Usage
Voting Delegate	No	No	No
COP, BOD, Press, Special Guests	No	Yes, convention business only	Yes
Advisory Delegate	No	Yes	Yes
Visitors, Front Half Seating Area	No	Yes	Yes
Visitors, Back Half Standing Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Convention Staff, All Areas	Yes	Yes	Yes

18. To preserve convention time, questions of privilege shall be addressed in writing to the chair.
19. Whenever an amendment is offered from the floor that seeks to make editorial or other helpful suggestions to a pending resolution coming from a floor committee, the chair of the floor committee shall have the option of accepting such an amendment, and, if it is accepted, then the amendment is made without further debate or formal vote of the assembly.
20. A motion to close debate ("call the question") shall apply only to the immediately pending question.
21. At such time as "pro-con" discussion is occurring, odd-numbered microphones will be designated "pro" microphones and even-numbered microphones will be designated as "con" microphones. Motions or questions may be made from any microphone.
22. Amendments of non-contiguous words may be made to a pending question so long as the consequence of such non-contiguous amendment does not constitute in effect a substitute motion.
23. The privilege of granting delegates the right to record their votes in the minutes with respect to a particular resolution shall be granted by the assembly by a one-third vote without debate. If such privilege is granted, the votes of record shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Synod within 30 minutes after the close of the day's business on which such privilege was granted.
24. The point of information (to ask a substantive question) will not have any special preference in recognition. Any delegate desiring to make such request shall be allowed to do so only if called upon by the chair in regular order and shall not have any priority over other delegates in being recognized by the chair. The request for a point of information shall be granted by the chair only if the request is made prior to any motion to close debate on the question being considered.
25. Procedure for Floor Nominations
 - a. Floor nominations for the officers of the Synod, as these are identified and ordered in Bylaw 3.12.4.2 (a)—namely, the President, the First Vice-President, and the other vice-presidents in that order, and the election by ballot of the Secretary, the Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer, and the elective members of the Board of Directors of the Synod—shall be accepted prior to the election of those offices according to the standing rules of this convention, in accord with Bylaw 3.12.3.7,* which states, "floor nominations shall be brought individually before the convention for approval before being added to the ballot," and as interpreted, "In other words, each floor nomination

is to be acted upon separately by a convention vote. When the convention approves the receipt of each nomination, one-by-one, by an affirmative vote of the assembly according to accepted parliamentary rules, this constitutes an amendment of the slate." (CCM Opinion 05-2456)

- b. After the election of the officers of the Synod, as those are identified and ordered in Bylaw 3.12.4.2 (a) and noted above, floor nominations for all other elective positions of boards and commissions shall be opened for a period of sixty (60) minutes in accord with Bylaw 3.12.3.7,* as detailed above. Unless ceased earlier by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the assembly, at the end of sixty (60) minutes a vote to cease nominations shall be called by the convention chairman. If a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote to cease nominations is not received, the period for floor nominations shall be extended by twenty (20) minutes. At the end of twenty (20) minutes, a vote to cease nominations shall again be called by the convention chairman. If a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote to cease nominations is not received, the period for floor nominations shall be extended an additional twenty (20) minutes. This cycle shall continue in twenty (20) minute intervals until a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote for nominations to cease is received from the assembly.
26. Unless covered by these Special Standing Rules, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

* Bylaw 3.12.3.7

- (a) *The convention may amend the slate by nominations from the floor.*
- (b) *Floor nominations shall be brought individually before the convention for approval before being added to the ballot. No floor nominations shall be accepted which would preclude, by virtue of election limitations of such office, election of any pending nominee already on the slate of candidates received from the Committee for Convention Nominations without disclosing such potential effect immediately to the convention.*
- (c) *Such floor nominations may only be made from the list of names which have previously been offered to the Committee for Convention Nominations prior to the final deadline established and published by the committee, unless the convention shall otherwise order by a simple majority vote.*

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Part I

Introduction and Welcome to Delegates to the 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, Savior of the world and Lord of the universe, through whom alone we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation!

Welcome, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, to the 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. It is my privilege to share with you this first portion of the report of the President of the Synod to this very important Synod gathering.

The report of the President will be presented in four parts:

- Part I is the written report you are now reading, printed in the 2007 Convention Workbook. Also included as a supplement to Part I is a Special Lawsuit Report.
- Part II will be presented orally at the initial meeting of the convention floor committees, to be held in St. Louis, May 18–21, 2007. It will also be posted on the LCMS convention Web site following its actual presentation on May 18.
- Part III will be presented orally at the convention on Sunday, July 15, 2007.
- Part IV will consist of a question-and-answer session at the convention, also on Sunday, July 15, 2007.

It is my hope and prayer that your service as a delegate to this triennial convention will be a blessing to you, to the congregations, and to the individual members of the Synod.

The Vision for The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod

It is also my hope and prayer that your involvement in this convention will be instrumental in the accomplishment of a vision for our Synod that the delegates to the 2004 convention resolved to “endorse and respond enthusiastically to ... encouraging our brothers and sisters throughout The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to do the same.” That vision is articulated as *One Mission, One Message, One People*.

Holy Scripture is replete with biblical references regarding the Vision of ONE, especially our oneness in Christ:

- *And He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure ... to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under ONE head, even Christ.* (Ephesians 1:9–10)
- *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.* (Ephesians 4:3–6)
- *“Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”* (Ephesians 4:1–6)

- *“Now, I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no schisms among you.”* (1 Corinthians 1:10)
- *Jesus prayed, “... also for those who will believe in Me through their [the disciples’] message... That they may all be one, as You Father, are in Me, and I in You.... That they may be one just as We are one... May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.”* (John 17:20–23)

One Mission—To Seek the Lost for Christ

- *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.* (Luke 19:10)
- *The Lord says: “It is too small a thing for you to be My servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring My salvation to the ends of the earth.”* (Isaiah 49:6)
- *You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.* (Acts 1:8)

One Message—Jesus Christ Is the Savior of the World

- *There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.* (1 Timothy 2:5)
- *There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.* (Acts 4:12)
- *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled the world to Himself through Christ, not counting mankind’s sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.* (2 Corinthians 5:17–19)

One People—United by God’s Love in Christ Jesus

- *Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ . . . stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.* (Philippians 1:27)
- *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.* (Ephesians 4:3–6)
- *Jesus said, “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to My voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.”* (John 10:16)

Succinctly stated, this vision anticipates the congregations, pastors, and commissioned ministers, of our Synod working together to achieve the *One Mission* given by God, that of seeking people who without faith in Christ will be lost eternally, by proclaiming the *One Message* given by God, that Jesus Christ alone is the Savior of the world, as the *One Peo-*

ple God has called us to be, united by God's Love in Christ Jesus.

What does this vision of ONE look like in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod? In a spirit of humility, repentance, and prayer, I respectfully submit this description of my hopes and prayers for the LCMS in the years ahead:

A Repentant People

The vision of ONE sees the people of the LCMS by the Holy Spirit's power, in the light of God's Word, first looking into our own hearts in repentance, seeing our own personal need for forgiveness and renewal through the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

A Redeemed People

The vision of ONE sees the people of the LCMS as redeemed and Spirit-filled, confident of God's forgiveness for Christ's sake, living our lives to the glory of God and exercising faithful stewardship of His many gifts to us.

A Renewed People

The vision of ONE sees the people of the LCMS as renewed "lights in the darkness" and "salt of the earth" who love, respect, and honor one another, vigorously making known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world, speaking freely and joyfully about God's grace to those who have yet to hear and believe!

It is in this spirit of repentance, redemption, and renewal that I encourage our Synod to move forward in the years ahead, united in the mission and the message that God has entrusted to our care!

Convention Theme and Biblical Basis

The theme of this convention is the second part of the three-fold vision of ONE: "One Message—*Christ! His Love is Here for you!*" Its scriptural basis is 1 John 4:9–11:

This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Many passages of Holy Scripture articulate the truth that Jesus Christ alone is the Savior of the world, including 1 Timothy 2:5; Acts 4:12; and 2 Corinthians 5:17–19—all listed above. The apostle John, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, addresses the person and work of Christ from a personal perspective, focusing specifically and powerfully on the benefit of God's love, made known to mankind in the person of Christ, for each and every person in the world.

In addition, John clearly focuses his Spirit-given words on matters of great importance for us as Lutheran Christians, namely, a proper understanding of Law and Gospel. "*This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*" Thus John also writes, in the 19th verse of this same chapter, "*We love because He first loved us.*"

It is therefore true that any love that comes from us as human beings comes only as a result of the fact that God "first loved us." This is true in respect to the love we show to

one another, as well as the love we demonstrate toward God Himself. Our lives are lived to God's glory, in accord with our vocational calling as Christians, purely in response to God's love for us in Christ our Lord. The power of that love propels us to proclaim the light of Christ's love to all who live in the darkness of doubt and disbelief.

During our convention as I address the delegates and guests, I plan to tell the stories of how the light of Christ's love was shared with two individuals I encountered as a result of what can only be described as "divine appointments." On two separate occasions, I met Brad, a 43-year-old man, and Jerry, a 26-year-old woman, under circumstances that were totally unplanned, at least humanly speaking. In both cases, traumatic events had occurred in their lives, events that created fear, anxiety, even despair. By the power of God's Spirit, the light of Christ's love provided hope, encouragement, and peace. I can't wait to share "the rest of the story" with you!

The sub-theme "His Love is Here for You" has numerous applications:

- Christ's love is here, in God's Holy Word, for you!
- Christ's love is here, in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, for you!
- Christ's love is here, in the words of Holy Absolution, for you!
- Christ's love is here, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, for you!
- Christ's love is here, in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, for you!

The non-believing people of the world, including many people here in our own country, are watching and waiting for the discovery of meaning and value in their lives. They also are wondering and wandering in their effort to find such meaning and value, often turning to movements or groups whose faith is based on principles or beliefs contrary to what we in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod believe, teach, and confess.

From 160 years of biblical and confessional study, we in the LCMS have come to understand and firmly believe the truth of God's love for the world in Jesus Christ, expressed so clearly in the words of Jesus Himself: "*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.*" (John 3:16–17)

That is the message we proclaim. We in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have *ONE Mission*—to be *ABLAZE!* with the power and presence of the very Spirit of God in our lives, on our lips and in our labors! We proclaim *ONE Message*, that Jesus Christ is the only Savior of the world! We pursue the *ONE Mission* and proclaim the *ONE Message* as *ONE People*, united by God's love in Jesus Christ!

And so our task, our purpose, our privilege in life is to be *ABLAZE!* with the God-given light of God's love, made real to us in the person of Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. In and with that light, we are enabled to focus our time, our talents and our treasure on reflecting God's love in Jesus Christ to the people of the world.

That is precisely the meaning of the LCMS Mission Statement:

In grateful response to God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world.

May that mission be the constant focus of this 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod!

The Purposes of a Synod Convention

The Bylaws of the Synod clearly indicate the major purposes of a Synod convention in these words:

The national convention of the Synod shall afford an opportunity for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information. It is the principal legislative assembly, which amends the Constitution and Bylaws, considers and takes action on reports and overtures, and handles appropriate appeals. It establishes general positions and policies of the Synod, provides overall program direction and priorities, and evaluates all such positions, programs, policies, directions, and priorities in order to provide responsible service for and on behalf of its members. Only a national convention of the Synod shall authorize affiliation or association and the discontinuance of such affiliation or association of the Synod with other church bodies, synods, or federations. (Bylaw 3.1.1)

The Bylaws also direct that certain officers, boards and commissions are to be elected by the Synod convention, including “the President, five vice-presidents in line of succession, the Secretary, the Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer (who shall also be designated as Chief Financial Officer), and the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” (Bylaw 3.2.1) and:

- A Board for District and Congregational Services
- A Board for Mission Services
- A Board of Directors for Concordia Publishing House
- A Board of Regents for each Synod seminary (Bylaw 3.2.2).

In addition, some members of other boards and commissions are also to be elected by the Synod in convention (Bylaws 3.2.2.1).

Accordingly, convention sessions and activities will be planned and conducted with all these goals and objectives in mind. During the delegate orientation the first day of the convention, Saturday, July 14, specific attention will be given to matters of information and importance for each delegate to consider as the convention begins. This includes basic information regarding parliamentary procedure, a very important part of how we work together as a Synod in convention. Please plan now to attend this orientation session Saturday afternoon, whether or not this is your first time as a delegate.

Additional information will be provided to delegates in the months and weeks prior to the convention. All delegates are evangelically advised and encouraged to read carefully all official materials received from the Synod.

In addition, delegates are no doubt already aware that unofficial and unsolicited materials will be received in abundance. It is my fervent prayer that God will provide wisdom and discernment to each delegate, enabling each of you to

evaluate objectively and prudently the many opinions and perspectives that may literally fill your respective mailboxes.

In this regard, it grieves me to inform you that some of the material you will receive may not be accurate, charitable, or even truthful. Accordingly, it would behoove you as a delegate to investigate fully any matters about which you receive questionable information in order that you may be assured of knowing the truth. You may do so, for example, by researching the actual facts or by asking your district president about these matters. This is particularly important should you receive communications that do not honor the Eighth Commandment's injunction that we defend and speak well of our neighbor and “put the best construction on everything.”

May the blessing of Almighty God grant you the ability to discover the facts and discern the truth as you endeavor faithfully to prepare yourself for the significant task and responsibility given to you by virtue of your election as a voting delegate, advisory delegate or advisory representative to this 63rd regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The State of the Synod...Defining Reality

That was the title of one section of my written report to the 2004 convention of the Synod. After recently reading and reflecting on this report, I have decided to share it once more with the delegates to the 2007 convention.

On Sunday, July 15, 2001, in an acceptance speech following my election as President of the Synod, I offered the following prayer:

Our Gracious Heavenly Father, your ocean is so big and our boat is so small. You have chosen to place my hand with yours on the rudder of this ship we call The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. At times my hand will probably be tempted to turn that ship toward the safety of the harbor, for ships are safe in a harbor. But that's not what ships are for. So, fill the sails of our ship with the sometimes steady, sometimes strong, and sometimes seemingly still breeze blown by your Holy Spirit, who is the breath of life. And as our ship sails through weather, stormy or smooth, enable us to cast the life preserver of your precious Gospel to those drowning in the depths of sin, that they may also, by your grace, be saved eternally, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In that speech, I identified a number of matters of importance facing our Synod in the years ahead:

1. The fulfillment of the Great Commission.
2. The recruitment, training, and support of pastors, educators, evangelists, musicians, and other professional church workers.
3. The importance of the priesthood of all believers, especially the full support and creative involvement of lay leaders.
4. The importance of relationships between the Synod, its districts, and its congregations.
5. The place of the grace of God among us.
6. Synod solidarity.

On Saturday, September 8, 2001, moments after my installation in the Chapel of Saints Timothy and Titus on the campus of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis as the 12th

President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, I prayed this prayer:

Dear Father in Heaven, look upon your people gathered in this beautiful and holy place, filled with the presence of Your Spirit. Focus our eyes and our hearts upon Jesus, given by You, in your majestic and universal love, for the salvation of the world. Prepare our hearts and hands this day to love and to serve You and You alone. Build our commitment to be faithful and strengthen our resolve to be courageous, that through Your power we might “Shake the Earth” with the great news of forgiveness, life, and salvation through Christ, the Savior of the world and the Lord of the universe. We pray this in His most holy and precious name. Amen.

In the speech that followed, I offered the following comments and observations:

- It is the mission of the church that concerns me most at the beginning of my term of office as President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Let it be known, with no equivocation or uncertainty of any kind, that accomplishing the mission of the church to disciple and teach the nations of the world will be Job One in this administration! We do not have the luxury, even if we wanted to, of “fiddling while Rome is burning.”

- After briefly describing the origin of the Early Church following the death and resurrection of Christ, including the persecution and martyrdom of many believers and disciples, I added, “Also hardy souls, the people of central Europe, in my case, southeastern Germany near the Polish border, lived their faith in a reasonable semblance of joy and peace. But the oppression of governmental entities made it clear to our ancestors that they had no choice but to leave the place of their birth, travel on leaky, ill-fated vessels to a distant land, leaving behind their homes, their property, their heritage, their families.

For what reason did they choose to make this sacrifice? The integrity of their faith was in danger of being lost as a result of governmental declarations forcing those who bore the name “Lutheran” to enter into ecclesiastical relationships without adequate basis for such relationships. That would be too much to tolerate, much less to affirm.

So, with a portion of their possessions in hand, they embarked upon the journey that would take some of them successfully to places like Perry County, Missouri, and Lee County, Texas. Many of them died on board and were buried at sea. The survivors thrived in the new world. They ultimately formed what was once known as the *German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States*, later called the *Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States*. Still later they changed their name to *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*.

- Notwithstanding the significant growth experienced by congregations and entities of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the first century of its existence, the LCMS is not exactly, at the present moment, on top of the heap when it comes to church bodies that demonstrate vibrancy and significant impact on the worldwide Christian scene, either among Anglos or among other cultures and nationalities. Few would argue with the existence of our strong biblical, doctrinal and confessional stance. Nevertheless, many would view as marginal our church body’s impact on the entire body of Christ, not to mention the 4 billion unsaved people in the world, given our propensity in the past for internal dissension and divisiveness.

Could it be that, in our zeal to retain our steadfast confession of the faith once delivered to the saints by our forefathers,

we have become under-concerned with the demonstration of that faith in our daily lives? Could it also be that we have become less than passionate, if not lukewarm, with the proclamation of that faith to the unbelievers of the world who literally surround us at the beginning of this 21st century?

A few specific parochial statistics should suffice to make the point:

- Annually, 35 percent of the congregations of the LCMS gain not one adult by baptism or confirmation.
- Annually, 47 percent of the congregations of the LCMS gain one adult or less by baptism or confirmation.
- Since 1968, the number of annual adult confirmands has remained virtually the same, just under 30,000. Statistically, it requires the efforts of 115 LCMS members to result in one adult confirmation.
- We are facing significant financial challenges that will chart the course of the Synod in the years ahead:
 - Total annual LCMS congregational contributions have risen from \$200 million to more than \$1 billion in the past 30 years (\$1.3 billion in 2003 and \$1.4 billion in 2006).
 - Congregational contributions to the LCMS budget through the districts of the Synod have declined from just over \$25,000,000 to slightly under \$25,000,000, not adjusted for inflation, in the past three decades (\$22.5 million in 2003 and \$20 million in 2006).
- LCMS communicant membership has risen from 1,875,000 to 1,950,000 in the past 30 years, a sign of the graying of the LCMS.
- LCMS baptized membership has declined from 2.8 million to just under 2.6 million in that same period of time.
- We are blessed with a strong commitment to biblical and confessional theology, yet average attendance at worship, Sunday School, and Bible class continues to decline in many of our congregations.
- LCMS Bible study trends indicate Sunday School pupil enrollment dropped from 850,000 thirty years ago to under 500,000 today, with youth and adult Bible study group participants increasing from 310,000 to 340,000 during that same period.
- LCMS total weekly worship attendance has declined from 1,140,000 to 960,000 in the past 30 years, a decrease of more than 15 percent. Approximately one of every three baptized members of our Synod attends worship each week.
- We struggle with reaching and retaining people in our congregations, including our children and grandchildren:
 - Almost 50 percent of the infants baptized in our congregations are not confirmed in them.
 - Almost 50 percent of the children confirmed in our congregations are not active in them at age 21.
- We are currently experiencing critical shortages of professional church workers, including both pastors and educators. Many of our workers are stressed. Some are depressed and on the verge of burnout. Others are contemplating resignation due to family and/or financial pressures.

- Since 1988, the LCMS has lost approximately 1,750 more ordained ministers and more than 3,000 more commissioned ministers than we have gained.
- A vitally significant challenge faces our Synod as we address the issue of caring for and retaining these special gifts of God, while recruiting and training new workers to lead us into the future.

Some Reflections and Insights to Address These Present Realities

1. God's church, to be living, vibrant and productive, must rely on the power source of the church's vitality, namely, God's means of grace. In the same way that we are saved by grace through faith and our works flow from that God-given faith, so also our powerful God provides vitality in the church through the proclamation of His Word and the administration of His Sacraments. The result in the New Testament was rapid growth of the church! The marginal vitality in our Synod challenges us to address a genuinely spiritual problem. What resides in our heads must also find a prominent place in our hearts!
2. God has chosen to use people, His imperfect instruments, to distribute the Word and Sacraments in order to accomplish His will that all might be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. In the past several decades, American and global culture has changed from "churched" to "unchurched," making communication of the Gospel message much more difficult. At this moment in time, the Lutheran church has no meaningful presence in the minds of most Americans, especially non-white, non-upper-middle class Americans. We have much work to accomplish in faithfully and fruitfully communicating the Gospel of Christ to unbelieving people in America in this 21st century!
3. A national church body such as the LCMS is dependent upon the spiritual and organizational health and vitality of individual congregations for its own corporate health and vitality. Achieving holistic congregational health and vitality with a passion for mission requires significant effort, including concern for the holistic health of its members and its workers, as well as a proper concern for both doctrine and practice. Congregational health and vitality with a passion for mission must be the focus of our national Synod and its 35 districts.
4. Denominational finances are mostly dependent upon the health and vitality of individual congregations. Both the source and system of giving has significantly changed in Synod's funding over the last decade. For example, 30 years ago, the national Synod received \$25 million from congregations through the districts of the Synod. This year (2004) these gifts amount to \$22.5 million, not including special and designated gifts from individuals and congregations in the districts. (In 2006 the national Synod received \$20 million in unrestricted gifts from the 35 districts of the Synod.) We must address the question of whether we still want the national Synod, on behalf of the 6,148 congregations of the Synod, to conduct worldwide and national

ministries such as missions, higher education, congregational services, human care, etc. If so, from where will come the funding? The bottom line is that no program of funding or development will revitalize the LCMS. The issue is not a funding or allocation problem. Funding follows mission.

From the past, in the present and into the future comes The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, blessed by God in so many ways, yet significantly challenged by the realities of a rapidly changing world!

While some of the facts and figures stated above have changed in the past six years, I believe these observations still capture and articulate in succinct fashion the state of the Synod. Along with most other major U.S. church bodies, the LCMS continues to experience challenges of many kinds.

At the same time, I am greatly encouraged by the growing development of a mission spirit exemplified by the increasing number of congregations and organizations that have become focused intentionally and intently on expending the precious resources of time, energy, and money on reaching lost people for Christ. All of this is necessary, even vital, for the renewal and revitalization of the mission and ministry of our Synod at every level. Consider the following:

- More and more LCMS congregations have become directly involved in mission initiatives, both in their communities and around the world.
- Our seminaries have incorporated into their curriculum a distinctively mission-oriented focus.
- Our colleges and universities continue to develop a mission emphasis, both in curricular and extra-curricular endeavors.
- *Ablaze!* initiatives in the districts of our Synod have increased significantly in the past triennium.
- *Fan Into Flame* donors have committed millions of dollars to mission activities in and beyond their local congregation.
- Our Synod's auxiliaries, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and the International Lutheran Laymen's League, continue to provide leadership in prayer, financial support, mission involvement, congregational training, and media and printed resources for the people and congregations of our Synod.

All these and many more initiatives are aimed at assisting congregations and their members "vigorously to make known the love of Christ, by word and deed, within our churches, communities, and the world." (LCMS Mission Statement)

Ablaze! and Fan Into Flame Goals

Although these goals have been stated numerous times in multiple ways, I believe it is important to state them here once more. By 2017, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, under the blessing of Almighty God, we pray that the Spirit-guided efforts associated with the *Ablaze!* movement will have resulted in accomplishment of the following goals adopted at the 2004 Synod convention:

- Provide a Gospel witness to 50 million unreached or uncommitted people in the USA.
- Provide a Gospel witness to 50 million unreached or uncommitted people in the rest of the world.
- Plant 2,000 new LCMS missions in the United States.

In addition, we pray God's blessing upon the achievement of the following specific strategies articulated by LCMS World Mission in support of the *Ablaze!* goals noted above.

- Provide support and assistance for 2,000 LCMS congregations who recognize the need for renewed health and vitality.
- Increase by 50 percent the number of LCMS career missionaries in the field.
- Provide increased support for the 29 partner churches of the LCMS throughout the world.

Fan Into Flame! Goals

By 2010, we pray that our Synod will have gathered \$100 million to support the mission objectives of *Ablaze!* that require financial expenditure. These objectives include:

- the planting of 2,000 new missions in the United States;
- the revitalization of 2,000 existing LCMS congregations;
- the increase in numbers of career missionaries involved in a ministry of Word and Sacrament; and
- the provision of increased support for the mission and outreach efforts of our 29 partner churches throughout the world.

At the time of writing of this report, \$15 million in gifts and pledges have been received, mostly from major gift donors (\$50,000 and up) and from the two pilot districts (Texas and South Wisconsin) who initiated the congregational phase of *Fan Into Flame*. During 2007, seven additional districts will participate in the congregational phase, with approximately that same number scheduled to participate in 2008, 2009, and 2010, the year in which *Fan Into Flame* is to be concluded.

For the Sake of the Church

For the Sake of the Church is an effort to double the number of LCMS students and to gather \$400 million in endowments at our Concordia University System's ten colleges and universities. The latest report indicates an increase of LCMS students at our Concordias of approximately 50% and a total endowment at our ten institutions of approximately \$150 million. This is a most important endeavor worthy of our continued prayers and support!

Synod Solidarity in the Midst of Synod Conflict

In my report to the 2004 convention of the Synod, I shared observations and concerns regarding Synod solidarity in the midst of Synod conflict. That section of my 2004 report is included in the appendix of this *Workbook*, titled "Synod Solidarity in the Midst of Synod Conflict—Excerpt from the President's Report Part 1 of the 2004 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod." Specifically, the following topics were addressed.

- Close Communion
- Church and Ministry
- Traditional and Contemporary Worship

- Participation in Events or Services with Other Christians or Non-Christians

While these issues are still matters of concern among us in our Synod today, numerous steps have been taken to address them. Noteworthy among these are the two "Model Theological Conferences" held in Phoenix in 2002 and 2005, both of them in August! All 35 districts of the Synod sent as many as five representatives, who then assisted with the planning and conducting of similar conferences in their respective districts to consider such topics as participation in civic events and the role of the office of the pastoral ministry in relation to the priesthood of all believers.

In addition, the Praesidium (the President and five vice-presidents of the Synod) is providing Bible studies for use by circuit counselors at circuit pastoral conferences for further study and discussion related to these and other issues. Also, the Council of Presidents is working diligently to provide counsel to the Synod regarding these subjects. When the COP completes its work aimed at achieving concord and unity on many of these matters of concern among us, that work will be shared with the Synod.

Lawsuit against the President and First Vice-President of the Synod and the Synod Itself

In the past three years, another point of contention has arisen among us, namely, how Christians in general, but specifically LCMS Christians, resolve conflict that arises in our midst. A most notable event this past triennium that caused particular attention to such concerns was a lawsuit filed August 15, 2005, against the President and First Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and against the Synod itself. It is difficult to estimate how many people in the LCMS are aware of the lawsuit. Suffice it to say that many in our Synod have heard about this matter, the facts of which I will attempt to relate as objectively as possible in a Special Report from the President to the 2007 Convention of the Synod.

That Special Report, included in this *Workbook*, provides details regarding the issues and resolution of the lawsuit. I invite you to read that report to discern with certainty and in greater detail the facts of the lawsuit and to understand the agreements reached in its culmination. Some of the major matters of concern from the lawsuit are addressed in the report of the 2004 Resolution 7-02A Committee, which delegates will receive prior to the convention. The convention will have ample opportunity to consider the 7-02A Committee report and to take any action the delegates deem appropriate.

In this section of my report, the following news release from the November 1, 2006, issue of LCMS e-News offers a summary of the matter.

The lawsuit filed in the Circuit Court of St. Louis County, Mo., in August 2005 (known as the "Anderson Lawsuit") has now been fully dismissed, with all clerical details and waiting periods satisfied. The lawsuit was filed initially by approximately 80 LCMS members against President Gerald Kieschnick, First Vice-President William Diekelman, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (as a necessary nominal defendant).

The plaintiffs initiated the lawsuit based upon their belief that exceptions requested by district boards of directors and granted by the President of the Synod that allowed circuits not meet-

ing bylaw criteria to send delegates to the Synod's 2004 convention were excessive. A second issue in the lawsuit was the plaintiffs' belief that certain official opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod unlawfully restricted the authority of the Synod's Board of Directors.

In February of 2006, at the initiative of the Board of Directors, a four-member committee of the Board met and conferred with a four-member committee of the plaintiffs. After a series of meetings, an agreement was reached (see separate news release, "Anderson Lawsuit Agreement").

In the weeks after agreement was reached, the Agreement was signed by a large majority of the plaintiffs. However, prior to the court date for presenting the Agreement and advocating dismissal of the lawsuit, four members of the Board of Directors filed a Motion to Intervene as a result of concerns associated with that portion of the lawsuit pertaining to Board of Directors and Commission on Constitutional Matters authority issues.

Subsequent discussions resulted in the withdrawing of the Motion to Intervene paving the way for a final dismissal of the Anderson suit.

Again, I encourage you to read the Special Report in this Convention Workbook to understand more fully the details of this lawsuit.

In the future, it is my prayer that matters such as these will be settled among us, not with lawsuits in the civil courts, but in accord with the covenants of love to which we have agreed to live and work together as a Synod. It is God's will that we live and act in the spirit of the love of Christ, in accord with the exhortation of the Word of God, especially as written in 1 Corinthians 6:1–11:

"If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church! I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? But instead, one brother goes to law against another— and this in front of unbelievers!

The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

As delegates will see in the Special Lawsuit Report included as a supplement to this Part I of the President's report, our Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters has responded to questions submitted to it regarding this matter. The following question and response is of particular significance:

109. Proper Dissent and Dispute by Members of the Synod (05-2444)

Question 1: *Is it in harmony with the Constitution and Bylaws (1.3, 1.4.1, 1.7, 1.8, 1.10, 3.1.1, and 3.1.6.2) of the Synod for any member of the Synod or any group within the Synod as an avenue or form of dissent or dispute to engage in promoting non-compliance with the resolutions of the Synod and making charges against the Synod, the President, and others of the Synod by use of lawsuits, publications, letters, or meetings and conferences that are not in keeping with the polity of the Synod as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws?*

Opinion: *No. Every member of the Synod (individual and congregation) joins the Synod voluntarily and in doing so agrees to relate to, live, and serve together with one another ("walk together") in harmony with the Constitution and Bylaws....*

In their agreement to live and work together in harmony (in harmony with the Constitution and Bylaws) the members of the Synod, when and where disputes exist, are required, subject to limited exceptions, to use the avenue provided by the Synod to settle disputes, as set forth in Bylaw section 1.10, "Dispute Resolution of the Synod," which in part states:

The Holy Scriptures (1 Cor. 6:1–7) urge Christians to settle their differences by laying them before the "members of the brotherhood." Therefore, the Synod in the spirit of 1 Corinthians 6 calls upon all parties to a disagreement, accusation, controversy, or disciplinary action to rely exclusively and fully on the Synod's system of reconciliation and conflict resolution. The use of the Synod's conflict resolution procedures shall be the exclusive and final remedy for those who are in dispute. Fitness for ministry and other theological matters must be determined within the church. Parties are urged, in matters of a doctrinal nature, to follow the procedures as outlined in Bylaw section 1.8. (Bylaw 1.10.1.1)

Therefore, all members of the Synod are required to resolve all matters of dissent or all disputes by the avenues and structures available to them as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod without resorting to secular courts and without resorting to avenues, means, structures, or communications that are foreign or contrary to the synodical agreements and which are not in harmony with the polity of the Synod.

Dear friends in Christ, I truly hope and fervently pray that God's Spirit will touch the hearts of everyone in the LCMS, that all would work and walk together in a way that builds harmony and peace in our Synod, not divisiveness and contention.

Response of the Synod to South Asia Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, and Hurricane Rita

As ONE people proclaiming the ONE message of Christ, we love one another and bear one another's burdens. We respond with open hearts and caring hands to the needs of our neighbors, "especially to those of the household of faith." This was exhibited across the Synod in a tremendous way during

the past two years in response to the natural disasters and catastrophes that struck our nation and world. Our Synod responded as Christ's ambassadors to the world. As president of this church body, I could not have been more humbly proud of our response:

- LCMS World Relief and Human Care continues to coordinate people and gifts, which exceeded \$13.4 million for hurricane relief and over \$5.7 million for tsunami aid in South Asia.
- LCEF granted special consolidation loans and other concessions to congregations, schools, and professional church workers.
- Concordia Plan Services waived premiums, fees, and deductibles for congregations, schools, and professional church workers.
- Synod districts have partnered with and supported congregations, schools, and professional church workers in the Southern District and other affected districts.
- Congregations and individuals have given generously of financial resources, have volunteered unselfish amounts of time for clean-up efforts, and have lifted up countless hours of prayer on behalf of those whose lives were impacted by these natural disasters.
- And, so much more was done and continues to be done.

We are called to live out our faith in such charitable and selfless ways for the sake of the Gospel.

In many areas of our country and world that were so devastated by disaster, many are still in need. As a Synod, we will continue to care for our brothers and sisters until those needs are met and the mission and ministries of our sister congregations are renewed. We are the caring arms of Christ that extend to our churches, to our communities, and to our world.

Church Relations

The Bylaws of the Synod state, "The President shall be the chief ecumenical officer of the Synod" and "He or his representative shall represent the Synod in official contacts with other church bodies" (Bylaw 3.3.1.1.2). Much time and energy are spent by the President of the Synod in relating to other church bodies and, under Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, working "through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies" (Constitution, Art. III).

At the present time, the LCMS enjoys the official relationship of altar and pulpit fellowship with 29 other Christian church bodies, all bearing the name "Lutheran," none of them located in the United States of America, but in the following countries:

1. Argentina—Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina
2. Brazil—Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil
3. Canada—Lutheran Church—Canada
4. Chile—Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Republic of Chile
5. Denmark—Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Denmark
6. England—The Evangelical Lutheran Church of England
7. France and Belgium—Evangelical Lutheran Church—Synod of France and Belgium
8. Germany—Independent Evangelical-Lutheran Church
9. Ghana—Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana
10. Guatemala—Lutheran Church of Guatemala
11. Haiti—The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti
12. Hong Kong—The Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod
13. India—India Evangelical Lutheran Church
14. Japan—Japan Lutheran Church
15. Kenya—Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya
16. Korea—Lutheran Church in Korea
17. Latvia—Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia
18. Lithuania—Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania
19. Mexico—Lutheran Synod of Mexico
20. Nigeria—The Lutheran Church of Nigeria
21. Papua New Guinea—Gutnius Lutheran Church
22. Paraguay—The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay
23. Philippines—The Lutheran Church in the Philippines
24. Russia—Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia (formerly part of Finland, now St. Petersburg)
25. South Africa—Lutheran Church in Southern Africa
26. South Africa—Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa
27. Sri Lanka—Lanka Lutheran Church
28. Taiwan—China Evangelical Lutheran Church
29. Venezuela—Lutheran Church of Venezuela

We are also engaged in dialogue or have had preliminary contacts with the following church bodies:

1. The American Association of Lutheran Churches
2. The Christian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bolivia
3. Malagasy Lutheran Church (Madagascar)
4. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia
5. Protestant Christian Batak Church in Indonesia
6. Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church
7. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sudan
8. It should also be noted that we continue to have many opportunities for contacts with the Lutheran Church of Australia, especially in the International Lutheran Council.

Furthermore, the Commission on Theology and Church Relations is recommending that this summer's synodical convention declare the Synod to be in altar and pulpit fellowship with The American Association of Lutheran Churches. The report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations that recommends approval of this fellowship relationship is included in this *Convention Workbook*.

We pray that God will bless all of these relationships as we seek to strengthen them and to deepen our biblical and confessional unity in doctrine and practice with other Christian church bodies around the world, in accordance with our Lord's will as expressed in His high priestly prayer in John 17:20–23:

I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message,²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.²² I have given them the glory that You gave Me, that they may be one as We are one:²³ I in them and You in Me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.

2004 Convention Resolutions Assigned to the President of the Synod

Following is a succinct summary of the 2004 Convention resolutions directly assigned to the President of the Synod, together with a report of my actions in response:

Action on Resolutions Assigned to the LCMS President's Office 2004 Synodical Convention

3-07 To Continue Discussions with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Resolved:

"Encourage the President of the Synod and our representatives on the Committee on Lutheran Cooperation (CLC) to pursue substantive conversations between representatives of the ELCA and the LCMS, in a continuing effort to bear witness to the truth of the Scriptures and the Confessions in the hope that agreement can be reached in those areas where we disagree" and "report to the next synodical convention any recommendations concerning changes in joint activity with the ELCA."

Action Taken:

Continuing conversations on numerous substantive issues between the ELCA and LCMS have been held semiannually. Participating with the President in these discussions were our representatives on the Committee on Lutheran Cooperation (CLC), namely First Vice-President William Diekelman, COP Chairman William Hoesman, Secretary Raymond Hartwig, Chief Administrative Officer Ronald Schultz, and CTRC Executive Director Samuel Nafzger. Also participating in the specifically theological discussions were Rev. Ralph Blumenberg, and Professor Walter A. Maier III. At one such substantive theological discussion, LCMS President Emeritus Ralph Bohlmann also was an invited participant.

Some discussions have utilized the 1978 document prepared and distributed by the Division of Theological Studies, Lutheran Council in the USA, titled, "The Function of Doctrine and Theology in Light of the Unity of the Church (FODT)." This report, prepared in the 1970s by official representatives of the LCMS and predecessor bodies of the ELCA, continues to represent a responsible description of the principal theological differences between the LCMS and the ELCA. These differences include the authority and interpretation of Scripture, the nature of confessional subscription, and the nature and basis of church fellowship. The FODT document therefore provides a helpful basis for ongoing theological discussions (also involving representatives of the seminaries of both church bodies) to assess the current situation and the prospects for continuing working relationships in the future.

On March 30, 2005, the President and LCMS representatives on the CLC shared with the ELCA representatives a statement offering "An LCMS Response" to the January 15, 2005, report of the ELCA's Task Force on Sexuality. I directly addressed this and other issues and concerns in my August 12, 2005, address to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Orlando. The text of this address is included in this workbook

as an addendum to my report. (See President's Report Part I, Addendum A.)

In addition, during the past triennium, the Praesidium has monitored and discussed "current concerns and potential directions of the ELCA (2004 Res. 3-07), including the ELCA's response to the Task Force Report on Sexuality and the ELCA's adoption (on August 11, 2005) of a proposal for "Interim Eucharistic Sharing" between the ELCA and the United Methodist Church.

In view of these developments, the Praesidium believes that the President of the LCMS and the Praesidium need to "continue to assess pastoral working relationships with the ELCA" (2004 Res. 3-07) during the next triennium. Resultantly, continued conversations are being planned. At this time there are no recommendations for convention consideration regarding any changes in joint activity with the ELCA.

However, before leaving this topic, I believe it is important for me to state my ongoing impression that, at many levels, the ELCA continues to demonstrate a vastly different understanding of the authority of Holy Scripture and interpretation of the Lutheran Confessions than does The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The primary reason for continuation of "substantive [theological] discussions" with the ELCA is, as articulated in Resolution 3-07, a "continuing effort to bear witness to the truth of the Scriptures and the Confessions in the hope that agreement can be reached in those areas where we disagree."

In addition and in conclusion, I believe the words of one portion of 2001 convention Resolution 3-21A "To Address Cooperative Pastoral Working Arrangements with Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" provide another valid reason to continue our discussions with the ELCA:

"*Resolved*, That we of the LCMS recognize that many of our brothers and sisters of the ELCA remain faithful to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and we resolve to reach out to them in love and support ..."

4-07 To Establish Blue Ribbon Task Force for Funding the Mission

Resolved:

"The Synod President appoint a Blue Ribbon Task Force (with representation from the board of Directors, Council of Presidents, and other such representatives as deemed appropriate by the President) on Funding the Mission that would report its recommendations to the 2007 convention one year prior to the convention."

Action Taken:

In 2004, I appointed the Blue Ribbon Task Force for Funding the Mission (BRTFFM) with representation in accord with 2004 Resolution 4-07. The BRTFFM completed its work with recommendations in a July 2006 report that was subsequently distributed in hard copy to all boards and commissions of the Synod, to all district boards of directors, and to all circuit counselors of the Synod. In addition, the availability of the report was communicated in an official periodical of the Synod and was made available to the Synod through its Web site. A copy of this report will be included in the *Convention Workbook*.

One of the recommendations of the task force has already been implemented, namely, a fiscal conference held February 8–10 in St. Louis. All 35 districts were represented at this conference by the district president or his representative and, in most cases, two other district representatives. A report on this conference was included in the March 2007 issue of *Reporter*.

7-02A To Amend Synodical Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Regarding Officer and Board Responsibilities

Resolved:

“The convention . . . directs the President and the Board of Directors jointly to appoint a committee to address the matter and report to the 2007 convention.”

Action Taken:

In 2004 the Board of Directors and I jointly appointed a committee to address “the matter” of the Synod’s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws regarding officer and board responsibilities in accord with 2004 Resolution 7-02A. The committee has been working diligently and is in the final stages of completing its report with recommendations to the 2007 convention. (A copy of this report was sent to delegates prior to the convention.)

Action on Certain Resolutions Not Specifically Assigned to the President 2004 Synodical Convention

1-01 To Affirm Mission 21st Century Response to Great Commission and

1-02 To Promote “Mission Outpost” Attitude

In many ways, I continued to affirm a confessional and mission-minded approach by the Synod toward fulfilling the Great Commission and have encouraged all congregations, schools and entities to view themselves as mission outposts and their communities as mission fields.

1-04 To Commit to \$100 Million Ablaze! Fund-Raising Effort

Soon after the 2004 convention, this effort was titled *Fan Into Flame*. Since that time I have personally expended significant time and energy in participating in the promotion of this effort and in visiting prospective major gift donors in support thereof. As of this writing, advance gifts and pledges amount to \$15 million, with that total increasing almost daily. An updated report will be provided at the convention.

1-05A To Establish Ablaze! National Goals

World Mission Services Executive Director Bob Roegner, his staff, and I organized and participated in district *Ablaze!* cluster groups in 2004 and 2006 and have addressed numerous gatherings to encourage and support efforts to achieve these goals. Further information will be presented at the convention.

1.07 Ethnic and Urban Ministry

In 2006, I appointed a Blue Ribbon Task Force on Hispanic Ministry to study how best to assess and improve the Synod’s capacity to reach out to the enormous and growing Latino population of the United States. The report and recommendations of the BRTFHM to the 2007 Convention of the LCMS address the short-term objective of helping us energize the LCMS in our goal of reaching Latinos with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and addresses longer-term objectives that will help us reach out to and integrate Latinos into the LCMS in real and meaningful ways. A copy of that report is included in the *Convention Workbook*.

2-03A To Accept Lutheran Service Book and Agenda as an Official Service Book and Hymnal of Synod

On many occasions I have supported the introduction of *Lutheran Service Book (LSB)* with special acknowledgments to the Commission on Worship and commendation of *LSB*.

2-04 To Affirm Responsible Use of Freedom in Worship

In conversations with the Commission on Worship, I affirmed respect for diversity in worship and encouraged the commission in its development of diverse worship resources for use in the Synod. The commission has appointed a committee to pursue this matter and will be reporting its recommendations to the 2007 convention.

2-07 To Reaffirm Lutheran Educators and Schools

In my regular e-news Letter to Pastors I highlighted the roles of Lutheran educators and other church work professionals on an ongoing basis. In addition, I visited and addressed various educators’ conferences in districts of the Synod.

2-09 To Commit to Strengthening Lutheran Doctrinal Education

In visits to the campuses of all ten Concordia colleges and universities and multiple visits to our two seminaries and in public addresses and written communications I have continued to promote the maintenance of a strong and solid confessional basis for all that we do in mission and ministry for our Lord and His Church.

3-01 To Formally Declare Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya

In addition to implementing this fellowship relationship according to protocol documents, various LCMS leaders and I personally visited the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya in 2006. As is true of most of the church bodies with whom the LCMS has declared altar and pulpit fellowship, the ELCK is rich in spirit and poor in resources. Significant time and resources have been shared with this partner church in the past three years.

3-02 To Encourage the International Lutheran Council

As a member of the executive committee of the ILC, I have continued to support and participate in the work of the council. I attended the biennial meeting of the council in Berlin in

2005 and numerous other meetings on behalf of the ILC. The next biennial meeting of the ILC is scheduled for September 24–30, 2007, in Accra, Ghana (West Africa).

3-03A To Foster Peace, Harmony, and Trust within Synod for Sake of Christ's Mission

On innumerable occasions I have addressed publicly and in print scriptural and confessional principles for promoting unity and trust in the Synod. Much time and energy was devoted to planning and participating in the 2006 National Circuit Counselors' Conference, the first conference of its kind since 1991, at which this issue was addressed.

3-06A To Commend CTCR Report on Guidelines for Participation in Civic Events

As directed in this resolution, I have consistently commended this document to the Synod for use when congregations and individual members of the Synod were faced with the possibility of participation in civic events.

3-08A To Affirm the Conclusions of the 1994 CTCR Report: The Service of Women in Congregational and Synodical Offices

Shortly after the 2004 convention, I appointed a special task force to create guidelines for congregations and district constitution committees to follow in revising congregational constitutions and bylaws to permit women to hold congregational offices so long as their assigned responsibilities do not include "distinctive functions" or "public accountability for the function of the pastoral office." That report was widely disseminated in the Synod and remains readily available.

4-02A To Provide Support for Seminaries

In preparation for the 2007 convention of the Synod, I designated the 2007 National Offering with a goal of \$1 million to be directed toward pastoral formation worldwide. Two-thirds of all gifts received will support Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO, and Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. The remaining one-third will support the preparation of pastors at seminaries of LCMS partner churches around the world.

5-01 To Emphasize Mission Leadership Focus in Professional Church Worker and Lay Person Preparation

In my visits to LCMS colleges, universities, and seminaries, I have encouraged this emphasis among the presidents, faculties, and staffs, and continue to do so in communications with other Synod leaders as well.

5-03A To Increase the Number of Synod-Certified Teachers and

6-02A To Make Compensation and Health Care of Church Workers a High Priority

The recruitment and retention initiative known as "What a Way!" continues to highlight opportunities and encouragement for recruiting and retaining professional church workers. In addition, I appointed a task force to address the issue of church worker indebtedness related to compensation. The report of that task force has been shared with the Synod.

Furthermore, I have articulated on many occasions that priority be given to recruitment, training, compensation, and retention of professional church workers. I am encouraging the Council of Presidents to provide leadership in this very important matter in the years ahead.

6-01 To Address National Human Care Priorities

On numerous occasions I issued statements in support of President Bush's veto of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, which would have expanded federal funding for human embryonic stem-cell research, addressed the proposed Missouri Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative, and issued a joint statement with the executive director of LCMS Human Care on the issue of immigration.

7-01A To Revise Bylaws to Clarify Election Process

These newly revised bylaws will be implemented at our 2007 convention.

7-14 To Amend the Procedure for Filling Vacancies

When and where appropriate, I have helped facilitate the procedure created by this resolution.

8-01A To Amend Bylaws on Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution

As called upon to do so I have implemented and supported this amended procedure in accord with the duties of the Office of the President.

Presidential Participation in Events, Meetings, Conferences, etc.

A summary of my participation in events, meetings, conferences, etc., is included below. I believe it is self-explanatory and provides the reader with a brief glimpse into the scope of responsibility of the person who occupies this office.

President's Activities

Groups or Categories	Number of Meetings, Events, etc.
Boards, Committees, Commissions, Forums, Auxiliaries, etc.	196
Council of Presidents	17
District Conventions	20
District Pastors Conferences/ All Workers Conferences	8
Visits to Seminary, College, and University Campuses	28
Congregational Anniversaries, Dedications, etc.	44
Other Conferences, Miscellaneous Conventions, etc.	31
Miscellaneous Events—Out of town	65
Miscellaneous Meetings/Events—St. Louis	82
Meetings with Individual Pastors, Lay, Staff, etc.	Countless

Visits from, to, or with Current or Potential
Partner Churches

American Association of Lutheran Churches	4
Canada	1
Germany	1
Haiti	1
Indonesia	1
Kenya	2
Latvia	1
Lithuania	1
SELK	1
Sudan	1
Meeting with President George W. Bush	1

Concluding Comments

Based on my extensive travels throughout the Synod these past 6 years, participating in many district pastoral conferences and conventions, meeting with district presidents, boards of directors, district staff members, pastors, teachers, and lay leaders from many congregations of the LCMS, I have a number of observations to share:

1. The LCMS has a tremendous opportunity and virtually unlimited resources from the hand of God to experience a reversal of the trend of the past 30 years that has marked us as a declining church body. I believe that excellence and faithfulness in Christian education endeavors, human care opportunities, and re-energized mission strategies in our Synod, centered in Word and Sacraments, will result in the LCMS being recognized worldwide as a dynamic, Christ-centered movement and a vibrant, vital gathering of biblical and confessional Christians in mission to the world. We are a biblical and confessional church. Our confession must and will be heard.
2. The LCMS is being refreshed with a renewed spirit of zeal for the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ. At times, this zeal is hampered by a partially fractured party spirit. But the presence of God in Word and Sacrament among us, the hope of Christ that is alive in the hearts of our people, and the mission focus that is welling up in so many of our congregations, institutions and entities give me great hope for the future of our beloved Synod.
3. The LCMS is held together by the grace of God. The commitment of her pastors, teachers, people, and congregations to that grace of God is increasingly evident. In response to God's grace, the people of this Synod are being compelled and propelled by the love of Christ to engage passionately the billions of unsaved people in this world with the confession of God's grace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the midst of such a time as this, we must seize the opportunities provided by the Spirit of God, overcome our challenges by the grace of God, and boldly move ahead in the mission given us by the Son of God. As our mission statement declares:

"In grateful response to God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of the LCMS is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world."

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (1 Cor. 15:58)

Respectfully submitted,



President's Report Part I, Addendum A

ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY GREETINGS

From Gerald B. Kieschnick, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Orlando, Florida
August 12, 2005

Presiding Bishop Hanson, Assembly Members, Special Guests, Friends in Christ:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, Savior of the world and Lord of the universe, through whom alone we have forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation!

I couldn't help but observe during your assembly proceedings that you are no strangers to the joys and sorrows of parliamentary procedure. As a matter of fact, there was an occasion on which I closed my eyes and felt absolutely certain that I was at a convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod!

Seriously, it is my privilege today to bring you greetings on behalf of the 2.4 million baptized members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Even in the midst of our endeavor to reach 100 million unreached or uncommitted people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by 2017, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we have been praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit upon your assembly gathered here as children of the heavenly Father, "Marked with the Cross of Christ Forever."

In our liturgy for Holy Baptism, we speak these words, "Receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified." In Baptism, we are marked with the Cross of Christ forever.

Luther wrote in this regard what we also confess, "Since the water and the Word together constitute one Baptism, body and soul shall be saved and live forever . . . No greater jewel, therefore, can adorn our body and soul than Baptism, for through it we obtain perfect holiness and salvation, which no other kind of life and no work on earth can acquire" (LC, Baptism, 46, Tappert).

As Lutheran Christians, we cherish this great jewel that adorns us and marks us with the Cross of Christ. Likewise, we treasure the holy, precious Word of God that reveals the perfect law of God and the merciful Gospel of Christ—the light for the path of the Christian Church. With the confessors, “we believe, teach, and confess that the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testament are the only rule and norm according to which all doctrines and teachers alike must be appraised and judged” (FC, Epitome, 1, Tappert).

Having received the treasure of God’s Word, as fallible human beings we are challenged with being true to this Word in the midst of a “dark and perverse generation.” Especially in this post-modern era, we are called upon to heed the Scripture that warns of days when people will listen only to what their itching ears want to hear. Meanwhile, the Word of God teaches that there is only one voice to be heard and followed, the voice of Jesus (John 10:4). It is imperative that we always strive faithfully to adhere to the Word of God in all aspects of faith and life, also in times of discord and discontent.

To that end, we in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod sincerely desire to be faithful to the Word of God in our life and work, both internally and externally. This includes our working relationships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We will continue to strive to be faithful, by the grace of God and under the authority of God’s Word as the rule and norm of the Christian faith and life. We encourage you and we pray for you in your efforts to do the same.

We in the The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are sensitive to the struggles experienced within the ELCA, including the strongly held, opposing positions in your church on issues acted upon by this assembly this very day. We ourselves are no strangers to internal struggles.

In the Constitutions of each of our national church bodies, we pledge allegiance to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran

Confessions. However, it is clear that our two churches do not always share the same understanding of what is meant by such allegiance. All too often we do not come to the same conclusions regarding what we understand the Scriptures and Confessions to say. It is clear that we have reached different conclusions in a number of areas of faith and life, church and ministry, internal and external relationships. Decisions made by LCMS national conventions and decisions made by ELCA churchwide assemblies are apparently reflective of different exegetical principles and hermeneutical conclusions at work in our respective church bodies.

We humbly and respectfully pray that we will be able to come to harmonious conclusions regarding the authority and interpretation of the Word of God, so that the distance between us will not be widened, but will be bridged. I pray for both of our church bodies a special measure of wisdom, humility, understanding, and faithfulness to God’s holy revelation for our faith and His holy will for our lives.

Martin Luther writes regarding Baptism, “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. If we wish to be Christians, we must practice the work that makes us Christians” (LC, Baptism, 84–85, Tappert).

Marked with the Cross of Christ in Baptism, may God help us in the fulfillment of our calling as the baptized children of God that we may “be found in faith and amid its fruits . . . [and] practice the work that makes us Christians.”

Please be assured that all of you are in my prayers and in the prayers of the pastors and people of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. God’s grace, mercy, and peace be with you all!

Gerald B. Kieschnick, *President*

R1-8-01

**Special Report of the President to the 2007
Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
Synod regarding the Lawsuit against the
President and First Vice-President of the Synod
and against the Synod Itself**

A notable event that occurred within this past triennium that has caused much concern in the Synod was a lawsuit filed Aug. 15, 2005, against the President and First Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and against the Synod itself. This special report from the President to the 2007 convention of the Synod attempts to relate, as objectively as is humanly possible, details and actions taken in regard to the issues and resolution of that lawsuit.

To begin, the following news release from the Nov. 1, 2006, issue of LCMS e-News offers a summary of the essence of the matter.

DISMISSAL OF LAWSUIT

The lawsuit filed in the Circuit Court of St. Louis County, Mo., in August 2005 (known as the “Anderson Lawsuit”) has now been fully dismissed, with all clerical details and waiting periods satisfied. The lawsuit was filed initially by approximately 80 LCMS members against President Gerald Kieschnick, First Vice-President William Diekelman, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (as a necessary nominal defendant).

The plaintiffs initiated the lawsuit based upon their belief that exceptions requested by district boards of directors and granted by the President of the Synod that allowed circuits not meeting bylaw criteria to send delegates to the Synod’s 2004 convention were excessive. A second issue in the lawsuit was the plaintiffs’ belief that certain official opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod unlawfully restricted the authority of the Synod’s Board of Directors.

In February of 2006, at the initiative of the Board of Directors, a four-member committee of the Board met and conferred with a four-member committee of the plaintiffs. After a series of meetings, an agreement was reached (see separate news release, “Anderson Lawsuit Agreement”).

In the weeks after agreement was reached, the Agreement was signed by a large majority of the plaintiffs. However, prior to the court date for presenting the Agreement and advocating dismissal of the lawsuit, four members of the Board of Directors filed a Motion to Intervene as a result of concerns associated with that portion of the lawsuit pertaining to Board of Directors and Commission on Constitutional Matters authority issues.

Subsequent discussions resulted in the withdrawing of the Motion to Intervene, paving the way for a final dismissal of the Anderson suit.

Additional information of significance is contained in a public statement titled “Response to Question re 2004 LCMS Convention Delegates and Other Matters” issued by eight elected leaders of the Synod on May 6, 2005, which is reprinted in the following section.

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION RE 2004 LCMS
CONVENTION DELEGATES AND OTHER
MATTERS**

In recent days, some members and individuals in congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have contacted Synod and some district headquarters with questions and concerns regarding a letter that has been circulated to a number of LCMS congregations. The letter solicits participation in proposed litigation regarding exceptions granted for electoral circuits for the 2004 Synod convention, the authority of the Board of the Directors under Missouri law, and the status of related opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The purpose of this communication is to provide factual information in response to these questions and concerns.

BYLAW REGARDING VOTING DELEGATES

First, it is important to note the bylaw of the Synod regarding voting delegates and the granting of exceptions to electoral circuits sending voting delegates to a convention of the Synod. The applicable bylaw is from the 2001 *Handbook* of the Synod, which reads as follows.

Bylaw 3.03 Voting Delegates

Voting delegates shall consist of one pastor and one layman from each electoral Circuit. An electoral Circuit shall consist either of one or two adjacent visitation Circuits, as shall be determined by each District, on the basis of the following requirements: Each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an aggregate communicant membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000. Exceptions to these requirements and limitations can be made only by the President of the Synod upon request of a District Board of Directors.

**SYNOD PRESIDENT’S COMMUNICATIONS
WITH COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS**

The following information shared by the Synod President with the Council of Presidents in their regular meetings (and subsequently with the Board of Directors) in reference to the granting of exceptions may also be helpful.

**September 2002 Synod President’s Report
to LCMS Council of Presidents**

Electoral Circuits

In my initial long range planning and preparation for the 2004 Synodical Convention, I have reviewed the Handbook of the Synod regarding the matter of Electoral Circuits.

As I recall the practice of previous Synodical Presidents, I am reminded of the following quote in a letter from President Barry regarding this subject prior to the 1998 LCMS Convention, in a letter dated April 9, 1998, granting exemption to two Electoral Circuits in the Texas District. President Barry wrote:

“Exemptions are made on the basis of a circuit fulfilling one of two requirements of the Bylaws for an electoral circuit; namely, either seven congregations or 1500 communicant members.”

In an attempt to provide guidelines for each District that are consistent with historic practice, I plan to follow a similar principle, in general, when considering any request that may come from your District Board of Directors. Specifically, I envision giving positive consideration to requests for “exceptions to these requirements and limitations” of the definition of a Circuit that satisfy at least one of the requirements for a min-

imum number of 7 member congregations or a minimum “aggregate communicant membership” of 1,500.

It is my intention and pledge to work with each of you and with your District Board of Directors in resolving any unusual cases that may be received in my office as a request for exception to the “requirements and limitations” noted above.

Although it may seem a bit early to be thinking about such matters, I am sensitive to the rapidity with which time passes, especially with the first District Convention scheduled to begin January 26 in Grand Forks, ND. You will have many items “on your plate” in the months preceding your District Convention!

The Handbook defines the timetable for election of delegates to the Synodical Convention:

3.05 Election of Delegates

a. Each electoral Circuit shall meet at the call of the Counselor(s) to elect its delegates not later than nine months prior to the opening day of the convention.

Since the Synodical Convention begins July 10, 2004, this means that your Electoral Circuits must have their work of delegate elections completed no later than October 10, 2003. Therefore, if your Board of Directors desires to request an exception to the electoral circuit “requirements and limitations,” my office will need to receive these requests no later than July 10, 2003. This notification should provide ample time for you to process your requests and for me to consider them. Thanks for your assistance and understanding in this matter.

November 2002 Synod President's Report to LCMS Council of Presidents

Electoral Circuits

In an attempt to provide guidelines for each District that are consistent with historic practice, I envision giving positive consideration to requests for “exceptions to ... requirements and limitations” of the definition of a Circuit that satisfy at least one of the requirements for a minimum number of 7 member congregations or a minimum “aggregate communicant membership” of 1,500.

February 2005 Synod President's Report to LCMS Council of Presidents

Voting Delegates for 2007 Synod Convention

While I have already mentioned this matter verbally on two previous occasions, I encourage you again to review your District's Electoral Circuit configuration to determine whether or not any changes need to be made. If that should be the case, my counsel is to handle this matter through the appropriate channels ASAP, in order to avoid the necessity of requesting exceptions to voting delegate requirements in preparation for the 2007 Synod convention.

April 2005 Synod President's Report to LCMS Council of Presidents

Voting Delegates for 2007 Synod Convention

In preparation for the 2007 convention of the Synod, at each meeting of the COP since the issue addressed in the paragraph above was raised I have counseled all District Presidents to address the question of electoral circuits in your respective Districts. Specifically, I encourage your District Board of Directors or District convention, as the case may be, to make any changes to the configuration of your electoral circuits deemed prudent and proper in accord with Bylaw re-

quirements of 7–20 congregations and 1,500–10,000 communicants per circuit. I repeat that counsel once more, with the evangelical encouragement that this be done as soon as possible. Doing so will help avoid any further anxiety, criticisms, or concerns. It will also assist in preparation and logistics regarding the number of voting delegates to the 2007 convention of the Synod.

SYNOD BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTIONS

In response to a November 3, 2004, letter from an LCMS pastor asking the Board of Directors of the Synod to file a similar suit against the Synod President and others, the board conducted an investigation into the matter of exceptions for electoral circuits sending voting delegates to the 2004 convention. This study included an inquiry into the actions of district boards of directors, who must request that such exceptions be made by the President of the Synod. The investigation demonstrated that the decisions and actions of the President were in accord with the Bylaws of the Synod. To the extent that district secretaries responded to requests for their board of directors' minutes, the investigation also demonstrated that the districts were in compliance with Bylaw 3.03. A brief chart showing the number of voting delegates, the number of delegate exceptions requested and granted, and a review of these facts for the past three conventions is included as Addendum 1 to this communication. The complete report of the Secretary of the Synod regarding this matter is available on the Synod's Web site.

The Board of Directors also took the following related action recorded in the February 24–25, 2005, minutes of the board:

(F.) To Proceed with Seeking a Judicial Declaration

A member of the Board placed into the docket a proposed action advocating that the Board of Directors proceed with seeking a judicial declaration to decide whether the delegate representation at the 2004 convention was valid and whether the outcome of any action taken by the convention was affected. After discussion, the following resolution was introduced: “*Resolved*, That the Board of Directors deny the request made in the November 3, 2004, letter that asked the Board to initiate a lawsuit against President Kieschnick and others regarding the creation of 188 [sic] additional delegates to the 2004 convention, the legality of convention Resolution 7-02A that relates to the authority of the Board of Directors, and the validity of certain CCM opinions; and be it further *Resolved*, That the Board of Directors express its concern regarding these issues and the need that they be resolved definitively and clearly.” After further discussion, an amendment was offered to shorten the resolution to end with the words “...and others” in the first resolve. The amendment carried, as also did the amended resolution. President Kieschnick asked that the minutes record that he refrained from voting. The resolution as adopted read as follows:

Resolved, That the Board of Directors deny the request made in the November 3, 2004 letter that asked the Board to initiate a lawsuit against President Kieschnick and others.

It should also be noted that the Board of Directors and the President of the Synod are moving forward with the requirement of Resolution 7-02A of the 2004 convention that “directs the President and the Board of Directors jointly to appoint a committee to address the matter and report to the 2007 con-

vention.” “The matter” refers to a large extent to the very issues that the proposed lawsuit intends to raise. The Board and the President have agreed upon an appointment process and have made their respective appointments. Arrangements for an initial meeting of this special committee will be made during the Board’s May 2005 meeting.

CONCLUSION

This information is being shared with the Synod in the hope and desire that the members and individuals in congregations of the Synod will be fully informed and reassured regarding these matters. We are prayerful that any congregation or individual solicited to join in such needless and divisive litigation involving these matters will decline to do so, especially given the fact that the Board of Directors has investigated the electoral circuit matter and has resolved not to pursue such action, and given the additional fact that the Board and the President have appointed a committee to look into the very issues being raised by the would-be lawsuit. The Holy Spirit-inspired words of St. Paul are commended for prayerful consideration:

¹If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? ²Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? ³Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! ⁴Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church! ⁵I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? ⁶But instead, one brother goes to law against another—and this in front of unbelievers!

⁷The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? ⁸Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.

⁹Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders ¹⁰nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:1–11)

Response submitted on May 6, 2005, by the following:

Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President of the Synod

Dr. William Diekelman, First Vice-President of the Synod

Dr. Raymond Hartwig, Secretary of the Synod

Dr. Tom Kuchta, Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer of the Synod

Dr. Robert Kuhn, Chairman, Board of Directors of the Synod

Rev. James Fandrey, Vice-Chairman, Board of Directors of the Synod

Rev. William Hoesman, Chairman, Council of Presidents of the Synod

Dr. Larry Stoterau, Vice-Chairman, Council of Presidents of the Synod

ADDENDUM 1: Voting Delegate Registrations and Attendance

The following is a comparison according to districts of voting delegate registrations and attendance at the Synod’s 1998, 2001, and 2004 conventions:

- The numbers in **boldface print** represent the number of voting delegates registered for each convention.
- The numbers following in *italic print* represent the number of voting delegates that actually attended each convention.
- The numbers following in parentheses () indicate the number of requested exceptions granted by the President of the Synod according to Bylaw 3.03.
- The numbers in brackets [] indicate the number of such requests for exceptions that were denied.

	1998	2001	2004
Atlantic	24 22 (3) [1]	20 19 (4) [4]	24 24 (6)
Cal./Nev./Hawaii	36 35 (4)	32 32 (4)	36 36 (4)
Central Illinois	32 32	32 31	32 32
Eastern	32 32	28 28 (1)	32 32 (5)
English	38 36	40 39 (11) [1]	38 38 (8)
Florida/Georgia	32 32 (1) [1]	31 32 (1) [1]	44 44 (7)
Indiana	43 43	44 44	44 44 (1)
Iowa East	26 26	26 26 (1)	26 26
Iowa West	40 40	39 40	40 40 (1)
Kansas	32 32	32 32	32 31
Michigan	88 86 (3)	88 88 (5)	88 88 (5)
Mid-South	22 22	21 21 (1)	24 24 (1)
Minnesota North	36 35	36 36 (1)	36 36 (1)
Minnesota South	52 52	52 52	52 51 (2)
Missouri	58 58	58 58 (1)	58 57 (1)
Montana	12 12 (1)	12 12 (1)	12 12 (2)
Nebraska	44 43	44 44	44 44 (1)
New England	18 17 (2)	18 18 (2)	18 18 (3)
New Jersey	12 12	12 11	10 9 (1)
North Dakota	16 16	16 16 (3)	12 12
North Wisconsin	40 39	40 40	40 40
Northern Illinois	52 52	49 49 (2) [1]	52 52 (3)
Northwest	48 47	48 48 (1)	50 49 (5)
Ohio	30 30	30 30	30 30
Oklahoma	14 14	16 16 (1)	18 18 (4)
Pacific Southwest	56 55 (1)	52 52 (2) [3]	64 64 (2)
Rocky Mountain	28 28	28 28 (1)	28 28 (1)
SELC	6 6	6 6	6 6 (1)
South Dakota	22 22	22 22	22 22 (2)
South Wisconsin	54 54 (1)	53 53 (2)	54 54 (1)
Southeastern	38 38 (1) [1]	36 36 (1) [1]	40 40 (2)
Southern	28 28	28 28 (2)	28 28 (3)
Southern Illinois	14 14	14 14	22 22
Texas	62 61 (2)	72 72 (6) [2]	76 75 (13)
Wyoming	14 14 (2)	14 14 (2)	14 14 (2)
TOTALS	1199 1185 (21) [3]	1191 1188 (56) [13]	1246 1240 (88) [0]

In summary:	1998	2001	2004
• Number of visitation circuits:	629	627	644
• Number of electoral circuits:	601	596	623
• Number of voting delegates registered:	1199	1191	1246
• Number of voting delegates in attendance:	1185	1188	1240
• Number of districts requesting exceptions:	11	23	28
• Number of exceptions granted:	21	56	88
• Number of exceptions not granted:	3	13	0
• Number of delegates from exceptions:	42	112	176
• Percentage of delegates from exceptions:	3.5%	9.5%	14.2%

Excerpted from Report to LCMS Board of Directors,
February 24–25, 2005

Compiled by Dr. Raymond Hartwig, LCMS Secretary

[NOTE: In addition to the information in the original table included above with this report, the numbers for the 2007 convention have been shown in a table included at the end of this special report for the sake of complete comparison. (See Special Report Addendum A)]

In spite of the counsel offered above, a number of individuals pursued the matter, soliciting pastors and congregations to add their names to the lawsuit. Two LCMS laymen who were leaders of the movement to file the lawsuit met with the President and Synod's legal counsel on July 25, 2005, to discuss their intentions. Others had previously encouraged the filing of "a friendly lawsuit" to address the issues of the relationship between the Board of Directors and the Commission on Constitutional Matters, a matter addressed by Resolution 7-02A of the 2004 convention. Ultimately, the lawsuit was filed Aug. 15, 2005.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on Aug. 19–20, 2005, the following resolutions were adopted after being discussed in executive session, with the President and First Vice-President of the Synod being excused from that session:

Resolved, That it is in the best interests of the Synod and its officers to have separate legal counsel for the officer defendants and for the Synod and to pursue insurance coverage and respond to the lawsuit accordingly. (The President of the Synod abstained from voting due to potential conflict of interest.)

Resolved, That the Synod indemnify the officers of the Synod to the extent of the deductible if insurance coverage is available and to indemnify them for their full legal expenses if coverage is not available, pursuant to Board of Directors Policy 5.8.5. (The President of the Synod abstained from voting due to potential conflict of interest.)

The Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer of the Synod has included in his report to the convention that the cost to the Synod for responding to this lawsuit was \$500,000, which includes the cost of responding to the motion to intervene filed by four members of the Board of Directors on July 26, 2006. That motion to intervene was subsequently withdrawn during a regular meeting of the Board of Directors on Aug. 25–26, 2006.

As of the date this report is being written, all but a few original plaintiffs have signed the agreement to dismiss, which is summarized in the official summary report below.

SUMMARY REPORT (5/24/06)

A lawsuit that was filed in the Circuit Court of St. Louis County, Mo., in August, 2005, by approximately 80 LCMS members against President Gerald B. Kieschnick, First Vice-President William R. Diekelman, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as a necessary nominal defendant has been resolved with all claims dismissed.

The plaintiffs initiated the suit based upon their beliefs that the number of exceptions made for delegates to the Synod's 2004 convention by the President of the Synod upon request of district boards of directors was excessive and not in compliance with the Synod's Bylaw 3.1.2, and that certain official opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) unlawfully restricted the authority of the Synod's Board of Directors. The President and Vice-President denied all allegations of wrongdoing and moved to dismiss the claims. The Synod also filed a separate motion to dismiss the suit.

The questions raised in the lawsuit regarding the exceptions were based upon the increased numbers of exceptions made for the 2004 convention compared to exceptions made for the Synod's 1998 and 2001 conventions and upon incom-

plete information from an early report published by the Secretary of the Synod. Following the initiation of the lawsuit, an updated report was prepared by the Secretary and posted on the Synod's Web site.

The concerns regarding certain CCM opinions that address or impact the authority of the Board of Directors had been raised before and during the Synod's 2004 convention and were the subject of a convention resolution (Res. 7-02A) that directed the President and the Board of Directors to appoint a committee to conduct a study and to report and make recommendations to the Synod's 2007 convention.

In January of this year the Synod's Board of Directors adopted a resolution, "consistent with Matthew 5:25, in the best interests of the Synod, and with a desire for peace and unity," to establish a committee of the Board to meet with representatives of the plaintiffs to see if the matter could be resolved out of court. Accordingly, a committee of four Board members was appointed which, along with President Kieschnick and Vice-President Diekelman, met and conferred with a committee of the plaintiffs until an agreement to resolve the claims was reached.

The Agreement includes a dismissal of all claims against President Kieschnick, Vice-President Diekelman, and the Synod. It also includes an expression of regret by the plaintiffs for the pejorative language contained in and resulting from the filing of the lawsuit and an apology to the Synod, the President, the First Vice-President, and all others offended by the lawsuit. No disciplinary action for participation in the lawsuit will be taken against plaintiffs who sign the Agreement.

In the Agreement the President commits to reaffirming his communications to the district presidents of the Synod regarding the implementation of bylaws governing visitation and electoral circuits. In the spirit of Bylaw 3.1.2, he will first direct individual visitation circuits not meeting bylaw requirements for electoral circuits to the remedy provided by the bylaw (to combine with an adjacent visitation circuit to form an electoral circuit).

The Agreement also includes provisions related to the issue of the CCM opinions and the authority of the Board of Directors, the subject of Resolution 7-02A adopted by the 2004 Synod convention. The President will give priority to the Resolution 7-02A Committee created by the 2004 Synod convention by referencing the committee's work in his convention report, by including it in the convention *Workbook*, and by allowing ample time for the convention floor committee to which the committee's work is assigned to present its report and resolutions to the convention. He will also recommend to the convention the approval of a standing rule that will allow 90 minutes of continuous consideration, presentation, and debate of the resolution(s) pertaining to the 7-02A Committee's report and will schedule the floor committee's report for presentation in a session of the convention early enough to allow for proper consideration of and action on its resolution(s) regarding the Resolution 7-02A Committee's report.

In the interest of peace and harmony in the Synod, neither the plaintiffs nor the defendants will request of the other or of the Court payment of their attorneys' fees and costs associated with the lawsuit.

The resolution of this lawsuit was made possible by the recognition by all involved of the need to approach the task as fellow Christians intent upon resolving the matter for the good of the Synod and its proclamation of the Gospel. The parties to this matter support the agreements that have been made and the measures that will be taken to satisfy the concerns that have been raised. They have pledged to work together to effect the terms of the agreement.

Some have questioned the wisdom of the following portion of the agreement dismissing the lawsuit: "In the interest of peace and harmony in the Synod, neither the plaintiffs nor the defendants will request of the other or of the Court payment of their attorneys' fees and costs associated with the lawsuit." This matter was discussed at length, both during conversations between plaintiffs and Board of Directors members and also in the Board of Directors itself.

Many members of the Board felt strongly that the Synod should seek reimbursement of these fees from the plaintiffs who initiated the lawsuit. Vice-President Diekelman and I were among them. Yet as the conversations continued, two factors emerged that led to the Board's decision not to seek reimbursement. One factor was the possibility that if the case were to go to court, a judge or jury could make a decision forcing the Synod to pay plaintiff's legal fees. The second factor was the difficulty in collecting legal fees from approximately 80 pastors and/or congregations, even were the court to instruct the plaintiffs to reimburse the Synod's legal costs. Many of the plaintiffs were retired pastors, living on modest, fixed incomes. A few plaintiffs had even died after agreeing to file the lawsuit. Collecting legal fees from their widows and/or children was not a viable option. So the decision was made, as the statement says, because doing so seemed to be "in the interest of peace and harmony in the Synod."

Of significance in this case is the work of the Commission on Constitutional Matters in reply to questions submitted to the Commission regarding the appropriateness or lack thereof of members of the Synod filing a lawsuit against other members of the Synod. Following are excerpts from the minutes of the Nov. 28–29, 2005, meeting of the Commission:

109. Proper Dissent and Dispute by Members of the Synod (05-2444)

Question 1: Is it in harmony with the Constitution and Bylaws (1.3, 1.4.1, 1.7, 1.8, 1.10, 3.1.1, and 3.1.6.2) of the Synod for any member of the Synod or any group within the Synod as an avenue or form of dissent or dispute to engage in promoting non-compliance with the resolutions of the Synod and making charges against the Synod, the President, and others of the Synod by use of lawsuits, publications, letters, or meetings and conferences that are not in keeping with the polity of the Synod as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws?

Opinion: No. Every member of the Synod (individual and congregation) joins the Synod voluntarily and in doing so agrees to relate to, live, and serve together with one another ("walk together") in harmony with the Constitution and Bylaws...

In their agreement to live and work together in harmony (in harmony with the Constitution and Bylaws) the members of the Synod, when and where disputes exist, are required, subject to limited exceptions, to use the avenue provided by the Synod to settle disputes, as set forth in Bylaw section 1.10, "Dispute Resolution of the Synod," which in part states:

The Holy Scriptures (1 Cor. 6:1–7) urge Christians to settle their differences by laying them before the "members of the brotherhood." Therefore, the Synod in the spirit of 1 Corinthians 6 calls upon all parties to a disagreement, accusation, controversy, or disciplinary action to rely exclusively and fully on the Synod's system of reconciliation and conflict resolution. The use of the Synod's conflict resolution procedures shall be the exclusive and final remedy for those who are in dispute. Fitness for ministry and other theological matters must be determined within the church. Parties are urged, in matters of a doctrinal nature, to follow the procedures as outlined in Bylaw section 1.8. (Bylaw 1.10.1.1)

Therefore, all members of the Synod are required to resolve all matters of dissent or all disputes by the avenues and structures available to them as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod without resorting to secular courts and without resorting to avenues, means, structures, or communications that are foreign or contrary to the synodical agreements and which are not in harmony with the polity of the Synod.

Question 5: Is it in harmony with the Constitution and above Bylaws of the Synod for any member of the Synod to engage in dissenting (or promoting non-compliance) against the Synod by use of a lawsuit, when such members have not used the avenues of dissent as set forth in Bylaw 1.8 of the Synod?

Opinion: No. A lawsuit is not a legitimate avenue of dissent. In the agreement to live and work together, a member of the Synod is required to follow the avenue of dissent as set forth in Bylaw section 1.8, including honoring and upholding the resolutions of the Synod. While a lawsuit may be an appropriate process in which to resolve a dispute in the secular world, members of the Synod are governed by Bylaw section 1.8 as the required, exclusive, and agreed-to avenue of dissent and Bylaw section 1.10 as the required, exclusive, and agreed-to method of dispute resolution.

Question 6: Is it in harmony with the Constitution and above Bylaws of the Synod for any member of the Synod to engage in dispute against the President of the Synod or the Synod itself by use of a lawsuit, when such members have not used the avenue of dispute as set forth in Bylaw 1.10 of the Synod?

Opinion: No. In the agreement to live and work together, a member of the Synod is required to rely exclusively and fully on the Synod's system of reconciliation and conflict resolution. Unless the dispute is one concerning property rights or contract arrangements under Bylaw 1.10.3 (a) or (b), such suit would be a gross violation of the process of Bylaw section 1.10 and the covenants which bind members together in the Synod. The use of the Synod's conflict resolution procedures is the exclusive and final remedy for those who are in dispute (Bylaw section 1.10).

Question 7: If any of the above is not in harmony with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, what remedy does the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod provide?

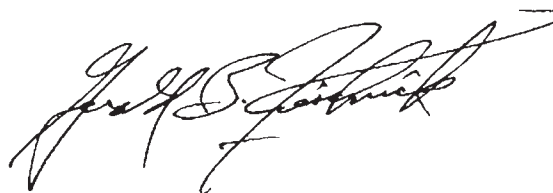
Opinion: The Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod provide disciplinary measures against any member who violates the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod. Such provisions include Bylaw section 1.10, "Dispute Resolution of the Synod": "The use of the Synod's conflict resolution procedures shall be the exclusive and final remedy for those who are in dispute" (Bylaw 1.10.1) and Article XIII of the Constitution, "Expulsion from the Synod," and its procedures as set forth in Bylaw sections 2.13–2.16:

The only remedy available to the Synod in response to improper activities in the life of such a member of the Synod is, as is true with respect to violations of other conditions of membership or is otherwise appropriate under the Constitution or these Bylaws, and following the procedures set forth in these Bylaws, to take such action as may lead to termination of that membership and the attendant rights and privileges. (Bylaw 2.13.2)

Some of the matters of concern articulated in the lawsuit are addressed in the report of the 2004 Resolution 7-02A Committee, which will be sent to all delegates prior to the convention. The 2007 Convention will have ample opportunity to consider the 7-02A committee report and to take any action the delegates deem appropriate.

At the time of writing of this report, some of the original participants and plaintiffs in the lawsuit are engaged in an effort to communicate to delegates to this convention concerning topics in the lawsuit in a way that misrepresents the truth and casts aspersions on the integrity and motives of district boards of directors and officers of the Synod. I truly hope and fervently pray that God's Spirit will touch the hearts of those involved in this endeavor, that all would work and walk together in a way that builds harmony and peace in our Synod, not divisiveness and contention.

Respectfully submitted,



Special Report, Addendum A

Voting Delegate Registrations and Attendance

*According to the Secretary of the Synod, prior to 2001 delegate exceptions were handled "informally," so the precision of figures for 1998 is questionable.

	1998				2001				2004				2007			
District	1998 No. of Reg. Voting Dele- gates*	Reg. Voting Delegates Attended	Excep- tions granted under Bylaw 3.03	Excep- tions denied under Bylaw 3.03	2001 No. of Reg. Voting Dele- gates	Reg. Voting Delegates Attended	Excep- tions granted under Bylaw 3.03	Excep- tions denied under Bylaw 3.03	2004 No. of Reg. Voting Dele- gates	Reg. Voting Delegates Attended	Excep- tions granted under Bylaw 3.03	Excep- tions denied under Bylaw 3.03	2007 Tentative No. of Reg. Voting Dele- gates	Reg. Voting Delegates Attended	Excep- tions granted under Bylaw 3.1.2	Excep- tions denied under Bylaw 3.1.2
AT	24	22	3	1	20	19	4	4	24	24	6	3.03	24		4	
CNH	36	35	4		32	32	4		36	36	4		32		1	
CID	32	32			32	31			32	32			32			
EAS	32	32			28	28	1		32	32	5		34		2	
ENG	38	36			40	39	11	1	38	38	8		40		8	
F-G	32	32	1	1	31	32	1	1	44	44	7		42		4	2
IN	43	43			44	44			44	44	1		48		2	
IA E	26	26			26	26	1		26	26			26			
IA W	40	40			39	40			40	40	1		37		1	
KS	32	32			32	32			32	31			34		2	
MI	88	86	3		88	88	5		88	88	5		88		4	
MDS	22	22			21	21	1		24	24	1		24		1	
MNN	36	35			36	36	1		36	36	1		36		1	
MNS	52	52			52	52			52	51	2		50		1	
MO	58	58			58	58	1		58	57	1		58		2	
MT	12	12	1		12	12	1		12	12	2		12		2	
NEB	44	43			44	44			44	44	1		44		2	
NE	18	17	2		18	18	2		18	18	3		18			
NJ	12	12			12	11			10	9	1		10			
ND	16	16			16	16	3		12	12			12			
N WI	40	39			40	40			40	40			40			
NID	52	52			49	49	2	1	52	52	3		56			
NOW	48	47			48	48	1		50	49	5		50		4	
OH	30	30			30	30			30	30			32			
OK	14	14			16	16	1		18	18	4		18		4	
PSW	56	55	1		52	52	2	3	64	64	2		64		3	
RM	28	28			28	28	1		28	28	1		30		2	
SELC	6	6			6	6			6	6	1		8		1	
SD	22	22			22	22			22	22	2		22			
S WI	54	54	1		53	53	2		54	54	1		51		2	
SED	38	38	1	1	36	36	1	1	40	40	2		42		2	
SOU	28	28			28	28	2		28	28	3		28		3	
SID	14	14			14	14			22	22			22			
TX	62	61	2		72	72	6	2	76	75	13		74		7	
WY	14	14	2		14	14	2		14	14	2		12			
TOT	1199	1185	21	3	1191	1188	56	13	1246	1240	88	0	1250		65	2

Part II

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, Savior of the world and Lord of the universe, through whom alone we receive forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation!

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to this Floor Committee Meeting Weekend, in preparation for the 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. As you are well aware, convention activities will begin eight weeks from tomorrow. Many in the Synod are looking forward with great anticipation to this convention, and I pray that is true of each of you, as well.

In my travels around the Synod and in communications from pastors, educators, and laypeople from throughout the Synod, I am greatly encouraged by the voluntarily and freely offered assurance that many, many people and many, many congregations are holding each of us, the entire Synod and our national convention in their private and public prayers. Although originally offered in a context of prayer for healing, the words of the apostle James seem fitting for our church body as well: “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” (James 5:16). It is my prayer that the prayers of the many who have been made righteous by the blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, our Savior, will indeed be received with favor by God Himself and that His blessing will abound in our midst during the days, weeks, months, and years ahead.

Floor Committee Selection Process and Assignment

There are several aspects of this Report of the President of the Synod: Part II. Before delving into specific areas of importance and concern, I believe it is important to say a few words about how and why each one of you has been selected to serve your God and your Synod as a member of a convention floor committee. The Bylaws of our Synod address this important matter:

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

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

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

Those words describe in general how you got here. More specifically, in appointing each of you to your respective floor committee, I asked for and received assistance from your district president, who several months ago received information from my office regarding the process that would be followed in the selection of floor committee members.

Basically, that process recognized the variation in numbers of convention voting delegates from each of the 35 districts of the Synod and created a formula for floor committee member recommendations in proportion to the number of voting delegates from each district. Essentially, the larger the number of voting delegates in a district, the greater the number of floor committee member recommendations that were received from that district for potential floor committee ser-

vice. Resultantly, district representation across the whole of all the committees is generally proportionate in number to the size of the voting delegation and number of floor committee recommendations from each district, with a minimum of at least one floor committee member from each district in addition to the district president. Your district president was quite helpful in identifying the gifts, interests, and experiences of the voting delegates from your district, from among whom you were chosen for this position.

Serving on a floor committee includes privilege, task, and process, all briefly described in the remainder of Bylaw 3.1.7 and in Bylaw 3.1.8.1:

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

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

3.1.8.1 The first issue of *Today's Business* containing proposed resolutions shall be sent to all registered delegates of the convention and to each congregation of the Synod.

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

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

Those of you who serve as floor committee chairmen and vice chairmen are well aware of the process by which you were selected by the Synod President. Essentially, a review was conducted of Synod conventions since 1980, providing objective information regarding how frequently and how recently each district has been privileged to offer the services of its district president as floor committee chairman. In addition, consideration was given to gifts, interests, and experiences of district presidents that would be compatible with the needs of each floor committee.

In all cases, the process of appointment of floor committee chairmen and members was bathed in prayer and purposeful reflection. While others may have been chosen for the position you now hold, the fact remains that, in the words of the letter written by the apostles and elders in Acts 15 (the portion of Scripture, incidentally, that summarizes one of the two reasons for the forming of this “Synodical Union” we know and love as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod), “it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us” that each of you be appointed.

A Word of Prayer

With that introduction, I invite you to join me in a word of prayer before we proceed.

Dear heavenly Father, we praise and magnify your holy name. We thank you for the gift of the life, perfect obedience, suffering, death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Pour out upon us the gifts of your Holy Spirit, by whose working through Word and Sacrament we have become your children. Fill our hearts and our minds, our lips and our lives with the truth and the power that you alone can provide. May every word we speak and every deed we perform bring honor and glory to your name, edification to your people, and expan-

sion to your kingdom, in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Convention Theme and Biblical Basis

In the Report of the President: Part I, printed in your *Convention Workbook*, I spent some time unpacking the theme of our convention, “One Message—Christ!” I believe it is important briefly to review this information.

The theme of this convention is the second part of the three-fold vision of *One Mission, One Message, One People*. Our theme is “One Message—Christ! His Love Is Here for You!” Its scriptural basis is 1 John 4:9–11:

This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Many passages of Holy Scripture articulate the truth that Jesus Christ alone is the Savior of the world. The apostle John, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, addresses the person and work of Christ from a personal perspective, focusing specifically and powerfully on the benefit of God’s love, made known to mankind in the person of Christ, for each and every person in the world.

In addition, John clearly focuses his Spirit-given words on matters of great importance for us as Lutheran Christians, namely, a proper understanding of Law and Gospel. “*This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*” Thus John also writes, in the 19th verse of this same chapter, “*We love because He first loved us.*”

It is therefore true that any love that comes from us as human beings comes only as a result of the fact that God “first loved us.” This is true in respect to the love we show to one another, as well as the love we demonstrate toward God Himself. Our lives are lived to God’s glory, in accord with our vocational calling as Christians, purely in response to God’s love for us in Christ our Lord. The power of that love propels us to proclaim the light of Christ’s love to all who live in the darkness of doubt and disbelief.

The subtheme “His Love Is Here for You” has numerous applications:

- Christ’s love is here, in God’s Holy Word, for you!
- Christ’s love is here, in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, for you!
- Christ’s love is here, in the words of Holy Absolution, for you!
- Christ’s love is here, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, for you!
- Christ’s love is here, in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, for you!

The nonbelieving people of the world, including many people here in our own country, are watching and waiting for the discovery of meaning and value in their lives. They also are wondering and wandering in their effort to find such meaning and value, often turning to movements or groups whose faith is based on principles or beliefs contrary to what we in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod believe, teach, and confess.

From 160 years of biblical and confessional study, we in the LCMS have come to understand and firmly believe the truth of God’s love for the world in Jesus Christ, expressed so clearly in the words of Jesus Himself: “*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him*” (John 3:16–17).

That is the message we proclaim. We in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have *ONE Mission*—to be *ABLAZE!* in seeking the lost for Christ with the power and presence of the very Spirit of God in our lives, on our lips, and in our labors! We proclaim *ONE Message*, that Jesus Christ alone is the only Savior of the world! We pursue the *ONE Mission* and proclaim the *ONE Message* as *ONE People*, united by God’s love in Jesus Christ!

It is my prayer to our gracious God that this message will be the constant focus of this 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod! It is both my counsel to you and my prayer to God that every resolution you prepare for presentation to the convention of our Synod will reflect this theme and will enhance the mission connected to it, to the glory of God and for the salvation of many of the people of the world who do not now confess the name of Jesus.

Report of the Convention Delegate Review Committee

Perhaps by now most if not all of you have received information regarding a document titled “Update on Circuit Exceptions for the 2007 LCMS Convention.” The author was a plaintiff in the lawsuit filed in 2005 against the President and First Vice-President of the Synod and against the Synod itself. The document essentially resurrects the same issues contained in the lawsuit, having to do with requests for bylaw-allowed voting delegate exceptions to a Synod convention. Detailed information regarding the lawsuit is included in the *Convention Workbook* in a “Special Report of the President to the 2007 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod regarding the Lawsuit against the President and First Vice-President of the Synod and against the Synod Itself.”

In an April 17, 2007, memo to all district presidents, I addressed this matter in some detail, encouraging district presidents to share that memo with voting delegates from their districts. In addition, my May 8, 2007, memo to all voting delegates and district presidents stated,

This memo is to inform you of my belief and testimony that all things regarding this matter have been done with integrity, transparency, and propriety, with no violations of either the spirit or the letter of Holy Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, state or federal laws, lawsuit agreements, constitution, bylaws, resolutions, or other covenants of love by which all members of the Synod have agreed to work and walk together. All current and former district presidents in office prior to the Synod conventions in question (2001, 2004, and 2007) have also stated in writing their belief that nothing inappropriate has been done in their districts in connection with this process.

However, to assure the Synod that all is in order regarding this matter, to honor and protect the integrity of the convention itself, and to assure each of you that your election to serve as a delegate to the 2007 LCMS convention is indeed

valid and proper, I have asked seven national Synod leaders to confer together to review the procedure followed by district boards of directors and the president of the Synod regarding circuit electoral delegate exceptions to the 2007 convention. Their report is due to be completed by May 15 and will be sent to all voting delegates.

Their report is now complete, has been sent to all voting delegates, and is attached as Appendix I to this Report of the President. Summarily, the report stated that no evidence was found of collaboration between the office of the President of the Synod and the presidents and boards of directors of the districts regarding the seating of delegates to the 2007 convention and that the 65 electoral circuit exceptions granted for the 2007 convention of the Synod were granted according to the provisions of Bylaw 3.1.2. The committee also “recognizes that a comprehensive study of concerns associated with the Synod’s delegate representation process is needed” and is aware that the topic of fair representation at national conventions is included in the overall study currently underway by the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance.

The bottom line is that convention delegates and the Synod itself can rest assured that there was nothing improper or inappropriate that occurred in the process of requesting or granting approval of bylaw-allowed exceptions for circuit electoral delegates. All voting delegates to every Synod convention, including the 2007 convention, have been legitimately and properly elected and certified in accordance with the covenants of love by which we have all agreed to abide.

The concluding paragraph of my special report regarding the lawsuit (written March 10, 2007) states,

At the time of writing of this report, some of the original participants and plaintiffs in the lawsuit are engaged in an effort to communicate to delegates to this convention concerning topics in the lawsuit in a way that misrepresents the truth and casts aspersions on the integrity and motives of district boards of directors and officers of the Synod. I truly hope and fervently pray that God’s Spirit will touch the hearts of those involved in this endeavor, that all would work and walk together in a way that builds harmony and peace in our Synod, not divisiveness and contention.

That remains my hope and prayer.

Suggestions for Floor Committee Consideration

As has been the custom for many years, I believe it is appropriate to offer general recommendations for floor committee consideration. This has been the precedent set by Synod presidents in the past. I follow this precedent with the assurance of my absolute trust and complete confidence in you, the leaders and members of the floor committees entrusted with the responsibility of forming and fashioning the resolutions to be presented to the convention of our Synod in the weeks ahead.

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

Floor Committee 1—Missions

Many in our Synod share with me a deep concern about the decline in baptized membership of the congregations of

the Synod over the past 35 or more years. This trend sounds an alarm of the corresponding plight of many, many people who are dying every day without saving faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Simultaneously, it remains God’s desire for “all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” The clearly stated mission of the LCMS, “vigorously to make known the love of Christ,” is intent on God’s purpose. It is the heartbeat of our existence and gives direction for our life as a church body. The formidable fiscal, spiritual, and human resources of our Synod must be focused on God’s mission as we address the regrettable and unacceptable decline in baptized members in the congregations of our Synod—for this decline is a manifestation of more people leaving the Synod through death or defection than those who join our congregations through infant and adult Baptisms, adult confirmations, and professions of faith. Most important is our concern about the horrifying dilemma that some of the people who leave our congregations represent souls lost for all eternity. So we faithfully pursue the many opportunities for mission that exist in our country and world that we “might win some” for Christ.

Numerous individuals, congregations, districts, entities, institutions, auxiliaries, recognized service organizations, and mission societies of the Synod are involved in intentional mission efforts of many kinds, including global mission endeavors, some but not all in partnership with LCMS World Mission. Many are experiencing direct, hands-on mission involvement, primarily through short-term mission events, both locally and globally.

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

- affirm the priority of mission involvement in coordination with LCMS World Mission;
- explore ways and means of expanding our worldwide mission impact in fiscally prudent and biblically acceptable avenues;
- encourage mission planting in the United States by “covenant congregations” in collaboration with district mission leaders;
- encourage the objectives of congregation revitalization toward the goal of every LCMS congregation as a “mission outpost”; and
- affirm the role of the priesthood of all believers in partnership with pastors and other church leaders in the mission of our Synod.

Floor Committee 2—District and Congregational Services

A primary focus of Committee 2 will most likely be provision of proper and adequate resources to congregations and professional church workers of the LCMS by the national Synod and its districts. Close and careful coordination of work currently accomplished at the district and national Synod level is necessary for faithful stewardship of the precious resources entrusted to our care. Many of our pastors and educators are inadequately compensated, some living at or near poverty levels. They serve in the midst of people who are richly blessed and, under most circumstances, are eager to be of service and in mission with their people in meaningful ways.

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

- encourage creative cooperation between lay leaders and professional church workers in congregational life, mission, and ministry;
- encourage proper compensation for professional church workers;
- expedite provision of doctrinally pure material for use in nontraditional worship;
- implement recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Hispanic Ministry;
- initiate planning for and celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017; and
- express appreciation and support for the National Youth Gathering.

Floor Committee 3—Theology and Church Relations

Our first constitutional objective is

The Synod, under Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, shall—

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

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

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

- establish altar and pulpit fellowship with The American Association of Lutheran Churches;
- explore faithful ways and means for the LCMS to “work through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies...” (LCMS Constitution Art. III 1) and faithful ways and means of relating to “other Christian church bodies” with which altar and pulpit fellowship has not yet been established;
- encourage appropriate LCMS theological leadership around the world;
- encourage renewed study of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions;
- address requests for clarity of 2004 Resolution 3-06A re participation in civic events;
- address requests for clarity of 2004 Resolution 3-08A re service of women, the order of creation, etc; and
- address or refer for clarification the distinctions between doctrinal resolutions and doctrinal statements of the LCMS.

Floor Committee 4—Program and Finance

Great concern exists in many circles for adequate funding of the mission of the Synod at all levels. When aware of the need, the people of the LCMS will support a church focused on faithful Gospel proclamation through Word and Sacraments, with a passion for mission. In recent decades, gifts

designated for a specific mission field or ministry endeavor have flourished, while undesignated gifts have languished. In times of economic difficulty, both designated and undesignated gifts have decreased, regrettably resulting in reductions in all areas of national Synod ministry, including the mission field. We must continue to address the questions of in what ways, to what extent, and with what resources we will continue to ask the national Synod to be involved in leadership in mission and ministry.

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

- Affirm and encourage implementation of recommendations from the report of the 2004 convention-mandated Blue Ribbon Task Force on Funding the Mission;
- Emphasize the importance of stewardship education at all levels in the Synod and urge our congregations, districts, colleges and seminaries collaboratively to promote and lead a “stewardship renaissance” in the LCMS;
- Encourage continuation of greater communication and collaboration between districts and national Synod to consider ways and means of maintaining or increasing current levels of financial support and continued cooperative sharing of existing fiscal and human resources;
- encourage continual evaluation and prudent stewardship of assets of districts and national Synod; and
- encourage creative ways and means of prioritizing professional church worker education funding.

Floor Committee 5—Seminary and University Education

Concern about and support for the recruitment and training of our Synod’s professional church workers remains one of our highest priorities. The fields are ripe for the harvest! Workers must be identified and equipped for mission and ministry in a culture largely indifferent or even hostile to Christianity. To strengthen our institutions, significant overtures have been proposed to amend the structure, selection of members, and governance of the boards of regents of our seminaries, colleges, and universities.

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

- affirm the recommendations of the Board for Pastoral Education, our two seminaries, the Council of Presidents, and the Board of Directors to establish the position of specific ministry pastor;
- strengthen LCMS seminaries and universities by implementing recommendations regarding membership on boards responsible for seminary and university education;
- clarify bylaw provisions regarding seminary and university administrative matters; and
- encourage commitment to continuing education for professional church workers.

Floor Committee 6—Human Care

The expression of Christ’s love through human care and world relief, especially in times of national or world catastrophe, remains an important objective of our Synod. This was

demonstrated during the past triennium in remarkable ways in response to the tsunami in South Asia and to numerous hurricanes along the Gulf Coast, most notably Katrina and Rita. We are called to continue faithfully and generously to address ways and means of sharing the love of Christ with those in need, particularly in ways that clearly demonstrate the source of such faithfulness and generosity. “The love of Christ constrains us” (2 Corinthians 5:14). “We love because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

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

- thank God for the creative, generous, tireless support of the Synod, its individual members, congregations, districts, institutions, and organizations for congregations, schools, and individuals in the Southern, Florida-Georgia, and Texas districts who suffered damage, destruction, and devastation from hurricanes during the past triennium;
- assist congregations to respond to undocumented immigrants and, in consultation with the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, provide practical and theological guidance regarding immigration and ministry to immigrants;
- articulate the position of the LCMS regarding stem-cell research, referencing the statements released by the Office of the President of the Synod, prepared in consultation with the CTCR;
- address the issue of placement of children in same gender/homosexual contexts, referencing the CTCR opinion on this question;
- encourage continued and expanded ministry to armed forces personnel and their families; and
- encourage implementation of professional church-worker sabbatical guidelines.

Floor Committee 7—Planning and Administration

Planning and administration should enhance and not inhibit the mission of the church. At the same time, proper and diligent concern for biblical principles, balance of power, reduction of bureaucracy, and facilitation of mission and ministry are vital for responsible and accountable functioning of the church.

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

- provide a specific bylaw process for removal of officers, board and commission members “if circumstances require it...in accordance with Christian procedure” (LCMS Constitution Art. XI A);
- implement recommendations of the Commission on Structure regarding various bylaw amendments;
- amend bylaws regarding the doctrinal review process;
- address recommendations regarding convention voting delegate representation;
- address concerns regarding various convention procedures and bylaws; and
- address inequality of terms of office, authority, and voting rights of members of boards and commissions, including officers of the Synod.

Floor Committee 8—Synod Structure and Governance

The complex, complicated, and even sometimes seemingly convoluted system of church structure and governance with and under which we operate in our lives together in the Synod is currently in a process of review by the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance, which I appointed during the past triennium. The interim report of the BRTFSSG is included in the *Convention Workbook*. Any amendments to the structure and governance of the LCMS must be accomplished with proper and diligent concern for biblical principles, balance of power, reduction of bureaucracy, and facilitation of mission and ministry.

Of particular note is the report of the committee created by Res. 7-02A of the 2004 convention, which all voting delegates received in a separate mailing from the committee. The report speaks for itself and was adopted unanimously by a committee of representatives from the board of directors, district presidents, corporate Synod executives, and the office of the President of Synod, following consultation with the Council of Presidents and the Commission on Constitutional Matters.

My counsel is for Floor Committee 8 to consider resolutions that would

- accept and implement the recommendations in the 7-02A committee report;
- declare dispute resolution via lawsuits as contrary to our Synod agreements and encourage use of Synod's dispute resolution process to resolve differences among us;
- address concerns regarding the process for dispute resolution and expulsion;
- address concerns and affirmations regarding various CCM opinions;
- address concerns regarding the inclusion in congregational constitutions of certain terms descriptive of Holy Scripture; and
- call for a special convention to amend Synod structure and governance.

Overtures Not Approved for Inclusion in Convention Workbook

A word is in order at this point regarding overtures submitted to the Synod that do not appear in the *Convention Workbook*. Part of the responsibility of the office of the Synod President in the procedure and process of overture review is dictated in the Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. One such dictate is outlined in Bylaw 3.1.6.2 of the *2004 Handbook*. This bylaw reads, in part,

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

In reviewing the overtures submitted for convention consideration, it was determined that some overtures contained “*information...materially in error or...apparent misrepresentation of truth or of character.*” In accordance with this bylaw, those overtures were referred to the respective district president who “*has ecclesiastical supervision over the entity submitting the overture for action.*” I did not thereby suggest any specific action on the part of the district president but only referred the overtures to the district president’s office in fulfillment of this bylaw requirement.

In further accordance with the bylaw directive, these overtures were not approved for inclusion in the *Convention Workbook*. My office communicated to the district president and congregation or other entity submitting it the specific objectionable feature(s) of the overture. Some of the congregations and entities resubmitted revisions of those overtures with the objectionable components revised or removed for consideration as late overtures. The resubmitted overtures that were subsequently approved, along with the other approved late overtures, will be submitted to you for your consideration and work this weekend and will also be printed in the first issue of *Today’s Business*.

In all cases, in an effort to honor what I perceive to be a genuine concern on the part of the congregation or other entity submitting overtures containing objectionable features, I decided to forward the unprinted overtures in question to the proper floor committee for whatever action it may deem appropriate. Similarly, the late overture submissions not approved for inclusion in *Today’s Business* will be forwarded to the proper floor committee for apt consideration.

The action of reviewing all the overtures submitted for consideration was undertaken in the spirit of the scriptural exhortations, as well as in light of the resolves of 2001 Convention Res. 7-04A, a copy of which is included as Appendix II to this report. It is my prayer that all our actions be guided continually by the inspired words of the apostle (quoted in Res. 7-04A) who wrote, “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:1–2).

In Conclusion

Notwithstanding the areas and expressions of concern that must be addressed at the 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through the actions and decisions of the delegates in response to the resolutions you will present, I do not hesitate whatsoever in saying to you that I am highly encouraged and hugely excited about the future of our Synod!

- We have much for which to be thankful throughout the 160 years of our existence!
- We have been and remain faithful to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions!
- We have been aggressive and progressive in mission endeavors for more than 100 of those years!
- We have the respect of many church bodies throughout the world, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran!
- Our counsel, resources, and support are frequently and regularly sought by Christians across the face of the globe, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran!

- Our most productive years of mission and ministry are just ahead!

These are obviously optimistic observations and positive projections that will not automatically, instantly, or easily be achieved. Why might this be the case? Sometimes I perceive that we in the LCMS are our own worst enemy and that our mission and ministry endeavors are limited and perhaps even stymied primarily by our seemingly incessant inability to live together in peace and harmony. Surely that is the evil intention of Satan himself, who would love nothing more than to see our congregations, professional church workers, and people embroiled in internal bickering, unChristian backbiting and unflattering bellyaching about and with one another. My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, these things simply should not be!

Most respectfully and quite sincerely, I invite and encourage each and every one of you to join me in a godly crusade to alter the rapidly diminishing but still existent negativity and lack of basic Christian demeanor that too often attempts and frequently succeeds in defining the culture of our Synod, beginning with this Floor Committee Meeting Weekend and continuing through and beyond the 63rd Regular Convention of the LCMS. I do so with painful cognizance of my own sinfulness and daily awareness of my own imperfection. I also do so with joyful assurance of the grace of God in my life, made new each day with the reminder that I am a baptized child of God, redeemed from sin and Satan by the blood of Jesus Christ, my Lord. And I boldly and happily remind you of the same eternal blessings that are yours through that very same grace of God in Jesus Christ, your Lord.

As individually and together we “*...vigorously make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world,*” we will, by the grace of God, see One Message—*Christ!* as the message for our life and the reason for our existence! May God grant it to be so, in the name of Jesus! His Love Is Here for You!

Appendix I

Report

CONVENTION DELEGATE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Appointed by the President of the Synod

May 14, 2007

The Convention Delegate Review Committee has been asked by the President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod “to take whatever steps it deems appropriate in the process of assuring the Synod that [the 2007 convention delegate selection process] has been done properly, decently, in good order, and in accordance with the covenants of love by which we in the LCMS have agreed to work together.”

The undersigned committee met via telephone conference call on May 3, 2007, to determine the steps it would take to carry out its assignment. It was agreed that a three-member subcommittee would meet at the Synod’s International Center on May 7 and 8 to review the 2007 convention delegate records. The subcommittee’s findings were then discussed by the full committee during telephone conference calls on May

10 and May 14. The committee submits the following report to the Synod.

I. No evidence was found of collaboration between the Office of the President of the Synod and the presidents and boards of directors of the districts regarding the seating of delegates to the 2007 convention.

- Cases identified by Frederic Baue in his "Update on Circuit Exceptions for the 2007 LCMS Convention" as problematic and requiring additional exceptions were found to have reasonable explanations as a result of data provided during the delegate certification process.
- The official records provided by the President's office offered no indication of collaboration between the President's office and district officials. Because all other related communication was oral in nature, no additional records were available for review.

II. The 65 electoral circuit exceptions granted for the 2007 convention of the Synod were granted according to the provisions of Bylaw 3.1.2.

- Records in support of the exceptions granted were found to be in good order, in every case including all appropriate documentation of district board actions requesting exceptions and the granting of exceptions by the President.
- All electoral circuit exceptions were granted within the parameters established by Bylaw 3.1.2, which provides no limitations on the number of exceptions that may be granted.
- Limitations self-imposed by the President were announced repeatedly in his reports to the Council of Presidents and were generally followed. The President provided reasonable explanations for three exceptions to those limitations upon request of the subcommittee.

III. The pertinent paragraph in the agreement that accompanied the settlement of the recent lawsuit was honored in the process used to grant electoral circuit exceptions for the 2007 convention.

- The requirements provided in Bylaw 3.1.2 for the granting of exceptions were followed, and evidence demonstrates that districts were repeatedly encouraged to realign circuits to avoid the need to request electoral circuit exceptions.
- A written reminder was offered to the Council of Presidents on at least one occasion (and the President reported numerous oral reminders on other occasions) calling attention to the provision in Bylaw 3.1.2 that advocates the joining together of adjacent visitation circuits to form an electoral circuit when electoral circuit requirements cannot be met by one or both visitation circuits.

IV. The Convention Delegate Review Committee did not have time or opportunity to review the circumstances surrounding the extensive realigning of circuits that went on during the triennium to verify that all such alignments were done properly.

Districts may only realign circuits by convention action unless such authority has been specifically delegated to their boards of directors (CCM Opinion 03-2368).

These realignments have often only minimally met (and at times have even fallen short of) Bylaw 3.1.2 requirements, resulting in an increase in the number of delegates to the 2007 convention despite a reduction from 88 (2004) to 65 (2007) in the number of electoral circuit exceptions requested and granted.

V. The Convention Delegate Review Committee recognizes that a comprehensive study of concerns associated with the Synod's delegate representation process is needed, such as is included in the overall study currently underway by the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synodical Structure and Governance. A number of general observations surfaced during the committee's research that beg further attention by the task force in the interest of fair representation at national conventions.

- Delegate exceptions are at times being used to alleviate other concerns, including "adequate representation" for ethnic and other interests at national conventions. Exceptions requested for such purposes appear to elevate other concerns above the clear interest of Bylaw 3.1.2 in equitable representation based solely upon numbers of congregations and confirmed members.
- The provision of Bylaw 3.1.2 advocating the combining of adjacent visitation circuits to form electoral circuits is not being given first attention as the to-be-preferred remedy when one or both of the visitation circuits do not meet requirements for an electoral circuit. This is evidenced by the fact that 65 electoral circuit exceptions were requested and granted for the 2007 Synod convention compared to only 16 times that adjacent visitation circuits were combined to form an appropriate electoral circuit. The granting of exceptions over the years has in reality become the rule, while the rule provided by the bylaw (to join adjacent visitation circuits) has in reality become the exception.
- Statistics demonstrate that, in general, districts with already greater-than-average per-communicant representation at Synod conventions are also the districts that have been requesting and receiving the greatest number of exceptions, thereby further increasing their delegate representation advantage.

It is this committee's hope and prayer that its efforts and this report will help to assure the Synod in general and the delegates to the 2007 convention in particular that the delegate body that will meet in Houston this summer has been selected "in accordance with the covenants of love by which we in the LCMS have agreed to work together."

Dr. William Hoesman, President, Michigan District;
Chairman, Council of Presidents

Dr. Larry Stoterau, President, PSW District; Vice
Chairman, Council of Presidents

Dr. Robert Kuhn, LCMS President Emeritus;
Chairman, LCMS Board of Directors

Rev. James Fandrey, Luth. Heritage Foundation;
Vice Chairman, LCMS Board of Directors

Dr. Raymond Hartwig, LCMS Secretary
 Dr. Thomas Kuchta, LCMS Vice-President—Finance—
 Treasurer
 Dr. Albert Marcis, SELC District President Emeritus;
 Chairman, LCMS Commission on Constitutional
 Matters

Appendix II

2001 Convention Proceedings To Promote Truth and Integrity in Convention Overtures

RESOLUTION 7-04A

Overture 7-126 (CW, pp. 282–83)

WHEREAS, St. Paul says in Eph 4:17–5:2, “So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ‘In your anger do not sin’: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God”; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther says in his explanation of the Eighth Commandment, “We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way”; and

WHEREAS, The convention manual is published under the editorship of the Secretary of the Synod, subject to the approval of the President of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Misleading and untrue material has appeared in synodical overtures; and

WHEREAS, The inclusion of such untrue and misleading information can do irreparable harm and is a sin against God, individuals, and entities of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That those who submit convention overtures assume complete responsibility for the truthfulness of information contained therein; and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.19 c be amended as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

Overtures with reference to a case in which a member has been suspended or expelled and which is at present in the process of or subject to appeal, as well as overtures which, upon advice of legal counsel, may subject the Synod or the corporate officers of the Synod to civil action for libel or slander, or which contain libel or slander, shall not be accepted for convention consideration; and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.19 be amended to add:

PROPOSED WORDING

The synodical President shall determine if any overture contains information which is materially in error, or contains any apparent misrepresentation of truth or of character. He shall not approve inclusion of any such overture in the convention manual and shall refer any such overture to the District President who has ecclesiastical supervision over the entity submitting the overture for action. If any published overture or resolution is found to be materially in error or contains any misrepresentation of truth or of character, it shall be withdrawn from convention consideration and referred by the President of the Synod to the appropriate District President for action;

and be it further

Resolved, That the other provisions of Bylaw (3.19) be relettered; and be it finally

Resolved, That all action taken in this resolution shall be used to help carry out “The Great Commission” and shall not in any way detract or distract from the primary mission of God’s kingdom here on earth. We will remember 1-02!

Action: Adopted (10)

(The resolution was adopted without amendment [yes: 746; no: 303]. The final resolve is added as required by Res. 1-02, adopted by the convention in an earlier session.)

Part III

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

The year was 1941, during World War II. The conditions of world unrest caused questions and fear to lie upon the hearts and minds of the people, not unlike those causing trouble and restlessness in the lives of people in our world today.

During June of that year, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod gathered in convention in Fort Wayne, Indiana. President John W. Behnken, who had served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church here in Houston, the host congregation for yesterday's communion service, addressed the delegates. His words were timely for his audience and also speak to the conditions of the world in which we live today. Here is part of what he said:

For the second time within the short span of twenty-five years our beloved Synod is in convention at a time when practically the whole world is in the throes of a destructive war. No one can foretell what the future may bring.

The Church dare not brush aside the horrible realities of war with a mere shrug of the shoulder. They are laden with lessons which call for earnest consideration. Unquestionably, the Savior's specific reference to wars and rumors of wars as a forerunner of the approaching dissolution of this world demands serious consideration at this time. These catastrophic conditions seriously affect also the work of the Church. For us Christians the question arises, How are we to carry on the Lord's work during such abnormal days? . . .

[Behnken continued.] What shall we say when we view the situation within the church today? I am not referring to the situation throughout Christendom in general, but am addressing this question to our own church body. At the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Synod, Doctor Walther preached an earnest sermon calling for repentance. He told the great number of delegates that our church and our people were no longer what they were when God brought them to our shores. The devotion to God's Word, the interest in God's kingdom, the earnest desire to serve the Lord in genuine godliness, were waning. What shall we say today? . . .

And what shall we say about the pronounced decline in stalwart godliness of life? Where is the sharp line of demarcation which should be drawn so clearly and distinctly between the life of the world and the life of Christians? When you listen to the conversations of our Lutherans, when you think of the excessive drinking and sinful pleasures, the greed and the selfishness, the gambling and dishonesty, the loose morals, and in fact, the general worldliness which has crept into our circles, not merely among the young, but also among older people, does it not fill your heart with deep concern? Furthermore, consider the disrespect for the ministers of the Word, the cheapening of the Gospel ministry, so manifest today. Think of the little interest manifested in thorough Christian education. *Statistics speak aloud and present an awful indictment.* Think of the lack of zeal for the extension of God's kingdom. We are told that, while Rome burned, Nero fiddled. While the world today is afire, and while millions are running headlong into the flames of hell, what have we been doing? *Oh, where is that burning passion for souls which ought to be ablaze within the heart of every member of our Synod?* [emphasis added]

These words from President Behnken's address have proven timeless even as citizens of our country have experi-

enced not only world wars but also conflict after conflict, even to the current day in which, once again, our country is embroiled in an international conflict, similar to and yet vastly different from previous wars. But in addition to our concern for national safety and homeland security, consider the lethargic response of the contemporary Church to a lost, immoral, decaying and dying world that fares no better than when the cry of 1941 was heard: "*Oh, where is that burning passion for souls which ought to be ablaze within the heart of every member of our Synod?*"

The awful indictment of statistics today echoes the cries that were shouted in 1941. You know the story. You've heard it before. The baptized membership of congregations in our Synod continues to slide as it has for the past 35 years. The confirmed membership and average weekly worship attendance of the congregations in our Synod also continue to decline.

And all of this in the face of a growth spurt that has seen the population in our country mushroom to more than 300 million people. When one compares the growth and size of our country to the impact we have made as a voluntary association of congregations, ordained and commissioned ministers in its midst, we are barely a blip on the screen of recent history.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, this ought not to be! I believe God has called us to instill *within the heart of every member of our Synod a burning passion for souls—hearts that will be ablaze* with the purpose of taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every hill and every valley, every city and every community in our land!

But we cannot do this alone. It will be accomplished by the very *hand of God*.

- It will happen as we come together in the power of the Holy Spirit fervently and faithfully preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments.
- It will happen as we move beyond the complacency and parochialism that have plagued us in the past.
- It will happen as we realize the great blessings God has given our Synod and the crying need, more pronounced every day, for us to share these gifts with the world.
- It will happen as we address the reality that for most of our 160 years as a Synod we have been a confessional Lutheran Church in a mostly Christian country, while in the past few decades, and certainly today, we are faced with learning how to be a confessional, evangelical Lutheran Church in a largely unchurched, pluralistic, postmodern, narcissistic country, where Muslims, Mormons, and those claiming "no religion" are the fastest growing religious groups in our nation.
- It will happen as we trust in God—overcoming our fears, ceasing our internal warfare, willing to abandon unfaithful and unfruitful methods of the past.

I believe even the first President of our Synod, Dr. C. F. W. Walther, would see things differently today than he did more than a century and a half ago when he is reported to have said, "If ever our Synod should lose the German language, it will be in danger of losing the Gospel."

Boldly, we must grasp the new opportunities that await us from Almighty God—moving forward for the sake of

Christ. For, as Jesus said, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62).

But to be readied for such a future, we must first kneel before our merciful God in repentance and pray that He will cleanse us from the iniquity that separates us from Him. And then pray further that He will lead us to do the “good works he has prepared in advance for us to do.” In his 1941 address, President Behnken summarized this so clearly when he wrote:

Must not God look with disfavor upon us! Indeed, we, too, have added to the guilt which provoked God to scourge the world with cruel war. We need to repent. Like David of old, we must plead with God, “Purge me with hyssop”; “wash me”; “cast me not away from Thy presence”; “deliver me from blood-guiltiness.” God grant that such a fervent, heartfelt, penitent plea may characterize our present synodical convention. . . .

. . . From the deepest depths of penitence we may rise to the most glorious heights of divine assurance, and such a note of positive assurance should dominate our hearts . . . David prayed for forgiveness. He was confident and assured that, though his sins were great and though he deserved only God’s righteous wrath and punishment, yet the Lord would show mercy. He stated: “I shall be cleansed”; “I shall be whiter than snow”; “make me to hear joy and gladness”; “restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation.”

David was assured of new courage and willingness to carry on the work of the Lord. Great eagerness to serve his Lord characterized his restoration to the joy of salvation. Even so, you and I should realize even better that it is our privilege to serve in the kingdom of God, yes, that this is the paramount purpose and objective of our life. We must permit nothing whatsoever to remove this goal from our view. In the world today, so terribly upset and out of joint, it requires special willingness and courage to serve Christ.

My appeal today as we begin our time together echoes the words of President Behnken, as I ask with you that the Lord will grant us “special willingness and courage to serve Christ.” I pray that He will make us courageous leaders for His Church, like the apostles and the prophets, being assured that He will give success for the good of His Church and the glory of His kingdom.

This is Part III of the President’s Report to the 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In other parts of the President’s Report, printed in the *Convention Workbook* and in the first issue of *Today’s Business*, I have addressed a number of matters that I will not repeat in great detail in this report. I share with you here a few brief but important perspectives on some of these matters:

Holy Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and Our LCMS Covenants of Love

For 160 years, by God’s grace, our Synod has firmly and faithfully expressed our individual and collective confession:

The Synod, and every member of the Synod, accepts without reservation:

The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice and all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God . . .

That is your confession. It is my confession. It is our Synod’s confession. I thank God for it and, along with you, live my life and conduct my ministry in accord with this confession.

In addition to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, members of the LCMS voluntarily agree to honor and uphold our “covenants of love”—the Synod’s Constitution, Bylaws, doctrinal statements, doctrinal resolutions, and opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. I am aware of no one in this Synod who wants to elevate these or any other documents to the level of Scripture and the Confessions.

The main purpose served by these subservient documents is to determine whether or to what degree we in the Synod agree on what the Scriptures teach concerning matters of doctrine or practice. We have agreed together to honor and uphold these “covenants of love.” We have agreed that “The Synod, in seeking to clarify its witness or to settle doctrinal controversy, so that all who seek to participate in the relationships that exist within and through the Synod may benefit and may act to benefit others, shall have the right to adopt doctrinal resolutions and statements which are in harmony with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions” (Bylaw 1.6.2). And we have agreed to authorize elected and appointed officials to interpret these “covenants of love” between Synod conventions.

Synods and councils can and do err. Where such error is believed to be the case, the Synod has provided a process whereby individual or congregational members may express their dissent from a stated position of the Synod. In those cases, it is the responsibility of the dissenter to persuade the Synod, on the basis of Holy Scripture, that the stated position of the Synod is in error. While every member of the Synod is entitled to his or her personal opinion or interpretation of what the Scriptures teach, a major strength of our Synod is to provide a common confession of faith, thus avoiding what occurred in the period of the judges, where everyone did what was right in his own eyes. We have agreed together that “while retaining the right of brotherly dissent, members of the Synod are expected as part of the life together within the fellowship of the Synod to honor and uphold the resolutions of the Synod” (Bylaw 1.8.1).

Doctrinal Solidarity

From time to time, we read or hear concerns about doctrinal division in the LCMS. On many occasions, I have spoken and written about the blessing in our Synod of doctrinal solidarity, including my report to the 62nd Regular Convention of the Synod. I thank God that the members of our Synod agree, with very few exceptions, on the major doctrines of our faith.

In the 160 year history of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod there have been times of major doctrinal controversy concerning, among other matters:

- The doctrine of the church and ministry
- The nature and authority of the pastoral office
- The doctrine of election
- The role and function of extra-confessional doctrinal statements in the life of the church
- The authority of Holy Scripture

The Synod's history reminds us that there have been theological and doctrinal disputes both inside the Synod and between the Synod and other bodies, generating fervent argument and resulting in bitter divisions and fractured fellowships. Yet our Synod has endured in remaining true to our Scriptural and Confessional principles.

While most of the issues mentioned above are no longer in contention, we nevertheless continue to experience in our Synod today disagreement and divisiveness regarding numerous other issues, mostly regarding the practical application of our doctrinal principles. A few examples will suffice:

- **Close Communion**—There is little if any disagreement among us on the doctrine of the Lord's Supper as a sacramental gift of God's grace for repentant Christians wherein the body and blood of our Lord are truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sin and assurance of life eternal. But there is significant disagreement regarding the policies of admission to Holy Communion, namely, who should be allowed or even encouraged to receive the Sacrament at the altar in our congregations, campus ministries, and military chaplaincies.
- **Church and Ministry**—Despite our theological clarity on the subject, there exists in some corners of our Synod a lack of agreement regarding the role, responsibility, authority, and accountability of both the office of pastor and the role of laity in the church.
- **The Service of Women in the Church**—Since 1969, our Synod has expressed its collective belief on the teaching of Holy Scripture, allowing women to vote and hold congregational offices, but not to occupy the pastoral office. Yet some in our Synod would severely restrict the involvement of women in the church at many levels, while others would favor no restrictions at all.
- **Worship**—Disagreement exists on whether certain contemporary worship expressions employ doctrinally pure resources faithfully and whether certain traditional worship expressions do so meaningfully and effectively.

Notwithstanding the difficulty created by these serious matters among us, the fact remains that the LCMS enjoys a doctrinal unity unequalled in most parts of the Christian Church. We simply are not arguing or even debating the major doctrines of the Christian faith that are in contention in many parts of the Body of Christ. We are undeniably blessed with God-given unity and harmony and have so much more that unites us than those things that would divide us!

In the years ahead, our Commission on Theology and Church Relations, Council of Presidents, seminary faculties, Synod leaders, ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, and lay leaders will need to continue to work under Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions to achieve similar solidarity in the matters of practice or application of doctrine on which we do not yet have unanimity.

Dispute Resolution

Our Synod has provided a very specific process for the expression of dissent: "the Synod, in the spirit of 1 Corinthians 6, calls upon all parties to a disagreement, accusation, controversy, or disciplinary action to rely exclusively and fully on the Synod's system of reconciliation and conflict

resolution . . . the exclusive and final remedy for those who are in dispute" (Bylaw 1.10.1.1).

In response to a series of questions regarding the meaning of our covenants of love in dispute resolution, our Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters provided the following answers:

- All members of the Synod are required to resolve all matters of dissent or all disputes by the avenues and structures available to them as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod without resorting to secular courts and without resorting to avenues, means, structures, or communications that are foreign or contrary to the synodical agreements and which are not in harmony with the polity of the Synod.
- A lawsuit is not a legitimate avenue of dissent.
- In the agreement to live and work together, a member of the Synod is required to rely exclusively and fully on the Synod's system of reconciliation and conflict resolution . . . unless the dispute is one concerning property rights or contract arrangements.
- The use of the Synod's conflict resolution procedures is the exclusive and final remedy for those who are in dispute.
- The Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod provide disciplinary measures against any member who violates the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

This convention has the authority to overrule these opinions of the CCM. If that were to happen, the convention would need to bring forth a different interpretation of Holy Scripture in 1 Corinthians 6 than has been the understanding of our Synod for many, many years.

While making every effort to speak the truth in love, I believe I need to say one more thing about this matter. The lawsuit filed this past triennium against me, against First Vice-President Diekelman, and against the Synod itself by some 90 individual or congregational members of the Synod, and the subsequent motion filed by four members of our Synod's Board of Directors to intervene after the lawsuit was dismissed, were, as was expressed by eight national church leaders prior to the filing of the lawsuit, "needless and divisive," and, as was reported by the Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer in his convention report, very costly to the Synod. My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, there is a better way:

If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church! I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? But instead, one brother goes to law against another—and this in front of unbelievers! The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. . . . And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:1–7, 11)

That is a better way.

Inter-Christian Relationships

The twenty-first century LCMS is faced with being an orthodox, confessional, evangelical Lutheran Church in a country where most of its citizens are no longer Christian. People around the world and in our country are being exposed to many non-Christian beliefs and groups, including Muslims, Mormons, and atheists. One may even ask, to borrow the words of President Behnken, “How are we to carry on the Lord’s work during such abnormal days?” I believe strongly that we carry on this work by communicating clearly and courageously the truth that Christ alone is the only Savior of the world. We do this in witness to non-Christians and Christians alike.

We in the LCMS are part of the visible Christian Church on earth, a recognition that creates a very real tension among us. Why is this so? Because the Christian Church on earth includes churches we consider heterodox, having wrong teaching. Some in our Synod would have us avoid at all costs any contact with such Christian churches. Others want our Synod to be at least minimally involved in certain circumstances and situations with other Lutherans and also with non-Lutheran Christians in order to honor our belief in the Holy Christian Church and in order to confess our orthodox faith to those we consider heterodox. The presence of these varying viewpoints has resulted in a divisive atmosphere that has hindered our fellowship and our collective work in mission as a Synod.

To keep this dilemma from hindering our effectiveness in outreach to the world and to provide a faithful confession to other Christian churches, such disagreements among us must be resolved. As was so poignantly noted in the Report of the Task Force on Funding the Mission, no plan “is capable of fully succeeding in an organization that is seriously divided and engaged in issues that divert their energies away from the mission.” The matters of inter-Christian and interchurch relations, unionism, separatism, participating in events or services involving non-LCMS Christian participants, etc., that are creating division among us need biblically based resolution.

A resource titled *Witness & Worship in Pluralistic America* (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 2004) provides both proper caution and evangelical encouragement in our endeavor to reach consensus in such matters and to reach people around the world with the Gospel of Christ. The following statement is an example. “The Great Commission obligates the church to be **in** the world without becoming **of** the world in order to witness **to** the world.”

Speaking With One Voice, in Christian Love

Witnessing to the pure Gospel, “One Message—*Christ!*”, in a pluralistic America brings challenges and difficulties. In order to face and overcome them, it is imperative that we speak with one voice, in Christian love.

Regarding this necessity, Dr. Walther said at the first convention of the Iowa District in an essay titled “Duties of An Evangelical Lutheran Synod”:

My dear brothers, let us be on our guard! Satan is sly. Right now we are brothers, living together in peace and love.

But Satan will lay for us snares by which he hopes to destroy the sweet, brotherly love we now have in our hearts. We dare never think that it is enough if we just remain united in our faith and our doctrine . . . It is frightening what harm can result when members of a church organization do not vigilantly guard their fraternal love. (Essays for the Church by C.F.W. Walther, Vol. II, p. 56, CPH, 1992)

Again, regarding the vital importance of purity of doctrine communicated in peace and unity, Dr. Walther states: “A fifth major duty is that it [the Synod] strive for peace and unity in the truth in its midst.” He quotes Luther: “Where there is no love... doctrine cannot remain pure!”

Then Walther says,

We dare never think it is enough if we just remain united in our faith and doctrine. (Essays for the Church Vol. II, CPH, 1992)

We love because Christ first loved us. In response to God’s love in Christ, we are motivated to do good works, to perform good deeds, to accomplish objectives of Christian love, mission, education, and mercy. In congregations, districts, and organizations across our land, LCMS people, individually and collectively, are involved in doing just that.

While I could tell you stories about LCMS congregations and members, allow me to share with you these brief video clips depicting such works, deeds, and accomplished objectives that embody the mission of the LCMS in various settings across our Synod. [Video clip]

These are only a few of the thousands of similar yet unique ways in which people in the LCMS are sharing the love of Christ every day. The “One Message—*Christ!*” is in their hearts and on their lips. Christ’s love makes a difference in people’s lives today and will continue to make a difference in people’s lives in the future.

The Future of the LCMS

So what does the future look like for the LCMS? What are your and my hopes and dreams for our Synod in the years ahead? President Ronald Reagan once said, “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”

Like freedom, any organization is never more than one generation away from extinction. The same may also be said of any part of the visible Church on earth. We cannot assume just because an organization has existed for centuries in the past that it will continue to exist for centuries more in the future. “It must be fought for, protected, and handed on.”

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is a voluntary human organization, without which the Holy Christian Church might very well be able to exist. Yet I believe God has called the LCMS into existence for a purpose that has not yet been fully accomplished. The glorious Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, proclaimed in the LCMS in its truth and purity, “must be fought for, protected, and handed on.” We have the promise of Christ that even the gates of hell will not prevail against His Church. But those

gates of hell are fighting tooth and nail against the Gospel in our world and in our culture.

God has blessed our Synod for more than 160 years with a pure and proper understanding of the Gospel and the Sacraments, informed by a pure and correct interpretation of God's revealed, inspired, inerrant, infallible Word in Holy Scripture. He has called us to share that message with a world largely full of people who live in depression, despair, doubt, and disbelief, headed without faith in Christ toward eternal death. And He has called us to do so, both faithfully and fruitfully, in a country and culture that is vastly different from that which existed 160 years ago, and in many cases, largely indifferent, if not downright hostile, toward the Church and the one message of Christ we proclaim.

We must move into the future with courage and wisdom, with boldness and resolve. We need *courage* to look at ourselves frankly and honestly with a willingness to change what needs to be changed and to retain what needs to be retained. That is the charge given to the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance as it takes a critical look at the way the Synod is structured to determine if there is a better way, a more efficient way, or even a more godly way that we can equip and govern ourselves for the mission God has given us. It will take courage for us to engage a future filled with change and uncertainty.

We need *wisdom* to survey the present with an eye on the future to determine the doors of opportunity God is opening for us in mission and ministry. The Blue Ribbon Task Force on Hispanic Ministry has received that charge in relation to the fastest-growing population group in our country, now comprising 15 percent of the population of the United States. Wisdom is necessary if as a church we are to minister effectively among and with people of Hispanic origin and, of equal importance, those of other ethnic descents, including Asian, Indian, African, and European.

We need *boldness* to engage a culture in sharing the hope of Christ that is within us with other people so they can encounter Christ. We must engage mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, young and old, friends and neighbors, co-workers and students with the one message of Christ. With boldness we engage the people of our world under the shadow of the cross with the forgiveness of sins given freely by grace in Water and Word, in Bread and Wine in our congregations and new mission plants.

We need *resolve* to hold firm to the foundation of our faith, to allow no compromise of the truth of God's Word, to hold fast the doctrines that define us as a confessional, evangelical Lutheran church. We need resolve to "preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." We must resolve to "know nothing else but Christ

and Him crucified" as the strength and the power and the might of our message to the world.

With courage and wisdom, with boldness and resolve, we are here for the 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to do our part to strengthen Christ's Church on earth, to bring the light of Christ to those who live in darkness, to proclaim the truth of God's love in Christ sensitively, humbly, boldly, and courageously. We have "One Message—*Christ! His Love Is Here for You!*" This is our confession of faith so vital for achieving our God-given mission to share that faith. For without the message of Christ we have no power or strength with which to accomplish the one mission of reaching lost people—in our own communities, in our country or around the world—with the Gospel of Christ.

It is my prayer that as courageous leaders in the church today, we will seize the unprecedented opportunity before us in the land where God has placed us. We must recognize that God has called us to "such a time as this" so we can pull together to guide this church body we know and love as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through this course of history in the mission God has set before us.

For the sake of the Gospel, I invite you to focus on the *one mission of Christ* with a common vision and a common strategy for vigorously making known the love of Christ in our churches, communities and the world. I also urge you to keep our mission centered in the power of the *one message* that Jesus Christ alone is the Savior of the world—because He is, and He must be made manifest.

This will be no easy undertaking. We recognize what the Scriptures make known—that we are at war with the principalities and evil forces of this age. Spiritual warfare will rage as long as Satan is allowed to roam on this earth. But, "scowl fierce as he will"; "he can harm us none"; "the victory has been won"; "one little word can fell him!" That word is *Christ!*

The final words of President Behnken's address to the 1941 convention seem quite appropriate for us today. He wrote:

World conditions today present seemingly insurmountable obstacles, but they are not insurmountable for our God. Staggering difficulties confront us, but our blessed Redeemer, who is the Head of His Church, can surely remove them. The forces of hell may wage an unabating and relentless warfare against us, but with Christ at our side, we are assured of victory. Here on earth we must continue as the Church Militant; but as certain as eternity will dawn, so certain are we that we shall be the Church Triumphant.

May God help us in this task, so that he, who has "made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, . . . may bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ" (Ephesians 1:9–10). Thank you and God bless us in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead as we proclaim "One Message—*Christ! His Love Is Here for You!*"

Gerald B. Kieschnick, *President*

CONVENTION SERMONS

1. Opening Convention Worship Celebration

ONE MESSAGE—*CHRIST!* HIS LOVE IS HERE FOR YOU!

Text: 1 John 4:9-11

This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you, from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- It is by God's grace that we receive what we do not deserve: forgiveness of sins, fullness of life here on earth, and eternal salvation with God in heaven.
- It is by God's mercy that we do not receive what we do deserve: God's wrath, displeasure, and eternal punishment.
- It is in God's grace and mercy that we receive His peace, the peace that passes all understanding, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

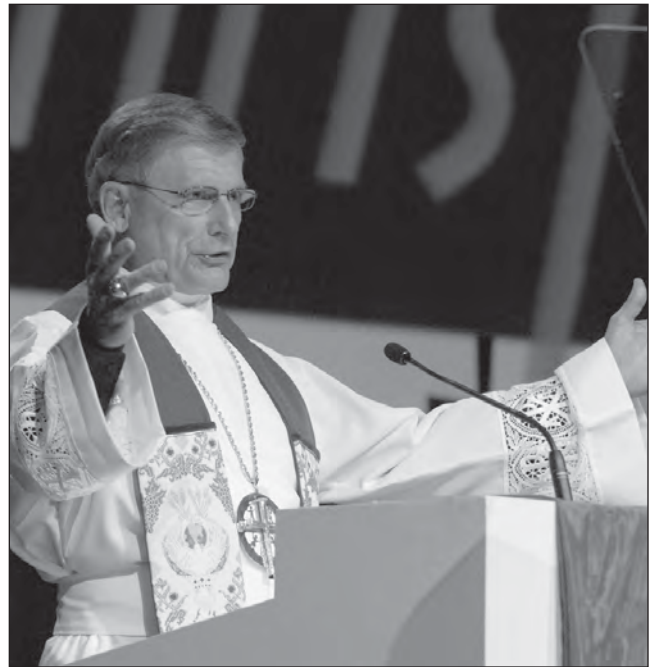
Welcome to this 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, held in the Texas District, which last year celebrated its 100th anniversary as a district of the LCMS. Houston is a special place of blessing to me. It is the city of my birth, Baptism, confirmation, and ordination, all at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, located a few short miles directly south of this convention center. I pray that your time here in Houston will be a blessing to you and through you to many.

By now you may already have discovered that people in Texas talk differently than other folks. For example, when greeting another person, many in other parts of the United States are accustomed to saying "Good morning!" Or, "How are you today?" But in Texas, folks often greet each other, employing a little Texas drawl, with the words, "Whaddya' say?" That's abbreviated Texan for "What do you say?" or "What's up?" or "How's life?"

"Whaddya' say?" That phrase is not only a Texas expression that you might hear during your days in Houston. It is also a phrase that finds usage within the context of many of life's changing and challenging moments. "Whaddya' say?"

It was Thursday, September 28, 2006. Two days earlier, I had experienced an unpleasant taxi ride in a Chicago All Star cab, prompting me to reserve a return trip to O'Hare airport with a different taxi company. But that morning, for a reason unknown to me at the time, I decided to cancel the new reservation and again called All Star Cab Company for the trip. I casually asked the driver how his life was going these days and was struck by his reply: "Not so good since my brother died suddenly two weeks ago."

In the conversation that ensued, I learned that the driver, Brad, and his brother, Greg, had been baptized at



St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Schaumburg, Illinois, but had been inactive in the church since they were teens. He asked, "Do you know anything about the Lutheran Church?" I said, "A little." After I tried to explain The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the office of its President to Brad, he said, "So you're a pastor?" I said, "Yes." He then said, "Pastor, I haven't been able to sleep since Greg died, because I don't know where he is. Can you help?"

Whaddya' say to a middle-aged man who lost his brother from a heart attack, is scared stiff of death himself, is uncertain whether his brother is in heaven, and, more to the point, whether he himself will someday be in heaven? Whaddya' say?

On Sunday, January 7, of this year, I was scheduled to leave St. Louis for Dallas on a 5:25 p.m. American Airlines flight for a week-long leadership conference with the LCMS Council of Presidents. That afternoon I decided to fly standby on an earlier flight in order to arrive in time for an informal gathering that I otherwise would have missed. After everyone else had apparently boarded, the attendant called my name and gave me a boarding pass for 10-B. After I had taken my seat, a disheveled young lady approached, with a boarding pass for 10-A. She was dressed in jeans and T-shirt, hair in a frazzled pony tail, no makeup, appearing quite shaken and upset.

After she buckled her seat belt, I asked if she was going home to Dallas. She replied, "No, sir, I'm going to Iraq." I then noticed the U. S. Marine Corps logo on her T-shirt. I asked how long she would be there. She answered, "Two years, sir." I inquired how long she had known she would be going. She

said, “I got a phone call at 10:13 last night, sir.” I asked who she was leaving in St. Louis. She answered, “My husband Stanley, 10-year-old son, Dillon, and 11-year-old daughter, Jordan, sir.” She talked about her life, her childhood, her family, her anxieties, her fears, her hopes, and her dreams. I thought she was coming to grips with her fears when she said her brother-in-law had just returned from Iraq two weeks earlier. But then she added, “He came home in a casket.”

Whaddya’ say to Jeri Kelly, a 26-year-old wife and mother of two children who was on her way to serve her country at war in a far away place, leaving behind her home, her family, her life? Whaddya’ say?

These real life stories are reminders to me of the power and relevance of the theme of this convention: “One Message—*Christ! His Love Is Here for You!*” We have a response for the “Whaddya’ say?” situations in the lives of those we know or meet, including ourselves. We have a response for a world full of people who are facing real issues of life and death every day, experiencing fear, anxiety, loss, trauma and tragedy, wondering whether there really is life after death and where those they love are spending eternity. We have a response that can be abbreviated quite simply in this phrase: “One Message—*Christ! His Love Is Here for You!*”

We in the LCMS are blessed, privileged, and challenged “vigorously to make known the love of Christ, by word and deed, within our churches, communities, and the world.” The *One Message* we have for this task is the message of “Christ” and “His Love.”

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the apostle John addresses the person and work of Christ, focusing specifically and powerfully on the power of God’s love, made known to mankind in the person of Christ. The *One Message* we receive and proclaim is God’s love for the whole world, fulfilled in the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. God showed His love among us through Christ, whom He sent into the world as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Love is not that we loved God—that was not possible, because in our sinful nature, we are spiritually blind, dead, and enemies of God. Love is that God loved us—that’s not comprehensible, but it is very real because of God’s grace in Christ.

The power of the *One Message* of Christ’s Love is that this love, unlike what the world defines as love, is not self-focused or self-satisfying. Christ’s love is self-sacrificing. The Greek word *agape* means just that—love that is not self-serving, but self-giving, love defined in that memorable passage in John 15:13: “Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends.” That’s precisely what Christ has done for us on Calvary’s cross—not only for us, but also for all the people of the whole world. His death on the cross assures us of life, with abundant blessing here on earth and perpetual blessing someday in heaven.

So where can this love be found? It is given solely by God’s grace in Word and Sacrament—*sola gratia*—“without any merit or worthiness in us.” Out of His mercy and grace, God looks with favor on our lives and forgives our transgressions through Christ. God’s gift of love in Christ, totally undeserved, is real!

Yet, people in the world too often are “looking for love in all the wrong places.” Many people, young and old alike,

look for love fulfillment in many and various ways, only to be left empty-hearted following failed self-serving relationships, vaporized chat room connections, and shattered dreams so delusional and unrealistic that they could only be portrayed and realized through fantasy in a movie or TV soap opera. Many turn their lives toward things they believe might fill the void—accumulation of bigger, better, and faster possessions; overeating; excessive drinking; or abuse of controlled or uncontrolled substances—all to no avail. Whaddya’ say to folks who are “looking for love in all the wrong places?” Whaddya’ say?

We have “One Message—*Christ! His Love Is Here!*”

- Christ’s love is here—in God’s holy, inspired, inerrant, infallible Word, bringing hope, comfort, and assurance in time and for eternity.
- Christ’s love is here—in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, that “special washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit,” sealing us with God’s promise of new life in Christ.
- Christ’s love is here—in public worship, as we confess and repent of our sins of commission, omission, and no mission, and receive God’s full and free forgiveness in Christ.
- Christ’s love is here—in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, in which we receive the very body and blood of our Lord Jesus, in, with, and under the common earthly elements of bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sin and assurance of life eternal.
- And Christ’s love is here—in the mission and ministry of individuals, congregations, schools, institutions, organizations, and auxiliaries of the LCMS, all of whom are called to focus on proclaiming “One Message—*Christ! His Love Is Here for You!*”

On Monday, August, 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina, the costliest and one of the deadliest hurricanes in the history of the United States, struck the Mississippi and Louisiana Gulf Coast. Nearly every levee in metropolitan New Orleans breached as Hurricane Katrina passed east of the city, subsequently flooding 80 percent of the city and many areas of neighboring parishes for weeks. Over 1,800 people lost their lives in Hurricane Katrina and in the subsequent floods.

On Friday, May 4, 2007, in Greensburg, Kansas, 95 percent of the town of 1,500 was destroyed and the other 5 percent severely damaged by a category E-5 tornado with estimated winds of 205 mph. Ten people lost their lives. Everyone in town lost their homes and virtually all their possessions. Our LCMS congregation, Peace Lutheran Church, was reduced to two big piles of rubble.

Whaddya’ say to folks who lost their homes, their possessions, their loved ones, their jobs, their church, their hopes for the future as a result of such horrific storms? Whaddya’ say?

“Christ’s Love *Is Here!*” In response to such disasters, millions upon millions of dollars have been received for assistance through the local, regional, and national relief agencies of our Synod. Thousands upon thousands of volunteers from congregations and districts of the LCMS have contributed, and are still contributing, hours upon

hours of time and energy to help re-establish devastated areas, rebuilding homes and churches and lives. Congregations open their buildings and their arms to receive those who have become homeless. Christ's love is here! It is made known in His Word and is being manifested through His people with this message in their service and on their lips.

Christ's love is here! It is here in accord with His promise. It is here for all who call upon His name. His love finds expression in and through our lives. So how about your life? How's your faith and love in Christ? Is it strong and sure? Or weak and wobbly? Is the presence of God and His love in your life real, personal, and meaningful? Is His love finding expression in your life? Or is God a handy but far away presence, to be consulted only in time of despair, depression, death, or even much less serious need or want? Is His love here?

We must confess that we have not always lived or loved as if Christ's love is here. We lay bare our souls as we confess that we "are poor miserable sinners." We confess to God that we "have sinned against [Him] in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved [Him] with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve [His] present and eternal punishment."

But then we hear those precious words of absolution: "Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you *all* your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." And we remember once more the "One Message—*Christ! His Love Is Here for Me!*"

All this is a simple but strong and sincere reminder that as Christians we have "One Message—*Christ! His Love Is Here for You!*":

- Assuring you in moments of doubt and disbelief;
- Upholding you in times of trial and temptation;
- Embracing and empowering you for mission and ministry.

For that empowerment, John clearly focuses his Spirit-given words. "*This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*" He also writes, in the 19th verse of this same chapter, "*We love because He first loved us.*" His love compels us and propels us to proclaim the light of Christ's love to all who live in the darkness of doubt and disbelief.

Non-believing people of the world are wondering and wandering in their effort to discover love, meaning, and acceptance, often turning to movements or groups based on beliefs

absolutely contrary to what we in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod believe, teach, and confess. For 160 years, we in the LCMS have firmly believed and proclaimed the truth of God's love in Jesus Christ, expressed so clearly in the words of Jesus himself: "*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.*" (John 3:16-17)

We have *ONE Mission*—to be *ABLAZE!*—on fire with the love of Christ—our hearts burning within us in seeking the lost for Christ with the power and presence of the very Spirit of God in our lives, on our lips and in our labors! We proclaim *ONE Message*, that Jesus Christ alone is the only Savior of the world! We are *ONE People*, united by God's love in Jesus Christ through His work within us in Word and Sacrament!

So whaddya' say? As best I could from the back seat of a taxi in Chicago traffic, I explained to Brad the grace of God, His promise to us in Holy Baptism, and the assurance of His promise of eternal salvation to those who accept His gift of faith in Christ. As we arrived at O'Hare, I asked Brad if I could pray for him. He readily agreed, so I prayed right there in the back seat of a taxi at O'Hare airport, with horns blaring behind us, for a measure of the peace of Christ that passes all understanding. When I told Brad about my change of plans that morning and my decision to call All Star Cab, I said, "I really don't know why I was in your cab this morning." Brad said, "I know why, Pastor Kieschnick. I needed to hear the words of comfort that you shared with me."

So whaddya' say? As best I could from seat 10-B on American Airlines, I shared with Jeri Kelly in seat 10-A the love of God in Christ, His assurance that He will never leave us nor forsake us, and His promise, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die" (John 11:25–26). When I told Jeri that I was originally scheduled for the 5:25 flight but had boarded this 4:25 standby flight, I said, "I really don't know why I was on your flight this afternoon." Jeri said, "I know why, Pastor Kieschnick. I needed to hear the message of assurance that you shared with me."

So whaddya' say? In times of such "divine appointments" that God sends your way, remember these words—the theme of this 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod: "*One Message—Christ! His Love Is Here for You—For Me—For the World!*"

The peace of God that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus! Amen!

Gerald B. Kieschnick, *President*



2. Memorial Service

Christ, The “I AM” of Resurrection and Life

Text: John 11:25–26

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”

I. What Is the Background and Occasion of This Theme?

During His earthly ministry, Christ referred to Himself at times as “I am.” Some familiar references are herewith given: “Before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58). “I am the bread of life...I am the living bread that comes down from heaven” (John 6:35, 41). “I am the Good Shepherd that lays down His life for the sheep” (John 10:11). Once again in this special memorial service, we hear Jesus Christ saying, “I am the resurrection and the life.”

Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, and a beloved friend of Jesus, is dead. When Jesus arrives in Bethany, Lazarus was buried four days earlier. Martha met Jesus near the burial place, saying, “If you had been here, my brother would not have died” (John 11:21). Jesus responded, “Your brother will rise again” (John 11:23). Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day” (John 11:24). Jesus replied empathetically, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies.”

This scripture is timely and appropriate for this memorial service. As we recall our loved ones’ heavenly home-going, it is indeed comforting to hear and know that our divine and gracious Savior, the Great “I am” is still in charge. Even though our loved ones sleep in graves, the “I am” in charge neither slumbers nor sleeps, but speaks to us triumphantly, “I am the resurrection and the life.”

II. How Is This Scripture Realized as Truth?

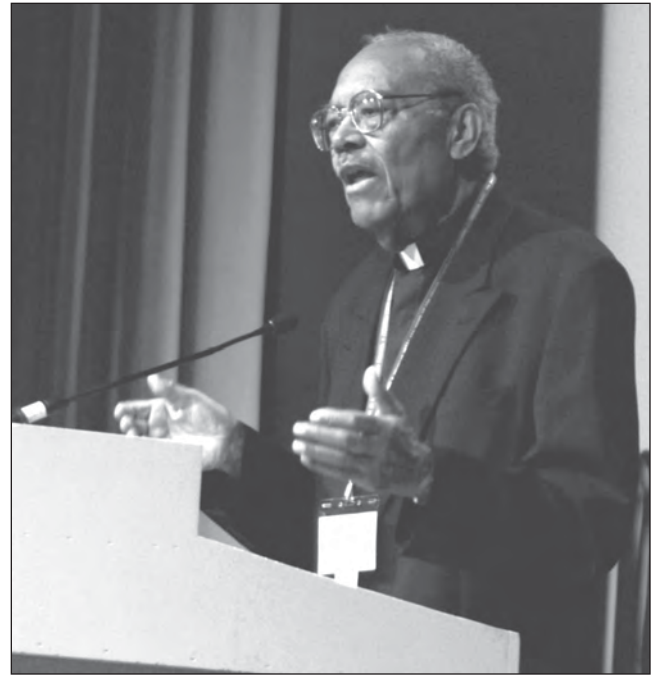
Jesus spoke these paramount words to Martha: “He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies” (John 11:25). Showing His concern, care, and compassion, Jesus wept, cried, had weeping eyes. When He had come to the tomb, He prayed to His heavenly Father. Afterwards, Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” And Lazarus came forth, alive!

Dealing with the resurrection of the dead was nothing new to Jesus. Jesus told the two disciples of John the Baptist, “Go and tell John what you see and hear, the blind receive sight, the lame walk..., the dead are raised” (Matt. 11:4–11). Moreover, Jesus raised Jairus’s daughter and the youth at Nain from the dead.

We as people die because of sin with which we are born and experience in life, and thus we suffer death. God’s Word says, “The wages of sin is death.” But then we hear, “The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).

Jesus suffered and died for our sins, but He rose on the third day. Now He says to His followers in Rev. 1:17–19, “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One. I was dead, and I am alive forever and ever.”

This is the ultimate truth. We do not have to be like Pilate and ask, “What is truth?” We do not have to be like ancient philosophers that say, “Search for truth.” We do not have to bask in the Shakespearian words “to thine own self be true,



then thou shall not be false to any man.” We do not have to be ashamed to disagree with the postmodernists that truth is what brings us satisfaction, or whatever we want it to be—no, we are not existentialistic! To be on the safe side: we are to hold on to Jesus, who declares: “I am the way, the truth and the life.” (John 14:6) “Continue in my word...the truth...” (John 8:31–32).

III. How Is the Response of Faith to Be Absolute?

Jesus says, “Whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:26). A firm response is called for, and that is the kind of response Martha gave. Martha’s response was not a twiddling of the fingers, no stuttering, no asking for time to think. Martha responded in faith unhesitatingly and forthrightly: “Yes, Lord...I believe that you are the Christ, The Son of God” (John 11:27).

We learn from Martha as our mentor. Our faith in the life connected with the resurrection is to be beyond question or doubt. Our faith in the resurrection and the life is to be firm, resolute, and absolute. We are to heed the words of St. Paul in 1 Thess. 4:13–14: “Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep or to grieve like the rest of men who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.” May we realize in the triumphant words of St. Paul, “Death is swallowed up in victory” (1 Cor. 15:54–57).

Jesus is the “I am” of the resurrection and life. This has a solid scriptural foundation. This is proved to be an absolute truth. This calls for faith in Jesus Christ for eternal life. Amen.

Robert H. King
Fourth Vice-President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



CONVENTION BIBLE STUDIES

1. One Message—*Christ!*

A Message of Love for a Church in Mission—John 3:16

PRAYER before the study of God's Word:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, without Your help our labor is useless, and without Your light our search is in vain. Invigorate our study of Your holy Word that, by due diligence and right discernment, we may establish ourselves and others in Your holy faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (*Lutheran Service Book*, 312)

Introduction

The focus of this convention is “One Message—*Christ!*” During these next few days, we will make plans for the next few years and beyond. Those plans will center on making known Christ's love by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world.

How do we do that? How do we make known the love of Christ? How do we nurture those who regularly sit in the pews of our LCMS parishes as we bring the kingdom of God to bear on their lives? How do we reach out to those we meet, for example, at the Little League game, the person who works next to us, and the neighbor who has no Christian church home? In the few moments we have together this morning, we are going to look to the Gospel of John for guidance as to how we can actually bring Christ's love to bear on the lives of the people we know and meet.

In chapter 3 of John's Gospel we read the story of Nicodemus, a Jewish leader who sought out Jesus under the cover of night. Verse 2 tells us that he probably came that night out of curiosity about who Jesus was. But as was usually the case—and we can reference here Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman in John 4—Jesus drew people into the conversation and then led them to discover His identity and the gifts He offers. Immediately following the conversation between Nicodemus and Jesus, the inspired apostle records the one Bible passage that is probably known by more people than any other in the Scriptures—and I dare say by everyone in this room.

You may remember the guy who, a few years ago, was a fixture at almost every televised golf tournament, major league baseball game, and other televised sporting events. He was usually dressed in jeans and a tee shirt, had multi-colored frizzy hair, and positioned himself so that the TV camera was on him just when the golfer would hit the ball or the pitcher was about to throw his fast ball. His last name was Rollen, and his nickname was Rockin', Rockin' Rollen. And, every time the TV camera was on him, he held up a sign on which was printed: John 3:16. Now I don't know how many people actually knew that this was a Bible reference and reached for their Bibles to read these words: “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever



believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” But for a few moments he had the attention of the world!

I memorized the words of John 3:16, as I'm sure many of you did, too, when I was a small child. They were probably the very first words of Scripture that I memorized, and I have carried them with me my whole life. Today, as we reflect on these words, I invite you to focus with me on one little word—often unnoticed—of enormous significance in this verse: the word *so*.

I. God *SO* Loved the World

In the Greek text, this is the first word in the sentence. It is pronounced “*houtōs*.” Actually, depending on the context, it can have a variety of meanings. In English, too, we use the word *so* in various ways. Consider, for example, the word *so* meaning “very,” as in, “This is *so* important.” Or, sometimes, it means “therefore,” as in, “So when he returns . . .” Or, it can even mean something like “to the degree or extent that,” as in, “So long as I have breath . . .” Or, “having a purpose,” as in, “So gathered here to study.” But here, in John 3:16, the Greek word actually means “In this manner; in this way.” With this meaning, the word is often used in discourse or narrative material to point directly to what follows. Take for example John 21:1: “After this Jesus revealed Himself again to His disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and He revealed Himself in this way [*houtōs*]” (ESV, emphasis added). Then follows the account of the post-Easter morning breakfast appearance of Jesus to His disciples.

Houtōs. What a gem this little word is! A tiny word of enormous significance: “In this manner.” This is *how* God did it, how He accomplished your salvation. In a sense, you could say that the whole story of our salvation is packed into this simple word. It points to God’s plan to redeem the world.

On March 17, 2006, the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* ran a fascinating article on how some scientists think the world began. They think that the world expanded to astounding proportions in the trillionth of a second as the result of an explosion from matter about the size of a marble. We can think of John 3:16 something like this, and in particular John’s little word *houtōs*, *SO*. In this high-density, “marble-sized” word is packed the whole matter of the world’s salvation. “God *SO* loved that world *THAT*....” Coupled with the word *THAT* we see the result God intended. God’s love for the world was unique and unparalleled, and He would stop at nothing to have His world with Him eternally.

The story of *HOW* God loved the world begins with creation. God called everything into being by His word: the sun, moon, and stars; the fish of the sea, birds of the air; the beasts of the field; and every living creature, including us. And, when creation was complete God pronounced “it is very good” (Gen. 1:31). God loved the world He created. Even when God made known His will to Adam and Eve—His boundary in the garden—it surely was not because He wanted to make life difficult for them. Rather, it was because He loved them. God’s love has many dimensions. But as we have learned from Luther’s Small Catechism, God’s Law is summarized in a single word: *LOVE*. God loved His creatures and wanted them to live in harmony with Him, expressing in return their love for Him.

Tragically, however, mankind sinned and fell under God’s condemnation. Now God’s Law exposes sin for what it really is. It reveals how rebellious human beings turn in on themselves and make an agony out of a life that God intended in the beginning should be a blessing. In case there was any doubt about God’s real intent, Jesus sharpened what God meant. Jesus taught:

- “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment” (Matt. 5:21–22).
- “You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matt. 5:27–28).
- “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:43–45).

Jesus makes it all the more clear how impossible it is for us sinful people to keep perfectly God’s righteous demands. Any infraction means that the creature that God loved so dearly must die eternally. But it is not God’s intent to leave the situation like this!

SO—in this way—God demonstrated His great love for the world He created: He sent His Son, Jesus, to buy back the world from sin and death and the power of the devil.

Do you remember how Martin Luther described this: “not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and His innocent suffering and death”? So, in this manner, Jesus went to the cross to pay, with His own body and blood, the exacting price God demanded in order to deliver each person on earth from the penalty they deserved, eternal death. That’s the price Jesus paid. Think of it! We deserved eternal condemnation. But, out of His love for us God refused to condemn the world. As John puts it, “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him” (3:17).

II. Where We Come In

God, therefore, wants all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth that in Jesus He was reconciling the world to Himself, making friends again (2 Cor. 5:19). This is where we come in, those of us who regularly sit in the pews of our LCMS parishes. We have thousands of professional church workers, many in this room right now, who are equipping millions of us to vigorously make known the love of Christ in our churches, communities, and the world. Every single soul is valuable to God. Not one person is more or less important to Him. In Luke 15, we read that “there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10).

We are the link between the Word of God, His love for the world, and His desire that all people should be saved. Some people in our communities may not know that Jesus Christ died to forgive their sins. We are the church, and we have been instructed by Jesus to go, tell, teach, and baptize. The words of the hymn “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying” say it well:

Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, “Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting—Who will bear the
sheaves away?”

Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying, “Here am I, send me, send me?”

If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus, You can say He died for all.

If you cannot be a watchman...Pointing out the path to
heaven, You can be like faithful Aaron, holding up the
prophet’s hands.

And, finally, these words...

Let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do.”

While the multitudes are dying And the Master calls for you.

Take the task He gives you gladly, Let His work your pleasure be;

Answer quickly when He calleth, “Here am I, send me, send me!”

III. So, God’s *SO* becomes our *SO*!

Here is what we are going to do: When I tell you, please get into groups of four or less, no more than four, so each of you will have an opportunity to speak. Please take about ten minutes to discuss these questions:

1. What opportunities have you had recently to speak to someone that you know does not attend a Christian church about the hope that is in you for your eternal salvation? to invite someone to attend your church with

you? Can you identify by name one person right now that you know doesn't attend a Christian church?

- 2 What is your congregation doing intentionally and vigorously to make known the love of Christ, by word and deed in your congregation, your community, and the world?

God acted to save us while we were dead in our trespasses and sins. He set us apart to declare His praises to those inside and outside the church. Not everybody has discovered a comfortable way to talk about their own faith to others. But you can encourage someone in their quest to do this. You can teach them to say what you say. You can take someone with you to demonstrate how you share the Good News about how Jesus Christ came to give eternal life to all who believe in Him.

President Kieschnick told us in his inaugural speech on September 8, 2001: "We must begin to honestly view as simply unacceptable the fact that we are surrounded by people who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior from sin. It must be of utmost concern to our Synod and to each one of us that such individuals are on their way to eternal condemnation. We must, in winsome fashion, share the Good News of what God has done through Christ in order that those who accept by faith His undeserved love will spend eternity with Him, in heaven, forever."

I pray that in our days together we will celebrate our past efforts of Gospel proclamation and empower the people of our LCMS congregations to make known boldly the love of Christ. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." Proclaiming this is our mission, our ONE mission: Christ. God bless our convention and the work each of us does every day to that end.

William R. Diekelman
First Vice-President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

PRAYER for the mission of the Church:

Almighty God, You have called Your Church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us to Yourself. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of Your salvation so that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (*Lutheran Service Book*, 305)





2. One Message—*Christ!*

A Message of Unity to a Sectarian Culture—1 Cor. 1

Introduction: The Setting

The city of Corinth, perched on the isthmus dividing Greece, was the ultimate destination in St. Paul's Second Mission Journey. Why? Because when the Romans took over Greece in the mid-second-century BC, they transferred its capital from Athens to Corinth. And Paul, who, throughout the Book of Acts loved to speak truth to power, saw stunning opportunities for the Gospel in this political, economic, and social capital. In fact, he would base his ministry here for the next eighteen months.

Corinth, however, seemed to be the mission field “least likely to succeed,” since it was a hotbed of competing cults, pagan idolatry, gross materialism, and sexual immorality. The Greek verb “to Corinthianize” meant to engage in every vice available. Looming over the city was the great Acrocorinthos, crowned with a temple to Aphrodite, goddess of love, sex, and reproduction. Paul certainly enjoyed his challenges, but it would seem that his mission here was doomed from the start.

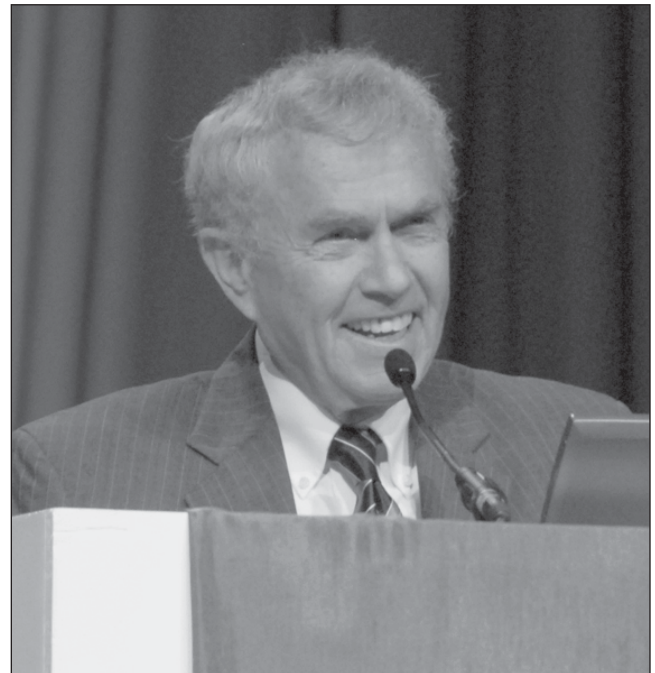
And yet it proved surprisingly effective after all. He won converts to the faith from the Jewish synagogue in Corinth, including Crispus, its president. When he was haled before no less than the Roman governor of Greece, Lucius Junius Gallio, the proconsul of Achaia (and Luke has that title exactly correct), the stage was set for the first test case for Christianity in the Mediterranean world. It was probably the most important trial in history since Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate. And Paul won! Gallio did exactly what Pontius Pilate wanted to do at the trial of Jesus: he threw the case against Paul out of court, thus legalizing Christianity at Corinth!

At this point, I just can't resist telling you how beautifully accurate is Luke's account in the Book of Acts. Paul's appearance before Gallio has become the chronological cornerstone in the chronology of his life. (The inscription at Delphi.) This also explains why Paul would later appeal for justice to Nero Caesar: Nero's tutor and advisor was none other than the great Stoic philosopher Seneca, who happened to be the full-blooded *brother of* Gallio, who ran Nero's courts. Basically, Paul was appealing to the very man whose brother had thrown the case against Paul out of court!

Now, it seemed, the church's problems at Corinth there were over. Or were they? Sadly, after Paul left, sectarian squabbles broke out, and the Christians there nicely quartered themselves into four “cult of personality” groups, favoring Paul, Apollos, Cephas (Peter), and—to finesse the others—Christ. Paul, now in Ephesus on his Third Mission Journey, had to intervene by letter. Today we call that letter 1 Corinthians.

I. The Letter

As you read the all-important chapter one of 1 Corinthians, Paul's message seems to have five parts:



Verses 1 to 9: Introduction and compliments to the young congregation at Corinth. Diplomatically, Paul often begins his Epistles in this way, though not always.

Vv. 10 to 12: Paul exposes the problem of dissension in the Corinthian church.

Vv. 13 to 17: Sectarianism and quarreling in the church is *not* what Jesus had in mind.

Vv. 18 to 25: Wisdom and folly—by earthly standards—are reversed in God's divine plan for the world in Christ, leading to the climactic claims in verses 22 to 25.

Vv. 26 to 31: Here, Paul applies the message to the Corinthians themselves, a theme that he will pursue further in chapters 2 through 4—and, in fact, through much of his letter.

II. And This Convention?

Rarely has an application been so *easy*! Not that we have problems involving pagan idolatry, gross materialism, or sexual immorality as was the case in Corinth! But in one respect we do draw a clear parallel to those ancient Corinthians, and that is the existence of divisions, party spirit, sectarianism, politicization, and even talk of schism.

The *general* reason for this is that today we have probably the most sectarian culture in history. The options promoting divisions in society are virtually unlimited. Specialties, niches, are available for everyone, including the worst category of all: the option to ignore God entirely. Why else are our newsstands cluttered with magazines to cover every possible hobby, interest, or even lust? Why do people worry that even 500 channels on television might not be enough? The cohesion in the simpler existence of yesteryear seems to have disintegrated.

The *specific* promoter of division in the LCMS is not, of course, to ignore God in Christ, but rather to insist that *my* particular interpretation of Scripture, *our* understanding of doctrine, and especially *our* practice are the only ones that God favors. Those of others, God must utterly disdain. The examples are many:

Publications, Web sites, blogs, and e-mails that regularly transgress the Eighth Commandment, thriving on the process of sowing discord.

Putting the worst (not best) construction on words and actions of those “in another camp.” Even the remarkable synodical initiative—*Ablaze!*—has been faulted by ultra-critical “purists” in our church. How very sad!

Lawsuits against the Synod and its leadership—incredibly, the very same problem that Paul will condemn in chapter six of his first Letter to Corinth, where he concludes, “*To have lawsuits at all with one another is a defeat for you*” (v. 7). Bottom line: Paul tells the Corinthians (and us): “Don’t go to law: this is sin!” And that is quite apart from the other sin of draining Synod resources for having gone to law in the first place!

III. The Remedy

In Paul’s day, it was to focus on Christ and heed His message of unity in a sectarian world, as witness His prayer in the Upper Room that His followers “may all be brought to complete unity” (John 17:23).

The result? At first the Corinthian congregation was ticked off at Paul’s letter (as we know from 2 Corinthians), but it finally listened to Paul, and a *strong* church was established at Corinth. The Early Church historian, Eusebius of Caesarea, tells of a gifted second-century bishop of Corinth, Dionysius, who had enormous prestige in the area and wrote superb letters to bishops in Crete and the rest of Greece. In one of them, he tells that another Dionysius, one of two named converts after Paul’s Mars Hill address in Acts 17, became the first bishop of Athens.

In our day, the remedy really is exactly the same: to focus on Christ and heed His message of unity in our sectarian church and world. Like Martin Luther King, “I have a dream” for our beloved Synod: that we would leave this convention as if Jesus Himself had attended it, and told this convention, “I understand your concerns about Communion, church, ministry, worship, the roles women and men, and your outreach to the world, but in the name of the sovereign God who created the universe, get over your quarrels and be about your Father’s business!!”; and that we would leave Houston with a wondrous spirit of unity in which there were no victors, no losers, but Christian brothers and sisters gloriously one in Christ, ablaze with the desire to pass on the Good News to a world that needs it so badly.

Paul L. Maier
Second Vice-President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



3. One Message—Christ!

A Message of Truth in a Postmodern World—Acts 17:16–34

Introduction

Almost ten years ago, a film titled *The Truman Show* gave us the tragic situation of a man whose whole life, unknown to him, was a television program. His family and friends were all actors, playing roles. His world was lived under a huge dome, a gigantic sound stage he thought was real.

At the end of the film, Truman finally figures it out as his sailboat runs up against a wall and he ascends a staircase that promises to take him from this fantasy world to what's real and true. It's then that the director of the show breaks in to try to get Truman to stay. "Was nothing real?" Truman asks the director. "You were real," says the director, "That's what made you so good to watch." And then the director says, "Listen to me, Truman. There's no more truth out there than there is in the world I created for you. Same lies. The same deceit."

I. We Live in a Non-Reality World

And with that, we're given a vivid statement of our culture, what it is like to be trapped in world where real truth is an illusion; the rabbit out there six inches ahead of the chasing dog.

Film after film—*The Matrix*, *Wag the Dog*, *Groundhog Day*, *The Sixth Sense*, *Bulworth* (the list goes on)—gives us this idea that the real and the true are absolutely an illusion and absolutely elusive.

And then there are the reality shows that end up being anything but real—singers on *American Idol* who can't sing, and we're supposed to believe that eating maggots or being overrun by rats is somehow "real." Language in such a culture can morph into a secret code to where someone walks up to a Starbucks counter and says, "Double Ristretto Venti Nonfat Organic Chocolate Brownie Frappuccino Extra Hot with Foam and Whipped Cream Upside Down Double Blended." And what scares me is that some of you know what that looks like.

It's in that culture we live, and it's to that culture we're sent—a culture seeking a staircase, a door, to some truth, some reality that sticks. It's a culture that turns those doors into a "Let's Make a Deal," as one truth, one reality, and then another vie for our attention and loyalty. So a woman has a cross, a crescent, a Buddah, and a star of David placed on her gravestone, accepting them all as true and calling herself a true believer. Truth becomes diluted and threatened by a self-driven relativism. Because people say something is true seems to make it true, at least for them. Abe Lincoln once asked the question, "How many legs does a dog have if you call the tail a leg?" His answer: "Four, because calling a tail a leg doesn't make it a leg."

II. How to Relate to a Pagan Society

So how does the church relate to a pagan society forever after elusive truth and reality? We can bash it, forgetting we're a part of it. We can dash from it, escaping to our own safe harbor. We can cash in and sell out, morphing truth



into opinion. Bash, dash, and cash. Or we can do what the church has always been sent to do: transform the world, testifying to the truth and reality of Jesus Christ.

For that task, that sending, there is no better model than Paul on Mars Hill in Athens. In Paul's day, Athens was no longer a great city, but it was still seen as a place of great ideas, where truth was considered and tried by some of the brightest people anywhere. As Luke tells it in verse 21, the Athenians were taken with just about any new idea. Newer was better.

There, in Athens, we get a lesson in Christians transforming the culture. Let me walk you through the text.

First, notice at the start of verse 16 that Paul was in Athens waiting for his traveling companions to catch up with him. Here is a rare occasion when Paul stands alone. *Sometimes Christians stand alone in witness*. So often, our witness to the truth is one-on-one. It's a "Here I Stand" enterprise. And yet, like Paul, when we speak, we are lifted by the prayers and encouragement of other Christians. When Paul spoke in Athens, he had partners in the church across the Mediterranean world in prayer for him. He also had the grace of Jesus Christ. Paul knew the laws of rhetoric alright, but it's likely he was not all that engaging a speaker in person. Early depictions show him short, bald-headed, with a hooked nose. Yet there in Athens, the overwhelming number of idols and the grace of God made him speak, alone but not alone.

Second, notice in the opening verses of the text how *Paul was a player in his culture*. In verses 17–19, we see Paul first in the synagogue, then in the marketplace, and then in the Areopagus. Paul was on the field, in the game. He didn't hurl

missiles from the safety of his house church. He earned the right to be heard. He got outside the walls of the church and into the culture's debate. In a real sense, that's one of the reasons we're here, not to turn in on ourselves but to say a word to the culture, a word of real truth. We're meant to be players in our culture. That means we have a prophetic voice that needs to be heard. We have books that need to be written in the popular vernacular of our culture. Our theologians at our seminaries need to break outside the walls of academic theology into the world of public witness, testimony, and apologetics. Our pastors and lay leaders need to go where the culture's idols stand and where its longings are heard. The Early Church didn't circle its wagons. It charged into its culture with the truth of Jesus Christ.

Third, *we can expect to be misunderstood*; Paul was. They call him a “babbler” in verse 18. The word actually means “seed-picker.” Today, we might say, “bird brain.” They were so taken up with idols, they thought he was introducing two new gods, Jesus and the Resurrection—taking the Greek word for resurrection, *Anastasis*, to be the name of another god. So Christians can expect to be called intolerant, exclusionary, duped, and out of touch. When Paul mentions the resurrection at the end of his speech, some sneer, others politely ask to hear more, and still others believe. We can expect different responses. Our task is to present, leaving the response to the Holy Spirit. One of the blessings of *Ablaze!* is its clear understanding that the results, the eternal yield of witness, are all a matter of God's grace.

Perhaps the most practical lesson we can take from Paul in Athens is *how he breaks open the cultural icons of his day and fills them full of new meaning*, Christian meaning. In verses 22–23, Paul has spotted an altar with the inscription, “To an Unknown God” (Greek, *AGNOSTO THEO*), he says he will tell them about the god they do not know. And later, in verse 28, in making the point that since we are all created by God, God cannot be our creation, he chooses to quote well-known classic Greek poets, Epimenides, Aratus, and Cleanthus, loading their words with new Christian meaning. The church has always broken open the language of the culture and redefined it from a Christian perspective. The word *sacrament*, for instance, was a secular word for a pledge of loyalty, recast by Christians to apply to Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the Lord's pledges of loyalty to us.

This breaking open of the culture's icons means we need to know our culture—its poetry, its books, its novels, its magazines, its art, its cartoons, its coffee shops. Our culture's language and music and so much more are waiting to be broken open, interpreted, not giving them a spin, but filling them with truth from our Christian perspective. We have to know our culture. I spoke recently at a pastor's conference and said I had a list of 10 secular books published since 2000 that every pastor should read because they reveal our culture. Within a week, I had received over 100 requests for the list. Pastors get this.

A fifth lesson comes as we watch Paul present God as so much bigger, so much greater than the gods of the Athenians.

Look at verses 26–27. *The true God is bigger and more dangerous than the god and the truth of our culture.* Paul's God—and ours—establishes and moves nations according to His will and for the sake of His salvation plan. Then, at verses 29–31, we hear how Paul's God—and ours—raised Jesus from the dead and so made certain the urgent reality of a coming judgment. That looming judgment hovers over Paul's witness, giving it an authentically urgent character. Is that urgency here? Do we feel it? Do we see it on the horizon?

A sixth lesson comes with Paul's witness to the resurrection (v. 31). *The truth and reality of Jesus rides on His resurrection.* In the end, Paul's message was a message of eternal proportions, a truth, a historical reality corroborated by a risen Jesus Christ, whom Paul himself had seen and heard. In the end, the truth we speak, the truth we live and die for, is the truth of Jesus Christ: His perfect life, His suffering in our place, His atoning death, and His return from death. This is Jesus, who said, “I am the truth.” This is Jesus, whose life was not some fantasy, not some divine show in the mind of a writer, but Jesus in history, the real Jesus, exploding from death to life, still present among us here, here now, at a church convention! (Imagine that!)

III. The Truth That Matters

In the end, the truth we long for most is the truth that looks death in the eye and says, “Death, you are defeated. Death, you cannot have me!” In the end, the truth about Jesus, the truth Jesus is, stands or falls on His resurrection. Even the spiritually shallow are taken by this basic tenet of our faith. As one wag put it, he wanted to be buried in Jerusalem because that city has the highest resurrection rate of any city in the world.

And finally, notice that at verse 34, *individuals matter in the record of the church's witness.* The flock increases one sheep at a time. Dionysius and Damaris are mentioned by name. The Kingdom grows one by one. We can dream of movements, pray for the multitudes to know Jesus, but one by one they come in. Why? Because the church, set ablaze by the Spirit of God, speaks the truth, and grace works faith, faith in the One who said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

Questions for Discussion

1. Where in our culture do you see self-focused, do-it-yourself truth at work?
2. When have you found yourself standing “alone” for the truths of your faith?
3. Where do you see opportunities for the church to “break open” cultural icons?
4. What keeps the LCMS from being a more visible player in our culture's debate of ideas and truths?
5. What aspect of Paul's witness in Athens is most significant for our church today?

Dean W. Nadasdy
Third Vice-President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

4. One Message—Christ!

A Message of Love to a Desperate People—Acts 3 and 4

Introduction

This morning, our Bible Study is going to be driven by *two chapters of God's Word* and *two of my favorite hymns*. So much my favorites, that I've let it be known to my family that my wish would be to sing them at my funeral. *They are old hymns, but not that well known*. They cannot even be found in *Lutheran Worship* nor the new *Lutheran Service Book*. But they are in the 1941 Lutheran hymnal, and *before they get forgotten*, I want to have this great assembly sing them as part of this Bible Study.

The theme assigned to me is "A Message of Love to a Desperate People." Desperate people are people who have no hope. Wow, do desperate people (without any hope) ever need a message of *love*. I want to divide this Bible Study into two parts following the outline on pages 403–404 of *Today's Business*. The two parts address the fact that there are only two kinds of people in this world. Those who know they are desperate people and those who don't know they are desperate people. Because, of course, standing on our own before a *holy* God, we are all desperate people. Some of us know it; and some of us don't. And we are here this morning to celebrate that God's *love* is here, at least today, for both groups.

I. His Love Is Here for Those Who Know They Are Desperate.

In Acts 3, as Peter and John are going up to the temple they meet a man lame from birth being carried up to the temple to beg for alms. Here is a man without hope . . . desperate . . . lame since he was born. And the first verse of one of my favorite hymns, "Come Ye Disconsolate" describes his condition:

*Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish;
Come to the Mercyseat, fervently kneel,
Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish;
Earth has no sorrow that Heav'n cannot heal.*

There are many who come Sunday after Sunday to our churches with wounded hearts . . . filled with anguish. Many of our family and friends are languishing in the trials and tribulations of this life's fallen world. I am certain this morning that there are some among you in this great delegation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who have sorrows *that heaven alone can heal*. Many times in our lives we need consoling because the circumstances of our life have left us disconsolate, desperate.

Peter says to the man asking for money in Acts 3: "*I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.*" And leaping up, he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

Folks, do you remember another day in Jesus' earthly ministry when another crippled man was lowered down from the roof by his friends? Remember how before Jesus healed him physically he told him his sins were forgiven. And in the dialogue that followed, Jesus asked that won-



derful question: "*Which is easier to say your sins are forgiven or take up your bed and walk?*" The greatest gift a desperate person needs to open is not the elimination of earthly struggles, but the forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus. In verse 19 of Acts 3, Peter reminds those who were questioning this healing miracle, "*Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.*" Every one of us is desperate for the forgiveness of our sins. Every one of us on our own is dis-consolable. Every one of us in the darkness of our sin is straying like sheep without a shepherd. We need light. We need hope. We need love. The love of Christ that is here for desperate people who know their desperation and reach out in repentance and contrition for a healing that can only come from heaven, this is earth's greatest sorrow . . . that heaven alone can heal. Verse 2 says it:

*Joy of the desolate, Light of the straying,
Hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure;
Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying,
Earth has no sorrow that Heav'n cannot cure.*

And where is that forgiveness offered to the desperate who *know* their condition? And what is the source of such hope? Where indeed do we find the voice of the Comforter tenderly saying, "Earth has no sin sorrow that Heav'n cannot cure?" We know the answer. We are the "means of grace" church. Christ's love is here for desperate people in the Word and Sacraments. Christ's love is here [hold up the Bible] in His promises of hope. The Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the one true faith. Christ's love is here in *His church*, which Augsburg VII confesses is the "assembly

of saints in which the Gospel is taught purely and the sacraments are administered rightly." It's the place where God's love is here dispensed on earth in the waters flowing from Holy Baptism and in the bread of life broken at His feast of love. It's all there in verse 3:

Here see the Bread of Life; see waters flowing
Forth from the throne of God, pure from above,
Come to the feast of love; come, ever knowing
Earth has no sorrow but Heav'n can remove.

There is not much time allotted to our Bible study, but there is enough for you to respond for a moment to a simple topic of conversation. Talk for a moment in table groups about how important it is to be a church for those who *know their desperate condition*, for the broken, the contrite, the sorrowful faithful, the searching lost, the prodigal coming home, the wandering seeking the way. Talk about this question:

In 2007, what are the great hurts we see *within the church*? In your congregation, how must the love of Christ be more generously shared?

[Short time of discussion]

We have talked thus far about the *broken desperate*.

Now let's turn our attention to the *ignorant desperate*. By that I mean they are living in *ignorant bliss*. They believe that they are in total and complete control of their lives, when, in fact, their lives are built on not one single thing that will last, that will endure. Their lives are built on the *shifting sands of unbelief*. We are here this morning to celebrate that on this side of eternity, God's love is here for them too.

II. His Love Is Here for Those Who Don't Know How Desperate They Are.

Acts chapter 4 begins with these words: "*The Priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon Peter and John, annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them.*"

Far more numerous than the *broken desperate* within the church or looking to the church are the *desperate ignorant*, who are trying in this present time to destroy the church. They have chosen another road, a road that leads the soul away from God. And in such a road, there is no happiness; no hope; only desperation. So begins my second old favorite hymn. It's a little more familiar than the first one, and I believe it's another great hymn to be sung at a Christian's funeral. At least at mine.

Let thoughtless thousands choose the road
That leads the soul away from God;
This happiness, dear Lord, be mine,
To live *and die* entirely Thine.

The closer I get to my funeral, that is to say the older I get, these desperate ignorant are the people I am more and more concerned about. In a Bible Study years ago, led by President Emeritus Ralph Bohlmann, I recall him taking us on a journey through Acts, chapter 4, and zeroing in on all the verses that spoke about the boldness and the power with which Peter and John spoke to the *desperately ignorant*. Come on that journey with me:

V. 12: *No one else can save us. We can be saved only by the power of the one named Jesus.*

V. 20: *We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.*

V. 29: *Lord, pay attention to their threats and allow us to speak Your word boldly.*

V. 31: *All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the Word of God boldly.*

V. 33: *With great power they continued to testify that the Lord Jesus had come back to life.*

And I love verse 13: "*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they wondered; and they recognized that they had been with Jesus.*"

Speaking of funerals, that would be great on a tombstone, wouldn't it? He was an uneducated common preacher, but you could tell he had been with Jesus. Not bad, huh? Verse 2:

On Christ, by faith, I fain would live,
From Him my life, my all, receive,
To Him devote my fleeting hours,
Serve Him alone with all my pow'rs.

And what must be our message to the *desperate ignorant*? They have to hear about Jesus. *Take them to the cross and the open tomb*. That's where Peter took them: "*You want to know how this crippled was made well? This man stands in your presence healed by the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth. You crucified Jesus Christ, but God has brought him back to life. He is the stone the builders rejected, the stone that has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*" Verse 3:

Christ is my everlasting All;
To Him I look, on Him I call;
He will my ev'ry want supply
In time and thro' eternity.

And what, pray tell me, are we waiting for? The late Ed Wescott would spur this church on in mission by reminding us that Revelation chapter 12 tells us the devil is all over this planet working like crazy because he knows that his time is short. *Would that the church be as zealous as we set our priorities*. Would that I at the beginning of my pastoral ministry had been as concerned about the desperately ignorant as I am today. Would that our budgets would reflect a more passionate zeal for reaching the lost while it is yet day, before the night comes—and *that night is coming*. I don't know if this church has until 2017 to reach 100 million people. For my sake, I wish Christ would come today. For the redeemed, dying is gain. *But for the sake of the desperately ignorant*, I pray that the Lord be long-suffering with them for their unbelief and with us for our apathy. And until the Lord's patience with them and us runs out, we still need to live and love and work and serve and care and share—for to live is Christ! Verse 4:

Soon will the Lord, my Life, appear;
Soon shall I end my trials here,
Leave sin and sorrow, death and pain.
To live is Christ, to die is gain.

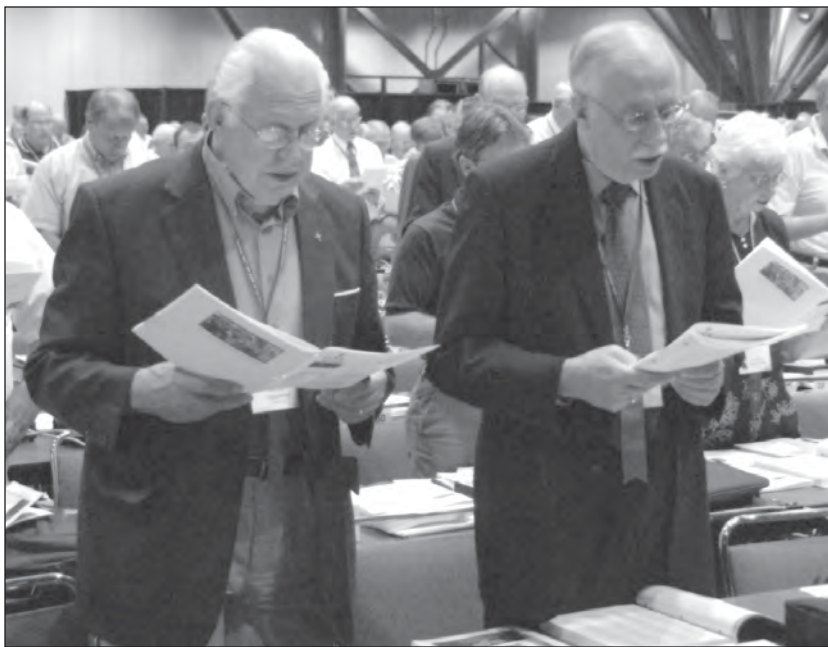
And the final verse of this great hymn reminds us of making sure Christ's love is *here* for the desperately ignorant. Remember that verse from 1 Corinthians 13 that you hear at almost every wedding you attend? That last verse that reads, "*Now there is faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.*" Have you ever wondered why love is greater than faith and hope. I mean, really, where would we be without faith and hope? *Well, we'd be in heaven, where faith and hope are no longer needed.* Sure, think about it: If faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the confidence of things not seen. In heaven, we are going to see it all; faith will have been completed. And hope? Eager expectation of the glorious things to come? In heaven there is no longer anything to hope for. Hope will have been consummated. All that we'll need for eternity is *love*. And that eternal *love* will be ours throughout timeless ages. Verse 5:

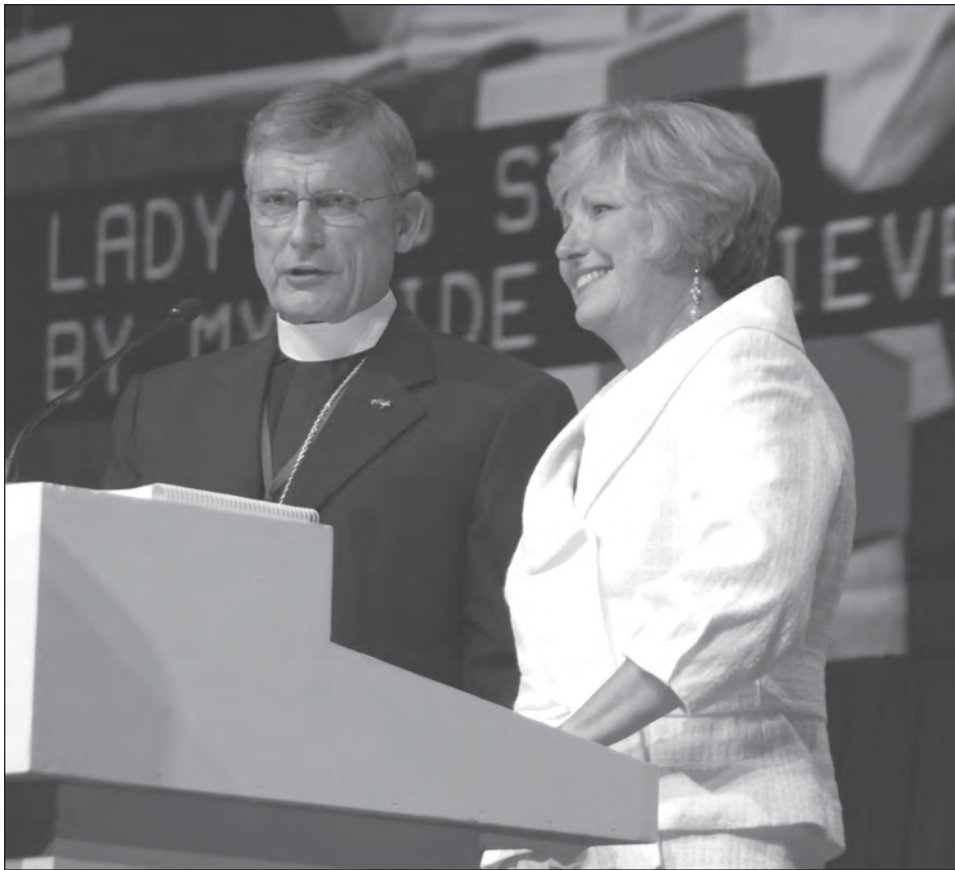
Soon will the saints in glory meet,
Soon walk through every golden street,
And sing on every blissful plain;
To live is Christ, to die is gain.

Just a few minutes left. So go back into your little groups and share just one excuse you hear about ignoring the *desperately ignorant* in your congregation. You know, like, "It's their own damn fault" or "We need to take care of our own first" or "That's the pastor's job"—you've heard them all. *Now reflect on the story of the Pentecost church in Acts and what would they say to us today?*

To close let's sing this second hymn #608 TLH

David D. Buegler
Fifth Vice-President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod





OTHER PRESENTATIONS

1. President's Acceptance Speech

Thank you, dear friends in Christ, for this expression of trust and confidence. I am deeply humbled by your vote. Allow me to share with you a word from the apostle Paul:

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. (Philippians 1:3–5)

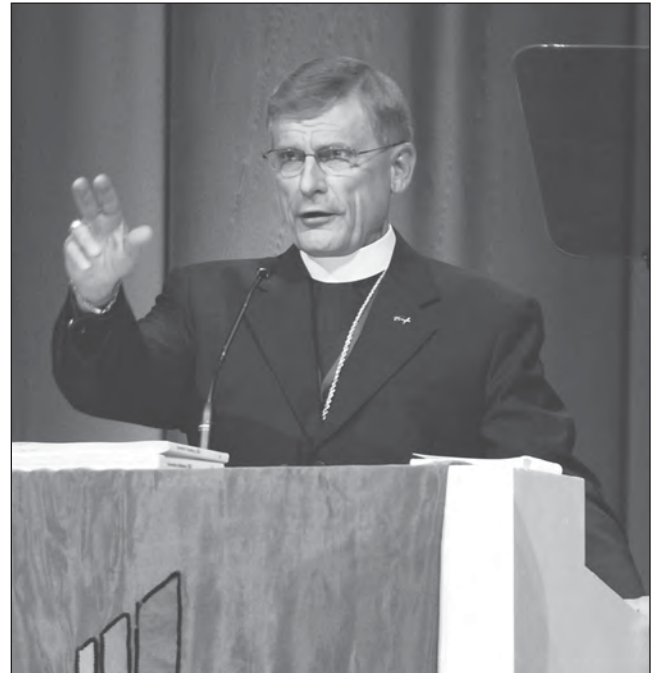
This is now the third time the mantle of leadership of this church body we know and love as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been placed on the shoulders of a man who considers himself in many ways quite ordinary, but who, like each of you, has been blessed with extraordinary grace from God for life and ministry. Under His grace, and guided by His Spirit, it is my humble honor and privilege to continue serving this incredible church body in this nearly indescribable office, which is inherently full of both burdens and blessings.

In the past six years, I have learned firsthand that the office of President of the LCMS is one with little authority and much responsibility. I have learned the value of collaborative leadership, the wisdom and necessity of patience, and the awareness of the structural limitations placed upon the office in which I serve. I have learned to expect criticism, both from those within and those outside our Synod. Some of that criticism is constructive, contributing to the health and faithfulness of our church and my ministry as its leader. Other expressions of criticism are destructive, even sinful, seemingly intended to tear down, to attack, to misrepresent, to characterize inaccurately and unfairly, and to judge motives.

I am an imperfect, fallible, sinful human being, dependent on the grace of God in Jesus Christ for forgiveness and strength. Where I have failed you in the past, I ask your forgiveness, realizing there will be times in the future when that request will need to be repeated. With you, I thank God for the daily assurance of forgiveness from His gracious hand.

For quite some time, disagreement has existed in our Synod over various matters, some of which in the past six years have involved elected officers, members of various boards, and other leaders. Dear friends in Christ, resources are too precious to spend in arguing or fighting or suing about who has or does not have contested authority. For the sake of the Gospel, I respectfully encourage you to seek prayerfully the perfect will of our gracious God in electing to the other offices and to the boards and commissions of our Synod men and women who not only are “full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom” (Acts 6:3) but also individuals who share the God-given vision of our Synod to reach lost people for Christ with the precious message of salvation through Christ alone as the one people God has called us to be. I pray and trust that the Spirit will lead, guide, and direct each of your votes in the remaining elections and decisions at this convention.

We look forward to many opportunities, especially in the next 10 years leading up to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, for providing collaborative leadership in



Lutheran churches around the world and through our confessional witness to the entire Christian Church on earth. The *Ablaze!* movement is gaining momentum worldwide. The *Fan into Flame* campaign is well on its way to providing the financial resources necessary for starting 2,000 new missions and increasing our worldwide mission endeavors. Our faith is active in love as God's grace and mercy are demonstrated in acts of Christian charity and kindness by individuals and congregations to those in physical and spiritual need. Our universities and seminaries are genuine blessings in the preparation of rostered and lay leaders for the future. We have much for which to be thankful in the LCMS. We have been blessed to be a blessing! We dare not take that blessing for granted.

A special word of thanks is expressed to the 35 district presidents of our Synod for their collegial, fraternal partnership in the Gospel. Their work is difficult. They do it faithfully—and on many occasions, but not at all times—even joyfully!

Included in this word of thanks are the five Vice-Presidents of our Synod, who have been most helpful these past three years with their counsel, encouragement, and prayerful support. They are godly, humble men with servant hearts. I include a special word of thanks to Dr. Robert King, who has served the Synod as a Vice-President for 21 consecutive years, this year choosing not to stand for reelection. Dr. King, your replacement will have big shoes to fill. These 40 members of the Council of Presidents are a genuine blessing to our Synod. I hold you men and your dear wives in my heart and in my prayers.

Thanks also to the members of my immediate and extended family for their sacrifices these past six years in see-

ing once frequently present parents and grandparents become largely absent from everyday activities and present primarily at special family events and major holiday gatherings. They all live here in Texas—my 91-year-old mother, who is here today, my father-in-law and mother-in-law, son Andrew and daughter Angie, her husband Todd and their two children Kolby and Kayla. We love you, miss you and hold you in our hearts and prayers always.

One final word of thanks and appreciation is expressed to my dear wife, Terry, who has stood faithfully by my side for 41½ years. Those years, especially the past six, have been filled with abundant grace, joys, blessings, and exciting adventures, along with challenges, pressures, and stresses of many kinds. Terry bears in her heart a deep respect and abiding love for the Lord and for His Church, expressed as a very active volunteer who travels, extensively, often with me and sometimes without me, representing the

LCMS at congregations, conferences, retreats, and other venues. Thank you, Terry, for your love, support, patience, forgiveness, and faithfulness to me and for your support of the women of our church, particularly the wives of pastors and other professional church workers, and especially the wives of the Council of Presidents and pastors of our Synod. I am very proud, humbly of course, of the first lady of our Synod!

A final word from the apostle Paul:

I thank my God every time I remember you . . . being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:3, 6)

Thank you and God bless each and every one of you, dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

Gerald B. Kieschnick, *President*



2. GREETINGS FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE ELCA

Grace and peace be with you in the name of God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I bring you official greetings on behalf of Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and the 4.8 million members in more than 10,000 congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I am grateful for this opportunity to be with you at this 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

As some of you may recall, I have served as secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the past 20 years. My current term ends on October 31 of this year. I have chosen to retire from office at that time. My successor will be elected at the forthcoming Tenth Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA. The voting members for that assembly will gather in Chicago, August 6–11.

In being mindful of the elections of the ELCA assembly, I know of the significant decisions that you have made here in Houston on behalf of the clergy, members, congregations, and districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Congratulations especially to the Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick on his first-ballot reelection as president.

I take this opportunity to express in your presence my gratitude for the privilege throughout these past two decades of serving as a member of the Committee on Lutheran Cooperation. I have done so in recent years with President Kieschnick, First Vice-President Diekelman, and Secretary Hartwig. In so doing, I have been grateful for the constructive opportunities to meet regularly with them and their predecessors.

With the formation of the ELCA in 1987, the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. ceased to exist. At that point, I was convinced of the need for a systematic, continuing point of contact between leaders of the ELCA and the LCMS, just as the Lutheran Council had been a place for communication between the LCMS and the predecessor church bodies of the ELCA. So I urged the establishment of the Committee on Lutheran Cooperation. The meetings of the committee have been salutary in fostering such ongoing communication and mutual understanding.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have very different histories. I suspect that many of the pastors and members of both the ELCA and the LCMS do not realize that fact. The ELCA is the result of many mergers throughout the decades of the 20th century; the LCMS has largely a continuous history since its formation in 1847. Those differing histories shape the distinctive characteristics of the ELCA and the LCMS. Therefore, we need to talk. We need to listen. We need to seek understanding.

In that regard, I will give you a preview this morning of one section of my report in three weeks to the ELCA's Churchwide Assembly. In that final report in my role as secretary, I will say the following to the voting members:



I have worked hard in trying to keep as many doors and windows open as possible between the ELCA and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The task has not been easy, and at times the prospects have seemed discouraging. Yet I remain convinced that, for the sake of clear Lutheran witness in this land, these two church bodies need to work together in as many ways as possible now and in the years to come.

We need to do so not just for ourselves, but for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and our great-grandchildren.

There are areas of cooperation that we can treasure together. Those include the support by both the ELCA and the LCMS of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, and Lutheran Services in America. We engage together as well in the Inter-Lutheran Coordination Committee for Ministries in Chaplaincy, Pastoral Counseling, and Clinical Education. We also have worked together over many years in Lutheran Disaster Response.

Our two churches cooperate significantly in undergirding the work of our Lutheran military chaplains. That support of current chaplains as well as the recruitment efforts for the future is absolutely crucial these days. Within the past three years, we in the ELCA have lost due to retirements one-fourth of our active-duty chaplains. They have served conscientiously with personnel of the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard. Will we as Lutherans yield the pastoral care of our members in the armed forces only to religious groups who have no understanding or appreciation of our heritage? I certainly hope not.

Chaplain Mark Schreiber and Chaplain Ted Wuerffel do superb work in the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces program. So does Chaplain Darrell Morton in the ELCA

Bureau for Federal Chaplaincy Ministries. But they need our prayer; they need our support; they need our cooperation in their efforts to seek and encourage our chaplains in that frontline ministry—sometimes literally frontline—for the 40,000 sons and daughters of our Lutheran congregations, as well as among all the others to whom they minister. And our churches desperately need young pastors to be open now to the call to chaplaincy service.

May God continue to bless the faithful proclamation of the Gospel throughout our churches. And may God's Spirit guide us as we, without ceasing, declare "One Message—Christ." After all, we confess together that *"God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through Him. . . . Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another"* (1 John 4:9 and 11, NRSV).

Lowell G. Almen, *Secretary*



3. GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDING PASTOR OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCHES

President Kieschnick, delegates to the 63rd Regular Synodical Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and your guests, brothers and sisters, on behalf of your brothers and sisters in The American Association of Lutheran Churches, and on behalf of Presiding Pastor-elect Franklin Hays, I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who brings us grace and peace! I cannot tell you sufficiently with what joy and honor it is for me to do so.

So may I greet you also with these words of the apostle Paul, from his Epistle to the Colossians, chapter 1, verses 3–6: *“We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth.”*

Faith—love—hope—the word of the truth of the Gospel—and the fruit that endures: that is the apostolic summary of the Christian life. Brothers and sisters, by the action you have just taken, and by that taken by the AALC in convention last month, we have just declared fellowship with one another in those sacred gifts given by our Lord Himself to us, which He bestows upon us through His Holy Word and Sacrament. This is truly a joyful and an awesome thing—that the unity we have in Christ has now been so expressed because of mutually recognized concord in faith and life.

The American Association of Lutheran Churches has found a true friend and brother in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod! On a personal note, the fellowship we have just declared is the fulfillment of a hope cherished for over 20 years.

I was ordained into holy ministry in the former American Lutheran Church (1960). As I’m sure many of you here know and remember, at that time, that body had enjoyed fellowship with the LCMS for some 11 years, a relationship which was to end one year later. As many of us then realized with increasing awareness, the tradition of American Lutheranism, even in the confessional household of the former Iowa Synod, was surrendering its birthright for a mess of philosophical pottage. It did so by applying a methodology of doubt to the study of the sacred Scriptures. Only by returning to its confession of faith could this tragic course be reversed.

In that return, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod proved itself a true friend and brother. Early in its history, in order to clarify its stand on the inerrancy of Holy Scripture and the authority of the Lutheran Confessions, the AALC in convention adopted unanimously your own *Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles*. And in order to stave off both biblicism and Gospel reductionism, the Association Council endorsed the CTCR report written in 1974, *Gospel*



and Scripture: The Interrelationship between the Material and Formal Principles in Lutheran Theology.

The voice of brothers and sisters in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has found a welcome and eager hearing in the AALC. From Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffmann in 1989 to Dr. Larry Rast last month, your members have taught and encouraged and emboldened us as keynote speakers at our conventions, and you have never turned us down! Thank you and God bless you for that!

You have been a continual blessing to us! After I received the kind invitation of Dr. Dean Wenthe at the synodical convention in St. Louis three years ago to send our seminarians to Ft. Wayne, we have, in fact, moved our entire seminary to CTS—perhaps this was more than Dr. Wenthe bargained for—but there our future pastors receive world-class theological training and spiritual formation as those who will bear Christ’s presence for the sake of the world. The apostle Paul writes, *“Owe no one anything, except to love one another”* (Romans 13:8a). Both for the incredibly generous help we have received, and for love’s sake, we are hugely in your debt!

I have sometimes been asked what are the differences between our two church bodies. I have mentioned two that stand out to me. The first is a difference in size. I make it out that the LCMS is twice as large as the AALC—you reckon the number of your congregations in four digits. We currently require only two.

More revealing is the difference in our histories. Last month, Dr. Nafzger, in his greeting to us on behalf of President Kieschnick, reminded our delegates of the context in Germany out from which the LCMS traces its origin. In the

aftermath of the “Prussian union” of Reformed and Lutheran churches, forced by the order of King Frederick Wilhelm III in 1817, and after two decades of persecution, your forebears in Christian faith fled Saxony. Under the leadership of Dr. C. F. W. Walther, after overcoming incredible problems, both internal and external—to borrow Dr. Nafzger’s expression—together with pastors sent to America by Wilhelm Loehe in Bavaria, these immigrant confessors of Christ formed what eventually became known as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

I would be hard pressed to name an exactly comparable defining moment in the history of the predecessor bodies of some of those now members of the AALC. And yet they, too, know something of dispossession and the cost of confessing Christ and the truth of His Scripture, His Gospel.

Having said that, however, as I asked our delegates before the concluding session of our convention, had we been there under those conditions in Prussia, what would we have done? Life is confession. The Christ we confess is not simply one we remember or who is somehow present with us but is none other than the one who bestows upon us His very body and blood at His table. Nothing is more precious than Jesus Christ and Him crucified for us!

Brothers and sisters, how are we being called upon to confess Christ today? Or what manner of circumstances yet

unseen may come to us unexpectedly which will call upon us to sacrifice and take our joy in confessing Him who is the message we have to proclaim?

To my mind, the sustained desire to hold Christ’s doctrine and Christ’s mission together is what is most attractive and winsome about the life and witness of the Missouri Synod. We must never separate doctrine and mission. Allow me to repeat this, brothers and sisters. We must never separate doctrine and mission.

The Christ who says, “Go, disciple the nations,” and the Christ who commits to us His doctrine are one and the same Christ and Lord. For He also says, “Observe all that I have commanded you.” The RSV puts it rather lamely, I’m afraid. For the verb is *τηρεῖν*—keep, guard, never deny, neglect, compromise, or diminish it, but cherish the pure doctrine of Christ our message.

And wherever you go, with hearts ablaze, we want to go with you!

May God continue to guide and direct you in convention. And may the blessing of our one Lord Jesus Christ be upon us that we may be a blessing to one another as together we move “forward in ministry to the hearts and minds of people” and bring them the “One Message—*Christ! His Love Is Here for You!*”

Thomas Aadland, *Presiding Pastor*



RESOLUTIONS

1. Missions

To Support Revitalization of LCMS Congregations

RESOLUTION 1-01A

Report R1-01 (CW, pp. 39–45); Overture 1-03 (CW, p. 133)

WHEREAS, In response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the *Ablaze!* goals of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod—to share the Good News of Jesus with 50 million unreached or uncommitted people in North America and to begin 2,000 new missions by the year 2017—will be accomplished by the committed outreach activities of individuals in local congregations; and

WHEREAS, The 2004 convention called for every LCMS church to move toward being a mission outpost. Currently, 67 congregations are participating in a pilot program testing mission revitalization strategies; and

WHEREAS, A revitalized congregation is regularly and consistently making new disciples and renewing its members in order that they make new disciples through the power of the Holy Spirit; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention adopt a goal of praying and working for the mission revitalization of at least 2,000 existing LCMS churches by 2017; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS through its districts, congregations, Lutheran Hour Ministries, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, LWML, and LCMS World Mission through its national team support the mission revitalization efforts as a major component of *Ablaze!*

Action: Adopted (1)

(During discussion, a suggestion to amend the third whereas paragraph by adding the words *and renewing its members in order that they* after the first occurrence of the word *disciples* in place of the word *who* was agreed to by the committee. The resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 929; No: 199].)

To Prepare New Study and Increase Emphasis on Priesthood of All Believers

RESOLUTION 1-03

Overtures 1-06–09 (CW, pp. 134–135)

WHEREAS, All Christians are called by God as priests for the nations by virtue of their Baptism (Exod. 19:5, 6; 1 Peter 2:9); and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther declared that all believers are priests called by God to declare the works of God (Luther's Works, American Edition, vol. 30, pp. 62–65); and

WHEREAS, The historic doctrine of the LCMS has clearly affirmed the priesthood of all believers as stated in the *Brief Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod* (adopted 1932): "Since the Christians are the Church, it is self-evident that they alone *originally* possess the spiritual gifts and rights which Christ has gained for,



Committee 1 Chairman Robert Newton

and given to, His Church. Thus St. Paul reminds all believers: 'All things are yours,' 1 Cor. 3:21, 22, and Christ Himself commits to all believers the keys of the kingdom of heaven, Matt. 16:13–19; 18:17–20; John 20:22, 23, and commissions all believers to preach the Gospel and to administer the Sacraments, Matt. 28:19, 20; 1 Cor. 11:23–25. Accordingly, we reject all doctrines by which this spiritual power or any part thereof is adjudged as *originally* vested in certain individuals or bodies, such as the Pope, or the bishops, or the order of the ministry, or the secular lords, or councils, or synods, etc." (p. 14); and

WHEREAS, This doctrine must be clearly reaffirmed and articulated in all parts of our Synod and faithfully applied and elaborated in reference to missionary work entrusted to God's people; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in its 2007 convention direct the Commission on Theology and Church Relations in consultation with the Board for Mission Services to prepare a comprehensive study document which clearly presents the biblical teaching of the royal priesthood and Luther's teaching on vocation in the light of the mission challenges of today; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be given high priority by the CTCR; and be it finally

Resolved, That after approval by the Synod in convention, this document be used by the whole church, its congregations and church workers, and by the LCMS seminaries and universities in instructing students about the

royal priesthood especially in its relationship to the unreached.

Action: Adopted (10)

(During discussion, the committee responded to a motion to strike the final resolve with a suggestion that *after approval by the Synod in convention* be inserted into the final resolve after the word *That*. This was agreed to by the delegate who had made the motion to amend. An additional proposed amendment to insert *and Luther's teaching on vocation after priesthood* in the first resolve was also agreed to by the committee. The resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 714; No: 151].)

To Encourage an Intentional Mission Development Focus

RESOLUTION 1-04

Report 1-01 (CW, pp. 39–45)

WHEREAS, Our Synod has set a goal that, under God's blessing, we will plant 2,000 new congregations by 2017; and

WHEREAS, This church planting challenge requires that we make equipping God's people for mission a high priority; and

WHEREAS, It is helpful for congregations to have new and effective resources with which members can be taught and trained to serve in mission development; and

WHEREAS, The Lord has raised up many exciting ministries and partnerships under the umbrella of the Board for Mission Services such as the Center for U.S. Missions, the Advisory Group for National Missions, and the *Ablaze!* Connection; therefore be it

Resolved, That we thank God for these developments; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage the Board for Mission Services to use these resources and others to develop training opportunities and manuals to assist God's people in mission development and to focus all these efforts for the training of God's people for intentional church planting.

Action: Adopted (10)

(This resolution was adopted as presented by the committee without discussion [Yes: 708; No: 115].)

To Make Outreach a Top Priority in Worker Training

RESOLUTION 1-05S

Report 1-01 (CW, pp. 39–45)

WHEREAS, "Two out of every three" people in the world "do not know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior," and "nearly 50 percent of Americans claim no religious affiliation" (Report of LCMS World Mission, CW, p. 39), and the population of the U.S. continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, In the *Ablaze!* initiative the Synod has committed itself and all its members to grow in intentional mission development efforts; and

WHEREAS, Our Synod is blessed with faithful universities and seminaries who train the next generation of church

workers for our rapidly changing cultures and ever-increasing mission field; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in its 2007 convention encourage and direct universities and seminaries to place outreach to the lost as a top priority as they train workers for the harvest, preparing them to equip God's people for the local and worldwide mission field.

Action: Adopted (6)

(During discussion, a motion to amend the resolve paragraph by replacing *place outreach to the lost as a top priority* with *give greater attention to outreach to the lost* failed. A motion to amend the title of the resolution and its resolve by replacing *the* with *a* was ruled a substitute resolution. After the assembly voted to consider the substitute resolution, it was adopted [Yes: 706; No: 419].)

To Commend Our Chaplains

RESOLUTION 1-06

Report 1-01 (CW, pp. 39–45)

WHEREAS, There are more than 230 chaplains endorsed by LCMS Ministry to Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Our chaplains serve in arduous and dangerous arenas on land, sea, and air through lengthy and repeated deployments, separated from home and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Our Synod's military chaplains are called to proclaim Christ in a pluralistic society, to cooperate without compromise on every occasion as they live and serve under the *LCMS Chaplain Guidelines*; therefore be it

Resolved, That we give thanks to God for the sacrifice and faithful service of our chaplains to our men and women in uniform; and be it further

Resolved, That we commend and honor our chaplains for serving with wisdom and integrity; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod in convention commend the Ministry to the Armed Forces for providing clear supervision and support for our chaplains.

Action: Adopted (4)

(The resolution as presented by the committee was adopted without discussion [Yes: 1,102; No: 13].)

To Give Thanks and Commend the Lutheran Women's Missionary League for 65 Years of Service

RESOLUTION 1-07

Report 1-02 (CW, p. 46)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Women's Missionary League has been "Serv[ing] the Lord with Gladness" for 65 years; and

WHEREAS, The LWML has in its 65 years provided millions of dollars through mites for missionary work in the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, The LWML has supported The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod World Relief and Human Care in supplying health kits for Hurricane Katrina and Rita survivors; and

WHEREAS, The LWML has held a *Leadership for Tomorrow* event, and such leadership training has continued in the districts, impacting their target for supporting new leaders; and

WHEREAS, The delegates to the 2005 LWML convention in Tampa, Florida, voted approval of a mission goal of \$1,625,000; and

WHEREAS, The LWML has trained a new group of women as Mission-Ministry Vision Consultants; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention thank God for the 65 years of mission service around the world and the missionary leadership the LWML has provided in our Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS in its 2007 convention commend the LWML for its primary target goals for the 2005–2007 biennium of Personal Spiritual Living, Partnering for Diversity, Servant Response, and Supporting Leaders and for its 2005–2007 Mission Grants.

Action: Adopted (4)

(The resolution as presented by the committee was adopted without discussion [Yes: 1,070; No: 27].)

To Commend Lutheran Hour Ministries for Its Faithful Mission Focus

RESOLUTION 1-08

Report 1-03 (CW, pp. 47–49)

WHEREAS, Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*; and

WHEREAS, LHM has been a pioneer in the use of technology in outreach ministry; and

WHEREAS, More than one million people per year respond to LHM's radio and TV programming and congregational outreach efforts, and nearly 80,000 people are referred to churches where they can be warmly welcomed into the family of God; and

WHEREAS, LHM has committed itself to sharing the Good News of Jesus with 25 million unreached people in connection with the *Ablaze!* movement; and

WHEREAS, LHM continues to develop new ways, tools, and strategies in assisting congregations to reach the unreached in their communities; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention commend LHM for its consistent mission focus and its pioneering efforts in adapting technology to the service of the Gospel; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage LHM in its five-year strategic plan of developing additional resources for congregational outreach; and be it finally

Resolved, That we encourage the congregations and members of the LCMS to continue to support LHM and make use of its resources to reach the unreached in their communities.

Action: Adopted (10)

(The resolution as presented by the committee was adopted without discussion [Yes: 735; No: 95].)

To Report Detailed Accounting of *Fan Into Flame* Funds

RESOLUTION 1-09

Overtures 1-13–14 (CW, pp. 136–137)

WHEREAS, 2004 Res. 1-04 committed the LCMS to a \$100 million fund-raising effort to support the *Ablaze!* initiatives; and

WHEREAS, The fund-raising effort is now known as *Fan Into Flame*, and more than \$20 million in cash and pledges has already been entrusted to the movement; and

WHEREAS, The Synod's Board for Mission Services is charged with gathering and dispersing these funds; and

WHEREAS, A detailed report to the congregations is being issued at this convention; therefore be it

Resolved, That a detailed annual report of the *Fan Into Flame* funds be written by the Synod's Board for Mission Services, to be published throughout the Synod.

Action: Adopted (6)

(The resolution as presented by the committee was adopted without discussion [Yes: 1,094; No: 62].)

To Encourage Creative Partnerships between Districts and Congregations and LCMS Sister and Partner Churches

RESOLUTION 1-10

Report 1-8, Part II (TB, pp. 14–25); Report 1-01 (CW, pp. 39–45)

WHEREAS, Sister and partner church bodies of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod strive to remain faithful to the Scriptures and the Confessions, face unique spiritual challenges, and lack material resources to advance the mission of the church; and

WHEREAS, We encourage our sister and partner churches in their faithful proclamation of the Word; and

WHEREAS, Several of our districts have arrangements to work with sister and partner churches of the LCMS; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage all districts, individuals, congregations, institutions, organizations, and auxiliaries of the LCMS through the Board for Mission Services to support our sister and partner churches through prayer, sharing resources, communicating, and encouraging each other through visits and financial means; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage all these entities in coordination with the Board for Mission Services to team with other sister and partner church congregations in praying for each other, sharing resources, communicating, and encouraging each other in the work the Lord has placed us here to do.

Action: Adopted (10)

(During discussion, the committee agreed to changes to the first resolve by inserting *individuals, congregations, institutions, organizations, and auxiliaries* after *districts* and to the second resolve by replacing *congregations within these districts* with *all these entities*. The resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 768; No: 57].)

To Continue Assessing LCMS Campus Ministry and Its Association with the ELCA

RESOLUTION 1-11

Report 1-8, Part I (CW, pp. 1–11); Overtures 1-15–16 (CW, p. 137)

WHEREAS, The 2001 LCMS convention (Res. 3-21A) asked that the current cooperative pastoral arrangements with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) be evaluated by the Praesidium, with the results and recommendations reported to the next convention of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The 2004 LCMS convention report of the Praesidium recommended that the Praesidium of the LCMS continue to assess pastoral working arrangements with the ELCA during the next triennium and report to the next convention of the Synod (2007) whether at that time these arrangements merit continuance or whether developments within the ELCA justify other action; and

WHEREAS, The 2004 LCMS convention (Res. 3-07) requested that the President of the Synod report to the next convention of the Synod any recommendations concerning changes in joint activity with the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, The President of the Synod has reported that “[a]t this time there are no recommendations for convention consideration regarding any changes in joint activity with the ELCA....I believe it is important for me to state my ongoing impression that, at many levels, the ELCA continues to demonstrate a vastly different understanding of the authority of Holy Scripture and interpretation of the Lutheran Confessions than does The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” (CW, p. 8); therefore be it

Resolved, That the 2007 LCMS convention commend our faithful LCMS campus pastors and other workers serving in campus ministries for maintaining confessional integrity

in providing Word and Sacrament ministry to those college students under their spiritual care; and be it further

Resolved, That the Praesidium continue to assess the LCMS campus ministries and their association with the ELCA and report to the next convention of the Synod (2010) any suggested changes.

Action: Adopted (10)

(During discussion, a motion to amend the resolution by deleting from the final whereas paragraph the words “*I believe it is important for me to state my ongoing impression that, at many levels, the ELCA continues to demonstrate a vastly different understanding of the authority of Holy Scripture and interpretation of the Lutheran Confessions than does The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*” (CW, p. 8) failed, and the resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 689; No: 137].)

To Commend International Church Partners and Worldwide Mission Effort

RESOLUTION 1-13

Report 1-01 (CW, pp. 39–45)

WHEREAS, Our gracious God has blessed us with Gospel-centered and mission-minded partner churches around the world; and

WHEREAS, Leaders of these partner churches are gathered with us at this convention and for the international *Ablaze!* movement meetings; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention joyfully thank God for His many blessings in raising up these partner churches; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod commend them for their faithful work in Christ’s mission; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod commit itself to prayer and support for these partners.

Action: Adopted (10)

(The resolution as presented by the committee was adopted without discussion [Yes: 1,006; No: 14].)

2. District and Congregational Services

To Foster Greater Understanding of Worship through Theological Conferences

RESOLUTION 2-01

Report 2-02 (CW, pp. 52–54); Overtures 2-01–03, L2-26 (CW, pp. 139–140; TB, pp. 40–46)

WHEREAS, We recognize that worship is an integral part of the Christian life, as St. Paul writes: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (Col. 3:16); and

WHEREAS, St. Paul prayed for the Christians in Rome that God would “give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 15:5–6); and

WHEREAS, The LCMS lists as one of its objectives to “[e]ncourage 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” (Constitution Art. III 7); and

WHEREAS, While previous conventions of the Synod have addressed the diverse viewpoints in our church body concerning worship (1998 Res. 2-10; 2001 Res. 2-05A; 2004 Res. 2-04), yet tension remains in our walk together; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Commission on Worship and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations organize a model theological conference, including representation of pastors and laity from each district as well as representation from each of our schools of higher learning, in order to “build greater understanding of our theology of worship and foster further discussion of worship practices that are consistent with that theology” (Res. 2-04, 2004 *Proceedings*, p. 124); and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage the districts of our Synod to organize similar conferences to further discussion and understanding; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Commission on Worship, in consultation with the Council of Presidents and the faculties of our seminaries, universities, and colleges, prepare studies on this topic for use in circuits and congregations.

Action: Adopted (6)

(During discussion, a motion to amend the final resolve by deleting the words *the Council of Presidents and* and *universities, and colleges* failed. The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 838; No: 260].)

To Provide Guidance and Direction for Use of Diverse/Contemporary Worship Resources

RESOLUTION 2-02A

Report 2-02 (CW, pp. 52–54); Overtures 2-07–11 (CW, pp. 141–142)

WHEREAS, Many LCMS congregations are regularly making use of contemporary worship songs to the glory of God and the edification of His people; and



Committee 2 Chairman Kurtis Schultz

WHEREAS, There is a need for contemporary worship songs that reflect Lutheran theological and liturgical emphases, including justification by grace through faith in Christ, Holy Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the church year; and

WHEREAS, There are LCMS pastors, teachers, directors of Christian education, and musicians who are composing contemporary worship songs that reflect Lutheran theology and address the theological and liturgical emphases of Lutheran worship; and

WHEREAS, There exists in the LCMS no means of gathering, reviewing, and disseminating songs and resources that might be shared with the church-at-large and so enhance the worship life of congregations throughout the LCMS that make use of contemporary worship songs; and

WHEREAS, The 2004 convention of the Synod directed the Commission on Worship “to initiate a process leading toward the development of diverse worship resources” (Res. 2-04, 2004 *Proceedings*, p. 124); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Commission on Worship implement the recommendations included in its report to the convention (CW, p. 54), as follows:

Recommendation #1

Develop a publication or Web distribution of a quarterly “magazine” or resource package which would include articles dealing with worship planning, modeling, review of new songs, utilization of new media and technology, teaching new music, etc.

Recommendation #2

Offer worship arts and music seminars/conferences to inform and educate the church which consider and build on the diversity of worship styles extant across the Synod.

Recommendation #3

Develop regularly updated Web-based lists of appropriate and accessible resources that are easily and readily available

to pastors and music leaders. Include an exchange listing of available worship leadership positions as well as names of musicians and others skilled in worship arts who are interested in such positions.

Recommendation #4

Collaborate with the seminaries of the Synod in developing curriculum and experiences that train and mentor future pastors in diverse worship practices, modeling these diverse worship practices in the worship life of the campus.

Recommendation #5

Assist the Board for University Education in encouraging the establishment of at least one of the schools in the Concordia University System as a site for a worship arts degree program. This course of studies would include music instruction and worship direction in a full range of styles, use of media in worship, dramatic and theatre arts, extensive training in contemporary as well as traditional music, etc. Completion of this program by a student would lead to a music degree with a contemporary emphasis leading to rostered status as a director of parish music.

Recommendation #6

Develop a Lutheran Composers Group to network those Lutheran composers who wish to exchange and make available to others materials which may be suitable for worship. This network would be a place where Lutheran composers could put their materials on the Web for sharing, for critique, and for support.

Action: Adopted (6)

(During discussion, a substitute motion advocating that this resolution be tabled until the 2010 convention was ruled not in order because a convention cannot postpone an action from one convention to another. A motion to amend the resolution by deleting *to the glory of God and the edification of His people* failed, but a motion to amend the main motion by including at the end of the resolution the referenced text from the *Convention Workbook* was agreed to by the committee. The resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 856; No: 310].)

To Commend Commission on Worship for *Lutheran Service Book*

RESOLUTION 2-03A

Report 2-02 (CW, pp. 52–54); Overture 2-04 (CW, p. 140)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Worship has carefully gathered, tested, and developed a new hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*, which was given final approval for publication at the 2004 Synod convention; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Worship has also developed and made available companion resources to the hymnal, including the *Agenda*, the *Altar Book*, the *Hymnal Accompaniment*, the *Liturgy Accompaniment*, the various *Lectionaries*, the *Pastoral Care Companion*, and other resources for use in the church; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Worship and Concordia Publishing House have developed a new electronic resource, *Lutheran Service Builder*, which expands the use of the hymnal; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention give thanks and praise to God for the work of the Commission on Worship, Concordia Publishing House, and all others who were in-

volved in preparing *Lutheran Service Book* and the accompanying volumes; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations, schools, and families be encouraged to continue to purchase and use *Lutheran Service Book*; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to make use of *Lutheran Service Builder* as a worship planning tool, as well as future commentaries on *Lutheran Service Book* as they become available; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention offer its heartfelt thanks to the executive director of the Commission on Worship, the Rev. Dr. Paul Grime, for his more than ten years of leadership in the development of *Lutheran Service Book* as he leaves his current call to continue to serve the church at the Fort Wayne seminary; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod in convention stand and give all thanks and praise to God by singing stanza 1 of “Voices Raised to You We Offer (*LSB*, p. 795):

Voices raised to You we offer; Tune them, God, for songs of praise.

Hearts and hands we bring in tribute For Your gifts through all our days.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Triune God, to You we sing!

Action: Adopted (6)

(During discussion, the committee agreed to amending the resolution by adding the following resolve prior to the final resolve: *Resolved, That the Synod in convention offer its heartfelt thanks to the executive director of the Commission on Worship, the Rev. Dr. Paul Grime, for his more than ten years of leadership in the development of Lutheran Service Book as he leaves his current call to continue to serve the church at the Fort Wayne seminary; and be it finally.* The committee also agreed to add the words *continue to* prior to the word *purchase* in the second resolve, change the word *Pastor's* to *Pastoral Care* in the second whereas, and delete the letter *s* from the word *gives* in the first resolve. The resolution was adopted as amended [Yes: 1,081; No: 49].)

To Create Position of Director for Strategic Development of Hispanic Ministries (DSDHM)

RESOLUTION 2-04A

Overtures 2-13–15 (CW, pp. 142–143)

WHEREAS, A diverse Hispanic population in the United States continues to increase, now numbering 44.7 million or approximately 15 percent of the U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, This is a population that the LCMS has been called to disciple through its ministries (Matt. 28:19); and

WHEREAS, The top recommendation from the National Hispanic Summit (see CW, pp. 32–38) for invigorating and providing focus and direction to the LCMS efforts in Hispanic ministry and outreach was the calling and placement of a Director for Strategic Development of Hispanic Ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention authorize the President of the Synod, working with the Board for Mission Services and the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Hispanic Ministry and in consultation with the National Hispanic Lutheran Convention, to appoint a Director for Strategic

Development of Hispanic Ministries as soon as funding is available; and be it further

Resolved, That the most appropriate organizational location for this position in the area of domestic cross-cultural ministry be determined by the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance (BRTFSSG).

Action: Adopted (7)

(After discussion, the resolution was adopted as presented by the committee after correcting *Board of Missions* to read *Board for Mission Services* in the first resolve [Yes: 875; No: 112].)

To Support Synod National Youth Gatherings

RESOLUTION 2-05

Overtures 2-19–22 (CW, pp. 144–145)

WHEREAS, The purpose statement for the National LCMS Youth Gathering states, “Through the development of Synod youth gatherings, the LCMS Youth Ministry Office shall: (1) Provide opportunities for youth and adults to boldly come together in the name of Jesus Christ to proclaim, celebrate, and witness their salvation through Him, rejoice in the fellowship of their church, and be affirmed and nurtured in their lives as God’s people through Word and Sacraments; and (2) Provide an arena to raise the visibility of youth ministry in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod”; and

WHEREAS, 2007 marks the tenth National LCMS Youth Gathering and 30 years of God’s blessings on Gathering planning; and

WHEREAS, More than 200,000 people have been blessed by God at National LCMS Youth Gatherings and impacted by these events, and thousands more have been touched through the stories and experiences that these participants have shared with their congregations “back home”; and

WHEREAS, National LCMS Youth Gathering, endorsed by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,

- fully and publicly supports the mission and vision of the LCMS;
- submits its publications and resources to doctrinal review;
- submits its worship services and liturgies for review to the LCMS Commission on Worship; and
- submits its speaker list for review to the LCMS President’s office, a process the Gathering initiated in 1982;

and

WHEREAS, The National LCMS Youth Gathering has been historically self-supporting and, in fact, has provided for the financial viability of the entire youth ministry program in the LCMS; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS give thanks to God for His blessings on the National LCMS Youth Gathering and for the literally thousands of persons who have participated in these events and worked on behalf of these events; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS express its continued support for these significant events in the lives of young people, their congregations, and in the Synod as a whole; and be it finally

Resolved, That we express our appreciation and support to the LCMS Board for District and Congregational Services and the National LCMS Youth Gathering Executive Team (Steering Committee) for their faithfulness in providing opportunities for our youth through the National LCMS Youth Gathering.

Action: Adopted (7)

(The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee without discussion [Yes: 724; No: 130].)

To Encourage Christian Forgiveness and Greater Use of Individual Confession and Absolution

RESOLUTION 2-07A

Overture 2-12 (CW, p. 142)

WHEREAS, Our Lord has granted to all Christians the joy and privilege of speaking the forgiveness of sins to one another (Eph. 4:32 and Matt. 6:12); and

WHEREAS, Our Lord has also given to His church the gift of individual confession and absolution where the pastor’s word of absolution is spoken to the penitent as by Christ Himself (John 20:19–23); and

WHEREAS, Individual confession and absolution is clearly set forth in our Lutheran Confessions as well as the Synod’s explanation to the Small Catechism; and

WHEREAS, The opportunity to use individual confession and absolution was a practice cherished strongly by Luther, Walther, Loehe, and other prominent Lutheran fathers; and

WHEREAS, *Lutheran Service Book* offers rites and resources for the use of individual confession and absolution for pastoral care; and

WHEREAS, Individual confession and absolution is an important means of pastoral care; therefore be it

Resolved, That members of our congregations be encouraged to forgive those who sin against them and to joyfully speak Christ’s word of forgiveness to one another; and be it further

Resolved, That pastors and congregations be encouraged to study the scriptural, confessional, and historical witness to individual confession and absolution with a view toward recovering the regular availability of its practice in our congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That the seminaries be encouraged to provide additional guidance through articles in the seminary journals and in presentations to pastors’ conferences; and be it finally

Resolved, That both laity and pastors be encouraged to make greater use of individual confession and absolution.

Action: Adopted (10)

(The resolution as presented by the committee was adopted after discussion [Yes: 690; No: 31].)

To Celebrate Significant Synod Anniversaries

RESOLUTION 2-08

Overture 2-17 (CW, p. 144)

WHEREAS, Significant anniversaries for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will occur in the next triennium; and

WHEREAS, These include the 200th birthday of Wilhelm Loehe in 2008 and the 200th birthday of Friedrich Wyneken in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Planning for the 200th birthday of C. F. W. Walther in 2011 would need to be made in the next triennium; and

WHEREAS, These three men were highly significant individuals for the foundation of our Synod in 1847, and in order to remember these men and give thanks to God for their service and example; therefore be it

Resolved, That the North American congregations served by Walther, Wyneken, and the 100 pastors sent by Loehe be encouraged to remember these three founding fathers through appropriate celebrations in the upcoming triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That Concordia Historical Institute, in consultation with the President's office, work to prepare a short monograph by late 2007 describing the history of Walther, Wyneken, and Loehe, prepared especially for educational institutions throughout the Synod (elementary schools, high schools, colleges, universities, seminaries), including suggestions to teachers and professors for incorporating teaching about the significance of these three men in their coursework or classes; and be it further

Resolved, That Concordia Publishing House be requested by the Synod to consider the production of an electronic (e-book) anniversary edition of Walther's works, to be published with computer CD-ROM technology, using all available English translations as well as German printed texts and manuscripts for materials not available in English; and be it finally

Resolved, That Concordia Historical Institute, in cooperation with the President of the Synod, be encouraged to prepare and administer a national conference to analyze the impact and relevance of Walther, Wyneken, and Loehe for Lutheranism in the United States today; and that this conference be coordinated with the opening of the new museum at the Synod's International Center, if at all possible.

Action: Adopted (7)

(During discussion, a motion to amend the final resolve with the addition of *be encouraged* to prior to the word *prepare* was agreed to by the committee. A motion to amend the resolution by striking all references to Wilhelm Loehe failed. The resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 1,041; No: 88].)

To Initiate Planning for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

RESOLUTION 2-09

Overture 2-18 (CW, p. 144)

WHEREAS, The entire Christian Church was blessed by God through the sixteenth-century Lutheran Reformation centered in Wittenberg, influenced by Martin Luther; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS receives this gift from God with thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, The beginning of the Lutheran Reformation is normally observed in the LCMS in commemoration of the posting of the Ninety-five Theses by Martin Luther in 1517; and

WHEREAS, The *Ablaze!* Mission Statement is: "Praying to the Lord of the Harvest, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod World Mission, in collaboration with its worldwide partners, will share the Good News of Jesus with 100 million unchurched or uncommitted people by the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017"; and

WHEREAS, Our LCMS partner churches and the church bodies in the International Lutheran Council are already engaged in and supporting the *Ablaze!* effort; therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its partner churches throughout the world be urged to continue to support and strive for the success of the *Ablaze!* effort; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod, under the auspices of the Office of the President, organize a celebration—an observance of this historic anniversary—inviting and involving to the greatest extent possible the participation of other worldwide confessional Lutheran churches.

Action: Adopted (10)

(The resolution as presented by the committee was adopted without discussion [Yes: 627; No: 85].)

3. Theology and Church Relations

To Declare Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the American Association of Lutheran Churches

RESOLUTION 3-01

Overture 3-01 (CW, p. 147), Appendix III (CW, pp. 416–419)

Preamble

The American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC) was established on November 6, 1987. It was organized by pastors and congregations, primarily from the American Lutheran Church, who were concerned over certain doctrinal positions adopted by the Commission for a New Lutheran Church (CNLC). The CNLC had been given the responsibility to bring into being a merger of three churches: the American Lutheran Church (ALC), the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC), and the Lutheran Church in America (LCA). Of particular concern to the pastors and congregations that organized the AALC was the position the CNLC had taken on the doctrine of the authority of Scripture. (As a result of the CNLC's work, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America came into being on January 1, 1988.) As of February 15, 2007, the membership of the AALC is as follows: 79 congregations, 107 pastors (not including emeriti), 11,771 communicant members, and 14,137 baptized members.

Representatives from the AALC and the LCMS began meeting together in 1988. Between 1988 and 1998 five meetings were held for the purpose of sharing background information and exploring areas of agreement in official documents. The assistance of the LCMS was requested by the AALC in seminary training, military chaplaincies, and the area of social ministry. It was during this time that the AALC established a Builders for Christ organization, which was modeled after the LCMS's Laborers for Christ.

In March 2005, after a lapse of six years during which the AALC further clarified its doctrinal position and practice, representatives from both churches began meeting together once again. Both church bodies expressed interest at this time in holding doctrinal discussions for the purpose of moving toward altar and pulpit fellowship. In this and three subsequent meetings held in 2005 and 2006 the following topics were discussed in depth: the doctrine of Holy Scripture, the meaning of Communion, inter-Christian relationships, the role of women in the church, and piety versus pietism. Later the issue of lodge membership was addressed. During the course of these discussions the AALC in June 2005 decided, upon the invitation of the LCMS, to move its seminary on to the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, a relationship that was effected in September 2006 as the AALC began preparing men for the ministry at the LCMS seminary.

Representing the LCMS in these discussions were: President Gerald Kieschnick; Dr. Charles Arand, Chairman of the Department of Systematic Theology of Concordia Sem-



Committee 3 Chairman Gerhard Michael

inary, Saint Louis and a member of the CTRC; Dr. William Diekelman, LCMS First Vice-President; Dr. Raymond Hartwig, Secretary of the LCMS; and Dr. Samuel Nafzger, Executive Director of the CTRC.

On the basis of these long-term discussions, the LCMS representatives have concluded, and reported to the President of the Synod, that doctrinal agreement exists between the AALC and the LCMS and that there is nothing that would prohibit the churches from entering into altar and pulpit fellowship with one another. In accordance with the procedures established by the Synod and set forth in its Bylaws (3.9.6.2.2 [b], 2004 *Handbook*, p. 176), the Commission on Theology and Church Relations adopted unanimously a resolution at its February 15–16, 2007 meeting recommending that the LCMS enter into altar and pulpit fellowship with The American Association of Lutheran Churches.

WHEREAS, The American Association of Lutheran Churches was founded upon and has maintained a strong commitment to the Scriptures as the authoritative, inspired, and inerrant Word of God; and

WHEREAS, The AALC has from its inception sought discussions with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to explore ways in which the two church bodies might work with one another; and

WHEREAS, Five exploratory meetings were held between the AALC and the LCMS between 1988 and 1998; and

WHEREAS, Article III of the Synod's Constitution states that a first objective of the Synod is to "work through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies"; and

WHEREAS, The AALC and the LCMS in 2005 agreed to begin formal doctrinal discussions aimed at the establishment of altar and pulpit fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Formal theological discussions between representatives of the AALC and the LCMS have revealed that agreement in doctrine and practice exists between our churches; and

WHEREAS, Our partner churches in the International Lutheran Council have had the opportunity to meet with the presiding pastor of the AALC at the International Lutheran Council meeting in Berlin, Germany, August 27–September 2, 2005; and

WHEREAS, This proposal has been shared with the partner churches of the LCMS, their input has been requested, and respondents have expressed their approval of the LCMS declaring church fellowship with the AALC; and

WHEREAS, The AALC has expressed a desire to join together with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in bearing witness to the truth of the Gospel upon the basis of the inerrant Scriptures; and

WHEREAS, The President of the Synod has expressed support for this resolution and has asked the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) to address the declaration of altar and pulpit fellowship in keeping with Bylaw 3.9.6.2.2 (b); and

WHEREAS, The CTCR has received comprehensive reports on these discussions and, in accordance with its bylaw responsibilities, has recommended the establishment of altar and pulpit fellowship between the LCMS and the AALC; therefore be it

Resolved, That we give thanks and praise to God for the faithfulness of our brothers and sisters in The American Association of Lutheran Churches to the Holy Scriptures and to Lutheran confessional theology and for their faithful witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That we acknowledge with gratitude to God the unity of confession that He has given to our churches under the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod formally declare altar and pulpit fellowship with The American Association of Lutheran Churches; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS recognize The American Association of Lutheran Churches as a partner church and that the President of the Synod be responsible for implementing this relationship and for reconciliation; and be it further

Resolved, That we implore the Lord of the Church to continue to strengthen the bond of fellowship between our churches and that, ablaze with His Spirit, we may together be renewed in our commitment to the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ to all the world; and be it finally

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution we rise to sing the Common Doxology to the glory of God.

Action: Adopted (3)

(During extensive discussion, the following amendment to replace the second-last resolve with the following two resolves was not adopted: *Resolved*, That the LCMS request the American Association of Lutheran Churches to make known publicly its positions with respect to Christians having membership in secret soci-

eties such as lodges and to Christians participating with heterodox congregations in worship; and be it further Resolved, That pastors of Missouri Synod congregations may exercise pastoral care with respect to altar and pulpit fellowship in the extraordinary circumstances of having a nearby AALC congregation that allows membership in secret societies such as lodges or that publicly worships with heterodox congregations. An amendment to add the words *and for reconciliation* after the word *relationship* in the fourth resolve was adopted. The resolution was adopted as amended [Yes: 846; No: 345], after which the assembly stood to sing the Common Doxology to the glory of God.)

To Encourage Confessional Study in Preparation for 2017

RESOLUTION 3-02

Report 1-8, Part II (TB, pp. 14–25); Overtures 3-02, 3-04–05, 3-13, 3-29 (CW, pp. 147–149, 151, 156)

WHEREAS, The basic mission of the Christian Church is to preach and teach the Gospel in its truth and purity; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod commits us to the “Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God”; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Confessions uniquely define our walk together, thereby forming a foundation for unity and trust; and

WHEREAS, It is not too soon to begin preparing for the worldwide celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017; therefore be it

Resolved, That in preparation for the celebration of this anniversary, the congregations and the called workers of the Synod be encouraged to conduct in-depth examination and study of the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran Confessions; and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, in consultation with the International Lutheran Council, be directed to coordinate the preparation of study resources on the aforementioned documents; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod President be directed to support and encourage this renewal in the study of the Lutheran Confessions through the official periodicals of the Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That these resources be made available for widespread use in order to enhance the worldwide confessional celebration of this historic anniversary.

Action: Adopted (5)

(The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee without debate [Yes: 1,093; No: 38].)

To Request the CTCR to Develop a Plan for Confessional Leadership

RESOLUTION 3-03

Report 3-01, I, B, 2 (CW, p. 65); Overtures 2-24, 3-102–103 (CW, pp. 146, 187)

WHEREAS, The LCMS has been richly blessed with theological resources including two outstanding seminaries and a rich heritage and history of being confessionally strong; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS is blessed to work with other confessional Lutheran churches around the world through the work of the International Lutheran Council (ILC) and has increased opportunities to be a blessing to others through such programs as Committee Responsible for International Studies Program (CRISP), which offers scholarships for students and provides or exchanges professors at seminaries and universities; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS, which has been so abundantly blessed, has also been called to be a good steward of God's many gifts; and

WHEREAS, A new dogmatics text which involves the work of LCMS and partner church theologians is in the final stages of preparation (cf. 1986 Res. 3-11); and

WHEREAS, One of the express purposes of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) is to provide guidance to the Synod in matters of church relations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the CTCR, in consultation with the Office of the President and our seminaries, coordinate fundamentally constructive and intentionally supportive efforts such as theological symposia, conferences, and other opportunities for study of confessional Lutheran theology, to uphold and nurture confessional Lutheranism; and be it further

Resolved, That members of partner churches, members of the ILC, as well as other church bodies and individuals, be invited to participate in these programs; and be it further

Resolved, That Concordia Publishing House give the highest priority to the publication of the new dogmatics text; and be it further

Resolved, That the CTCR be encouraged to assist in encouraging the translating of the Lutheran Confessions into the languages of the world; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod in convention request that in 2010 the CTCR report progress in furthering and nurturing confessional Lutheran theology at home and abroad to the Synod.

Action: Adopted (5)

(During discussion, the committee agreed to the addition of a new resolve prior to the final resolve: *Resolved*, *That the CTCR be encouraged to assist in encouraging the translating of the Lutheran Confessions into the languages of the world*. An amendment to add *and the Synod will provide funding for this publication* at the end of the third resolve was not adopted. The committee agreed also to add the words *and our seminaries* after the word *President* in the first resolve, but an amendment to delete the entire third resolve failed. The resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 959; No: 81].)

To Call for Study of the Natural Knowledge of God and Its Implications for Public Witness

RESOLUTION 3-04A

Overtures 3-06–12, 3-18–28 (CW, pp. 149–151, 152–156)

WHEREAS, We live in a society in which many are increasingly confused about the one true God and have been led to believe falsely that all religions lead to salvation; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures teach that all people have a natural knowledge of God but such knowledge is not saving knowledge; and

WHEREAS, The Athanasian Creed clearly confesses, "The catholic faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance," and, "It is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ"; and

WHEREAS, An understanding of the natural knowledge of God can assist the members of the congregations of the LCMS in their witness; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention reaffirm its confession that there is no salvation apart from Jesus Christ and that it is impossible to worship the one true God in spirit and truth (Jn. 4:23ff) apart from saving faith in Jesus Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention ask the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, in consultation with the seminary faculties, to prepare a study of the natural knowledge of God, and especially its implications for our public witness.

Action: Adopted (5)

(As discussion of the resolution began, a motion was introduced to amend the first resolve by deleting the phrase *in spirit and truth* (Jn. 4:23ff), followed by a suggestion to insert *1 John 2:23* in place of the deleted phrase. After discussion, the amendment failed. After further debate, the resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 980; No: 96].)

To Provide Further Discussion and Guidance on the Matter of Serial Prayer

RESOLUTION 3-05

Overtures 3-14–17 (CW, pp. 151–152)

WHEREAS, In 2004 Res. 3-06A, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod commended for study *Guidelines for Participation in Civic Events*, a report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR), "to help pastors, teachers, and church workers make decisions about participation in civic events" (2004 *Proceedings*, p. 131); and

WHEREAS, Congregations of the Synod have requested further clarification regarding serial prayer; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention assign to the CTCR the task of providing further guidance for participation in civic events that includes the offering of serial prayer.

Action: Adopted (5)

(As discussion began, the following amendment was offered to replace the final *whereas* and the resolve: *WHEREAS*, *The CTCR report itself notes, 'The members of the Commission disagree about the issue of so-called "serial" or "seriatim" prayers involving representatives of different religious [Christian and/or non-Christian] groups or churches' [p. 19]; and WHEREAS*, *Seven districts (Minnesota North, Southern Illinois, Missouri, South Dakota, Rocky Mountain, Pacific Southwest, and Northern Illinois), three congregations, one circuit forum, and one pastors conference have submitted overtures in the Convention Workbook which recognize this ambiguity as to serial prayer and call for further clarification or restudy or, in several cases, for the rescission of 2004 Res. 3-06A; therefore be it Resolved*, *That the Synod in convention withdraw its commendation of those Guidelines; and be it further Resolved*, *That the Synod assign to the CTCR and the seminary faculties the*

task of providing further guidance for participation in civic events that includes the offering of serial prayer. After the chair ruled the amendment to be a substitute motion, the assembly voted not to consider it. When discussion returned to the committee's resolution, a motion to amend the resolve by striking *CTCR* and replacing it with *President of the Synod* also failed. The resolution was adopted without amendment [Yes: 935; No: 163].)

To Assign CTCR to Address Environmental Issues

RESOLUTION 3-06

Overture 3-91 (CW, pp. 184–185)

WHEREAS, Ecological and environmental issues affect all citizens of the global community, including Christians; and

WHEREAS, Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions speak to responsible Christian stewardship of the earth; and

WHEREAS, There is a lack of resources in the LCMS addressing environmental issues in a scriptural and confessional way; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for study, for service, for responsible citizenship, and for concerted action on environmental issues based on an examination of biblical and confessional resources; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Commission on Theology and Church Relations be assigned to develop a biblical and confessional report on responsible Christian stewardship of the environment for use by Synod entities including our schools and churches as they develop resources for the church at large.

Action: Adopted (5)

(After debate was terminated without discussion, the resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 831; No: 219].)

To Study CTCR Reports Relating to the Service of Women in the Church

RESOLUTION 3-07

Overtures 3-60–83 (CW, pp. 175–182); Appendix II (CW, pp. 405–406)

WHEREAS, Some overtures submitted to this convention have called for the reaffirmation of 2004 Res. 3-08A, some have called for its rescission, and some have called for further study of the Scriptures and issues like the order of creation, the order of redemption (e.g., Gal. 3:28), and the relationship of man and woman; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) discussed the biblical concept of the order of creation in its 1985 report *Women in the Church*, and has recently addressed the implications of the scriptural application of the order of creation in Section 3 of *CTCR Response to Expressions of Dissent (2004–2006)*; and

WHEREAS, At the request of the Synod convention, the CTCR, in collaboration with 16 consultants, including men and women and representation from the seminaries of the Synod, is working toward completion in 2008 of a comprehensive study on the scriptural relationship of man and woman, and it will provide further guidance on the meaning of the term “order of creation”; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention commend Section 3 of *CTCR Response to Expressions of Dissent (2004–2006)* to the members of the Synod for widespread study and reflection; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod await the CTCR comprehensive report on the scriptural relationship of man and woman to be completed in 2008 and, upon its release, engage in a thorough, synodwide study of this report.

Action: Adopted (8)

(Upon the resolution's introduction during Session 5, a substitute resolution was offered: *WHEREAS*, At the 1995 LCMS convention, Synod declined to approve the 1994 CTCR document, The Service of Women in the Congregational Offices, citing a dissenting opinion by five theologians (CTCR members), which stated that the CTCR document lacked consideration of God's order of creation; and *WHEREAS*, President Dr. Al Barry in 1994 published his ‘regret’ in the Reporter concerning both the content of this document and the manner in which the CTCR's executive committee distributed the document; and *WHEREAS*, At the 1995 LCMS convention, the Synod (Res. 3-06A) directed the CTCR to continue to study this document along with dissenting opinions, and to do so ‘in consultation with the faculties of the seminaries;’ and *WHEREAS*, The CTCR has not reported to any succeeding convention any record of such communication with or from the seminaries on the topic of the role of women in the church, nor has any further report been issued; and *WHEREAS*, The 1994 report reappeared on the docket of the 2004 convention unchanged, without informing delegates as to the Synod's previous mandate for the CTCR to seek seminary input; and *WHEREAS*, The 2004 LCMS convention approved Res. 3-08A by a vote of 576–520; and *WHEREAS*, This approved resolution (3-08A) may violate God's order of creation and His instruction ‘to all congregations of the saints’ (1 Cor. 14:33b–38; 1 Tim. 2: 11–12); and *WHEREAS*, Seven (7) districts submitted overtures to this 2007 convention requesting that we rescind Res. 3-08A; therefore be it *Resolved*, That we praise God for creating us uniquely male and female, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do (Eph. 2:10); and be it further *Resolved*, That we praise God for the more than 4,000 women serving in full-time church service in our Synod; and be it further *Resolved*, That 2004 Res. 3-08A be rescinded, along with any policies or administrative procedures that have stemmed from it; and be it further *Resolved*, That the CTCR complete the work mandated to it by the Synod (1995 Res. 3-06A), receiving input from the faculties of our two seminaries, and publish seminary input online; and be it finally *Resolved*, That the CTCR author a new document concerning the service of women in congregational offices to be presented for discussion and possible approval at the 2010 LCMS convention. After the presenter and the floor committee were given opportunity to speak, the motion to introduce the substitute resolution failed. Later, during Session 8, a motion to amend the first whereas by deleting on issues like the order of creation and replacing those words with of the Scriptures and issues like the order of creation, the order of redemption (e.g., Gal. 3:28) was agreed to by the committee. After further discussion the resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 870; No: 286].)

To Encourage Use of CTCR's Web Resource on “Religious Organizations and Movements” and to Express Appreciation to Dr. Jerald Joersz for His 30 Years of Service

RESOLUTION 3-08

Report 3-01, III (CW, p. 73)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) has been given the responsibility since 2001 for assisting pastors and congregations of the Synod regarding religious organizations and movements; and

WHEREAS, The commission has developed a Web resource (see www.lcms.org) that provides evaluations, from a Lutheran theological perspective, on a broad range of both Christian and non-Christian religious organizations and movements; and

WHEREAS, In the last triennium the commission has prepared 30 evaluations on organizations such as the Cursillo Movement, the Jehovah Witnesses, Satanism, Vineyard Ministries, Yoga, etc.; and

WHEREAS, The development of these evaluations has been prepared under the leadership of Dr. Jerald Joersz who will be retiring at the end of this year after 30 years of serving on the staff of the CTCR; therefore be it

Resolved, That the commission be commended for its leadership in providing guidance to the Synod in its preparation of these materials; and be it further

Resolved, That the CTCR be encouraged to prepare additional evaluations of religious organizations and movements in our society; and be it further

Resolved, That these evaluations be commended for use to those who have questions regarding these issues; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod thank Dr. Jerald Joersz for his work in preparation of these materials and his 30 years of service.

Action: Adopted (5)

(During discussion, a suggestion by a delegate to add “and to Express Appreciation to Dr. Jerald Joersz for His 30 Years of Service” to the title of the resolution was agreed to by the chair and committee. The resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 1,001; No: 17].)

To Address Administration of the Lord's Supper

RESOLUTION 3-09

Overtures 3-38–41, 3-44–45, 3-48 (CW, pp. 166–168, 170)

WHEREAS, The Synod has consistently encouraged its pastors and congregations to continue to abide by the practice of close(d) Communion, which includes the necessity of exercising responsible pastoral care in extraordinary situations and circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Social and cultural changes in recent decades have presented new challenges for pastors and congregations as they seek to administer the Sacrament in faithfulness to biblical principles and norms and in a way that communicates the loving and pastoral care that informs this practice; and

WHEREAS, The 1995 Synod convention recommended for guidance a “Communion Card Statement” prepared by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (1995 Res. 3-08), which was also included in the 1999 report, *Admission to the Lord's Supper* (p. 48); and

WHEREAS, The contemporary application of our historic position necessitates continued practical guidance for the faithful administration of the Sacrament; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod commend the 1999 report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations on *Admission to the Lord's Supper* and the resolutions of the

Synod adopted on this topic to all congregations, pastors, and circuit and district pastors' conferences for study and guidance; and be it further

Resolved, That all pastors and congregations who have established and practice communion fellowship contrary to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions be encouraged by the 2007 LCMS convention to immediately cease such practice and return to a faithful practice and administration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion by practicing close(d) Communion; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, in consultation with the seminaries and Council of Presidents, continue to provide practical guidance for responsible pastoral care in the administration of the Sacrament of the Altar, especially at the parish level, to the end that we might remain faithful to the Scriptures and give witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all its fullness.

Action: Adopted (8)

(During discussion, a motion to amend the resolution by adding a new second resolve was agreed to by the committee: *Resolved*, That all pastors and congregations who have established and practice communion fellowship contrary to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions be encouraged by the 2007 LCMS convention to immediately cease such practice and return to a faithful practice and administration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and be it further. An additional amendment adding by practicing close(d) Communion to the end of the new resolve was also agreed to by the committee. When an amendment was introduced to insert into the first resolve the words *and 1995 convention Res. 3-08* after the word *Supper*, the committee suggested the wording *and the resolutions of the Synod adopted on this topic*. With all parties agreeing to these changes, the resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 986; No: 177].)

To Encourage Publication of Theological Literature

RESOLUTION 3-10

Report 3-01 I, C, 2 (CW, p. 66), Overtures 3-02, 3-04–05 (CW, pp. 147–149)

WHEREAS, There is a need for theological literature that serves the whole church; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House is to be commended for its commitment “to serve the Synod and its agencies by developing, providing, producing, marketing, and distributing products for use by members of the Synod, other Christians, and the public in general” (Bylaw 3.6.3, 2004 *Handbook*, p. 116); and

WHEREAS, The church was well served in the past by a Commission on Church Literature and various committees on church literature (cf. *Convention Workbook*, 1979–1989); and

WHEREAS, The 1986 convention directed the appointment of an Advisory Committee on Church Literature that assisted “in determining the theological resources and publications...needed by the church” (1986 Res. 5-10A); and

WHEREAS, There is still a need for a regular, formalized vehicle for communication and cooperation between the Synod, Synod's institutions of theological education, and Concordia Publishing House, as recommended by the Com-

mission on Theology and Church Relations (CW, p. 66); therefore be it

Resolved, That the President of the Synod appoint a task force, in consultation with the President and Chief Executive Officer of Concordia Publishing House, to include professors from both seminaries and the Concordia University System, to establish a new Committee on Church Literature by June 2008, “for the purpose of providing meaningful input to Concordia Publishing House in identifying, promoting, and facilitating the publication of theological literature” (CW, p. 66) for use by members of the Synod, other Christians, and the public in general; and be it further

Resolved, That this Committee on Church Literature report to the 2010 convention of the Synod.

Action: Adopted (8)

(During discussion, a motion to amend the resolution by adding *orthodox* before *theological literature* in the title and first whereas failed. The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 947; No: 210].)

To Endeavor to Keep the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace

RESOLUTION 3-11

Report 1-8, Parts I and II (CW, pp. 1–11 ; TB, pp. 14–25); Report 3-01, I, A, 7 and I, B, 1 (CW, p. 65); Overtures 3-31–37 (CW, pp. 157–166)

WHEREAS, The Scriptures tell us it is good and blessed when we live together in unity (Ps. 133:1); and

WHEREAS, From the founding of our Synod 160 years ago, we have been blessed with the gift of unity in our common confession and the articles of our shared faith, such as the Trinity, the person and work of Christ, original sin, baptismal regeneration, the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament, the inerrancy of Scripture, and many others; and

WHEREAS, We desire to build upon the foundation of the faith once delivered to the saints; therefore be it

Resolved, That the pastors of the Synod provide leadership in celebrating and strengthening this unity by their full participation in their circuit pastoral conferences as places for theological dialogue and for the mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren; and be it further

Resolved, That our circuit conferences be encouraged to use the Bible studies prepared by the Praesidium of the Synod (*Faithful and Afire*) as a means to facilitate discussion and consideration of our life and work together; and be it further

Resolved, That the Praesidium of the Synod be asked to take into account such articles of faith as those listed above as a basis for the Bible studies for the 2008–2009 program year; and be it finally

Resolved, That the joint committee of representatives of the Council of Presidents and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations seek feedback from the circuit Bible studies as it makes and implements recommendations for district and/or Synod gatherings for theological conversation and reflection.

Action: Adopted (8)

(During discussion of the resolution, an amendment to insert a new third whereas, *WHEREAS, Our Synod in recent years has shown signs of theological disunity in many areas; and, failed, as did motions to amend by deleting unity in the second whereas and replacing it with concord, and to amend by adding and taking attendance in the first resolve after participation*. The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 1,018; No: 112].)

To Respectfully Decline Overtures

RESOLUTION 3-13

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:

Number	Subject	Reason
Ov. 3-42	Request Supervision and Discipline in Practice of Close(d) Communion	Covered in Bylaws 4.4.4 (e), 4.4.5 and 4.4.6
Ov. 3-43	Require Supervision and Discipline in the Practice of Close(d) Communion	Covered in Bylaws 4.4.4 (e), 4.4.5 and 4.4.6
Ov. 3-46	Direct District Presidents to Visit Congregations re Closed Communion	Covered in Bylaws 4.4.4 (e), 4.4.5 and 4.4.6
Ov. 3-47	Identify Congregations Practicing Open Communion	Covered in Bylaws 4.4.4 (e), 4.4.5 and 4.4.6
Ov. 3-87	List Qualifications for Commission on Theology and Church Relations Membership	Current process of electing or appointing people to be members of CTCR already evaluates their qualifications (cf. Bylaw 3.9.6.1.1)
Ov. 3-92	Declare Opposition to Women Serving in Combat	Covered in May 2003 <i>Lutheran Witness</i> “Point/Counterpoint” article requested by CTCR and prefaced by Executive Director of CTCR

Action: Adopted (8)

(As the committee introduced the resolution, it was noted that wording needed to be added to form a proper resolution: *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:* . Debate was ended prior to discussion, and the resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 919; No: 167].)

4. Program and Finance

To Plan Summit to Restore Harmony

RESOLUTION 4-01A

Report 1-8-02 (CW, pp. 19–28); Overtures 4-05–07 (CW, pp. 192–193)

WHEREAS, The Blue Ribbon Task Force for Funding the Mission rightly observes in its assumptions the hindrances to any model for funding the mission caused by internal “division in our Synod and the resultant mistrust” (CW, p. 20); and

WHEREAS, The task force also rightly states that “no funding plan we present is capable of fully succeeding in an organization that is seriously divided and engaged in issues that divert energies away from the ‘mission’” (CW, p. 23); and

WHEREAS, God’s Word calls us to “unity in the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3); and

WHEREAS, Synod structure provides the manner through which differences might be settled; and

WHEREAS, Though agreed procedures have been followed, personal opinions and differences regarding practical application of clearly stated doctrine have made for continued discord; and

WHEREAS, Such discord has and is hindering the mission and is disheartening to God’s people to the point of withholding their support “for the common good”; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Council of Presidents and Board of Directors as elected leaders of the Synod be given the responsibility to initiate a specific plan for the sake of the whole church to restore harmony in our Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That they bring together a representative group of respected leaders throughout this church for a summit, and that at the end of this summit these church leaders present to the Council of Presidents and to the Board of Directors a strategy toward harmony that demonstrates how this great church body can provide a God-pleasing witness of our confession and practice; and be it finally

Resolved, That the product of their coming together honor the Scriptures and Confessions and dishonor the work of Satan that diverts us from the “way of the Lord.”

Action: Adopted (4)

(During discussion, a proposed amendment to delete *to clarify* and *a strategy* in the first resolve was agreed to by the committee. After further discussion, an amendment to delete the parenthetical statement in the final resolve (*including the Great Commission*) was adopted. The amended resolution was adopted [Yes: 1,014; No: 169].)

To Begin a Stewardship Renewal through Enhanced Communication

RESOLUTION 4-02

Report 1-8-02 (CW, pp. 19–28)

WHEREAS, The Blue Ribbon Task Force for Funding the Mission identified a significant need in our LCMS to strengthen the areas of stewardship in the life of every Christian within our church body; and



Committee 4 Chairman Keith Kohlmeier

WHEREAS, God desires us to use our gifts for the furthering of the kingdom of God, as illustrated in Jesus’ parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14–30); and

WHEREAS, Since the publication of the “Blue Ribbon Task Force for Funding the Mission Report,” the First Vice-President of the Synod has had responsibility for coordinating stewardship renewal; therefore be it

Resolved, That every individual, congregation, district, and the Synod itself continue to strive to respond to God’s marvelous goodness and grace through their stewardship life; and be it further

Resolved, That the First Vice-President of the Synod continue to coordinate the organization of the national and district leaders and other assisting entities in the development of resources, training, and strategic components for an expanding stewardship renewal in the life of our church; and be it finally

Resolved, That as a part of this effort, recommendation #4 of the “Blue Ribbon Task Force for Funding the Mission Report” concerning enhanced communication among us be considered.

Action: Adopted (6)

(After its introduction by the committee, a motion was offered to amend the resolution: *WHEREAS, Godly, pious stewardship is part of a Christian’s sanctified life that flows from being justified by God’s grace; and WHEREAS, Justification is accomplished through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments; and WHEREAS, The lectionaries of our Synod are designed to communicate the whole counsel of God to God’s people; and WHEREAS, The amount of money received by the Synod is not an accurate or reliable measure of the stewardship of individuals, congregations, or districts of the Synod; and WHEREAS, Individuals, congregations, and districts also exercise their stewardship*

through support of recognized service organizations, planting of new congregations, supporting the ever-increasing costs of Concordia Plans Services, disaster relief, etc.; therefore be it Resolved, That the President of the Synod, district presidents, and circuit counselors encourage the pastors under their ecclesiastical supervision to continue administering the Sacraments and preaching to their congregations the whole counsel of God with the Gospel predominating. After the chair ruled this proposal to be a substitute motion, the assembly voted not to consider it. After additional discussion, the resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 914; No: 277].)

To Develop Program to Emphasize Biblical Whole Life Stewardship

RESOLUTION 4-03

Report 1-8-02 (CW, pp. 19–28)

WHEREAS, Biblical whole life stewardship is critical to the spiritual health of the individual, the local congregation, the district, and the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The pastor is critical to the understanding and sharing of biblical whole life stewardship; and

WHEREAS, Currently there is limited training and teaching about biblical whole life stewardship at the seminary level because of the press of other disciplines, and no consistent continuing education program for pastors is in place; and

WHEREAS, Many professions have credentialed continuing education programs in place; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention assign to the Council of Presidents the task of developing a mentoring and training program for clergy with emphasis on biblical whole life stewardship to be presented to the 2010 convention.

Action: Adopted (4)

(The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee without discussion [Yes: 941; No: 226].)

To Authorize Exception to 2004 Res. 4-11 re Property Reversionary Provisions

RESOLUTION 4-04

Overture L4-38 (TB, pp. 50–51)

WHEREAS, The Concordia College—New York Board of Regents, on Feb. 2, 2007, authorized *CONCORDIA ON THE MOVE*, a plan for redeployment of assets to strengthen the college; and

WHEREAS, On Feb. 15, 2007, the Board for University Education approved the *CONCORDIA ON THE MOVE* program, contingent upon completion of a reversionary interest agreement between the college and the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Certain restrictive covenants between The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Concordia College—New York are no longer enforceable because of a New York Statute of Limitations; and

WHEREAS, Concordia College—New York has been advised by its attorneys that it cannot execute new restrictive covenants with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod unless it receives fair market value consideration; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Regents has taken action to amend the Bylaws of Concordia College—New York by adding a bylaw that can only be amended with the prior

consent of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the bylaw providing that all net assets will be distributed to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod upon the dissolution or liquidation of the school; and

WHEREAS, Res. 4-11 of the 2004 convention of the Synod specifically required that such property reversionary provisions be included in the Articles of Incorporation of corporate agencies of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention authorize the bylaw solution provided by Concordia College—New York in lieu of the requirement of 2004 Res. 4-11 that such provisions be included in the Articles of Incorporation.

Action: Adopted (4)

(The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee without discussion [Yes: 1,039; No: 86].)

To Amend Bylaws 3.8.3.6.4 (e) (2) and 3.8.3.6.4 (i) (2) re Financial Management

RESOLUTION 4-05

Overture 4-33 (CW, pp. 202–203)

Rationale

Bylaws 3.8.3.6.4 (e) (2) and 3.8.3.6.4 (i) (2) are part of the list of responsibilities of the institutional boards of regents. These two bylaws reflect a period in the history of higher education when the Synod Treasurer provided all operating funds for higher education institutions from a pool of Synod dollars. Tuition and gifts received at an institution were transferred to the Synod treasury and drawn out as needed to maintain the operation of an institution. Today, institutions of higher education are largely responsible for their own financing of operations, either from tuition or through donor gifts. A line of credit through the Office of University Education supports their operations during the months between tuition receipts. The Office of University Education pools any excess operating funds to maintain the line of credit for institutional support when needed.

This approach places the responsibility for managing cash flow upon the institution and the Office of University Education (Concordia University System).

Therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.8.3.6.4 (e) (2) be amended to read as follows:

PRESENT PROPOSED WORDING

(2) All surplus institutional funds above an adequate working balance shall be ~~deemed to be surplus and shall be~~ deposited with the ~~Vice President Finance—Treasurer of the Synod~~ Concordia University System for investment. Earnings from such investments shall be credited to the depositing institution.

and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.8.3.6.4 (i) (2) be amended to read as follows:

PRESENT PROPOSED WORDING

(2) Receiving of all gifts by deed, will, or otherwise made to the institution and ~~delivering them to the Vice Presi-~~

~~dent Finance—Treasurer of the Synod or such other person as may be designated by the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, unless precluded by law or the terms of the gift. In such case, the board of regents shall hold and administer managing the same, in accordance with the terms of the instrument creating such gift and in accordance with the policies of the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod board of regents.~~

Action: Adopted (4)

(The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee without discussion [Yes: 1,037; No: 87].)

To Revise Bylaw Sections re Name Change to Concordia Plans and Concordia Plan Services

RESOLUTION 4-06

Overture 4-01, (CW, pp. 189–190)

WHEREAS, On June 21, 2005, a separate corporation, Concordia Plan Services, was created to administer the various benefit trusts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In addition, the new Concordia Retirement Savings Plan was also created, both necessitating an update of the Bylaws of the Synod to reflect these changes; and

WHEREAS, The name “Board of Trustees” better reflects the responsibilities of the board relative to the various trusts it administers, suggesting that “Board of Managers” be changed to “Board of Trustees”; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors—Concordia Plan Services and the Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans approved the recommended changes in their September 2006 meeting; and

WHEREAS, These recommended changes require amendments to the Bylaws of the Synod as well as the plan documents of the various Concordia Plans and the Pension Plan for Pastors and Teachers; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Board of Directors, at its November 2006 meeting, adopted a resolution supporting the Board of Directors of Concordia Plan Services’ and the Board of Managers of Worker Benefit Plans’ request to amend the bylaws noted below; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Board of Directors referred the matter to the Commission on Structure for review and implementation; therefore be it

Resolved, The Synod in convention amend the Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to make the following changes:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

1.2.1 The following definitions apply to the entire Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod:

(a) **Agency:** An instrumentality other than a congregation, whether or not separately incorporated, which the Synod in convention or its Board of Directors has caused or authorized to be formed to further the Synod’s objectives.

(1) Agencies include each board, commission, council, seminary, university, college, district, ~~Worker Benefit Plans~~ Concordia Plan Services, and each synodwide corporate entity.

(2) The term “agency of the Synod” does not describe or imply the existence of principal and agency arrangements as defined under civil law....

(c) **Corporate Synod:** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Missouri nonprofit corporation, including the departments operating under the supervision of the Board of Directors of the Synod and the program boards and commissions of the Synod.

(1) “Corporate Synod” is not an agency of the Synod.

(2) Concordia Plan Services is a controlled entity of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod created to manage the Concordia Plans.

(23) ~~Worker Benefit Plans~~ The Concordia Plans, while operating under the supervision of the Synod Board of Directors, ~~is a~~ are trust ~~agencies~~ agency whose assets are not the property of corporate Synod....

(m) **Property of the Synod:** All assets, real or personal, tangible or intangible, whether situated in the United States or elsewhere, titled or held in the name of the Synod, its nominee, or an agency of the Synod. “Property of the Synod” does not include any assets held by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod or by an agency of the Synod in a fiduciary capacity (including, for purposes of example, the funds ~~administered~~ managed for the Concordia Plans by ~~Worker Benefit Plans~~ Concordia Plan Services and certain funds held by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation).

1.4.1 The delegate convention of the Synod is the legislative assembly that ultimately legislates policy, program, and financial direction to carry on the Synod’s work on behalf of and in support of the member congregations. It reserves to itself the right to give direction to all officers and agencies of the Synod. Consequently, all officers and agencies, unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws, shall be accountable to the Synod for all their actions, and any concerns regarding the decisions of such officers or agencies may be brought to the attention of the Synod in convention for appropriate action. This provision does not apply to specific member appeals to ~~Worker Benefit Plans~~ the Concordia Plans, which has its own appeal process for such cases.

3.2.2.1 The boards of the Synod elected or appointed as otherwise prescribed in these Bylaws shall be:

1. Board for Pastoral Education
2. Board for University Education (Board of Directors of Concordia University System)
3. Board for Black Ministry Services
4. Board for Communication Services
5. Board for Human Care Ministries
6. Board of Directors of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod (Board for Church Extension)
7. Board of ~~Managers~~ Trustees—Concordia Plans which also serves as the Board of Directors for Concordia Plan Services for Worker Benefit Plans
8. Board of Trustees for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation
9. A board of regents for each college, university, or high school of the Synod
10. Board of Governors of Concordia Historical Institute

3.3.1.3 The President shall have powers and duties that are both ecclesiastical and administrative.

(a) He shall report in person or through a vice-president or other officer of the Synod to all district conventions and to that end formulate the report that is to be made.

(b) He shall make provisions for new district presidents and members of boards and commissions of the Synod to be acquainted with their duties and responsibilities.

(c) He shall personally or by way of a representative have the option to attend all meetings of the Synod's program boards, the boards of all synodwide corporate entities, ~~the Board of Trustees Concordia Plans, and Worker Benefit Plans~~ Board of Directors Concordia Plan Services, including executive sessions.

3.3.4 The Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer shall be a layperson, shall not be an officer or staff member of a synodwide corporate entity, shall perform all customary duties of a corporate chief financial officer, and shall serve as a nonvoting member of the Board of Directors.

3.3.4.1 The Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer shall administer the financial affairs of the Synod, excluding the synodwide corporate entities, the districts, ~~the Concordia Plans, and Worker Benefit Plans~~ Concordia Plan Services.

(a) He shall carry out the duties of the office in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the Synod and as directed by the Board of Directors of the Synod.

(b) He shall receive and disburse the moneys of corporate Synod and keep accurate account of them under the instruction of the Board of Directors of the Synod.

(c) He shall act as the depository for all funds in the hands of corporate Synod's boards (excluding ~~the Concordia Plans and Worker Benefit Plans~~ Concordia Plan Services), commissions, officers, and employees who by virtue of their office act as custodians or trustees of such funds.

(d) He shall keep informed about financial affairs of the synodwide corporate entities.

(e) He shall serve as a nonvoting member of the governing boards of the Concordia University System, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, ~~Worker Benefit Plans the Concordia Plans, Concordia Plan Services~~, and Concordia Publishing House, and on the investment committee of ~~the Concordia Plans and Worker Benefit Plans~~ Concordia Plan Services.

(f) He shall keep on file a correct list of all devises and bequests that directly or indirectly have been given to corporate Synod. Legacies and bequests made to other agencies of the Synod shall be reported annually to the Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer as part of the audit process.

3.3.5.6 The Board of Directors shall exercise general oversight over the operations and activities of the synodwide corporate entities and ~~Worker Benefit Plans the Concordia Plans and Concordia Plan Services~~ as required of it in the Constitution of the Synod and specified in these Bylaws.

(a) It shall assure itself that their accounting, budgeting, and financial policies comply with generally accepted accounting standards.

(b) It shall assure itself that audits are performed by internal auditors or independent certified public accountants for the Synod's

(1) synodwide corporate entities;

(2) colleges, universities, and seminaries;

(3) districts; ~~and~~

(4) ~~Worker Benefit Plans~~ Concordia Plan Services; and

(5) the Concordia Plans.

(c) It shall be furnished with copies of these and any interim financial reports it requests.

3.7 Synodwide Trust Entities

3.7.1 The synodwide trust entities ~~of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod~~ is Worker Benefit Plans are collectively known as the Concordia Plans.

~~Worker Benefit Plans~~ The Concordia Plans

3.7.1.1 ~~Concordia Plan Services is responsible for managing the benefit plans/trusts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, including the Concordia Retirement Plan, Concordia Disability and Survivor Plan, Concordia Health Plan, Concordia Retirement Savings Plan, and Pension Plan for Pastors and Teachers, each of which is a separate trust operated under trust laws but collectively known as the Concordia Plans. The Worker Benefit Plans are the Concordia Retirement Plan, the Concordia Health Plan, the Concordia Disability and Survivor Plan, the Pension Plan for Pastors and Teachers, and Support Programs, each of which is a separate trust operated under trust laws. The assets and liabilities of the respective plans are separate and distinct from those of the Synod and cannot be used to satisfy the liabilities and obligations of the Synod.~~

(a) The “Concordia Retirement Plan for Ministers of Religion and Lay Workers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Its Member Congregations, Controlled Organizations, and Affiliated Agencies” is the retirement plan adopted by the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod pursuant to Res. 10-02 of the 45th convention of the Synod, as such plan has been heretofore or may hereafter be amended. The text of the plan, as amended from time to time, shall be published in booklet form under the supervision of the Board of ~~Managers/Trustees—Concordia Plans—Concordia Retirement Plan.~~

(b) The “Concordia Health Plan for Ministers of Religion and Lay Workers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Its Member Congregations, Controlled Organizations, and Affiliated Agencies” is the health plan adopted by the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod pursuant to Res. 10-02 of the 45th convention of the Synod, as such plan has been heretofore or may hereafter be amended. The text of the plan, as amended from time to time, shall be published in booklet form under the supervision of the Board of ~~Managers/Trustees—Concordia Plans—Concordia Health Plan.~~

(c) The “Concordia Disability and Survivor Plan for Ministers of Religion and Lay Workers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Its Member Congregations, Controlled Organizations, and Affiliated Agencies” is the plan adopted by the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in accord with directives adopted at a prior convention of the Synod (Res. 10-02 of the 45th convention) to provide for surviving widows and children those benefits previously provided under the Concordia Retirement Plan. This plan also provides for disability benefits for such workers. The text of the plan, as amended from time to time, shall be published in booklet form under the supervision of the Board of ~~Managers/Trustees—Concordia Plans—Concordia Disability and Survivor Plan.~~

(d) The “Pension Plan for Pastors and Teachers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” is the pension plan established by the Synod as of Oct. 1, 1937, as heretofore or hereafter amended. The text of the plan, as amended from time to time, shall be published in booklet form under the supervision of the Board of ~~Managers/Trustees—Concordia Plans—Pensions and Support.~~

~~(e) The Support Program of the Synod is a program of financial assistance to those eligible ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, and other professional church workers and their eligible dependents who are in financial need. This aid is in the form of a gift from the budget funds of the Synod. Eligibility standards shall be determined by the Board of Managers.~~

(e) The Concordia Retirement Savings Plan is the tax-sheltered annuity retirement savings plan adopted by the Board of Directors in August 2003, effective October 1, 2005, as such plan has been heretofore or may hereafter be amended. The text of the plan, as amended from time to time, shall be published in booklet form under the supervision of the Board of Trustees—Concordia Plans.

~~(f) The lists of ordained and commissioned ministers appearing in the on the official roster of the Synod current records of the Department of Human Resources of the Synod shall be the official lists for the purpose of the Board of Managers Trustees—Concordia Plans.~~

(g) National inter-Lutheran entities will be eligible to be “employers” under the various Worker Benefit Plans Concordia Plans of the Synod unless the policies of such a plan preclude such organization as an eligible employer.

3.7.1.2 Concordia Plan Services is also responsible for managing other ancillary programs, including various supplemental insurance and administration services programs and the Support Program.

~~(ea) The Support Program of the Synod is not a trust but rather~~ a program of financial assistance to those eligible ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, and other professional church workers and their eligible dependents who are in financial need. This aid is in the form of a gift from the budgeted funds of the Synod. Eligibility standards shall be determined by the Board of ~~Managers~~ Directors—Concordia Plan Services.

(b) There exists and may be added in the future various ancillary supplemental insurance and administration services that will be made available to member organizations and their employees. These programs are not trusts and will be under the supervision of the Board of Directors—Concordia Plan Services.

3.7.1.3~~2~~ (Revisions to this Bylaw have been submitted under separate cover.)

3.7.1.4~~3~~ The Board of ~~Managers~~ Trustees—Concordia Plans and the Board of Directors—Concordia Plan Services shall have all general and incidental powers and duties appropriate for the performance of ~~its~~ their functions.; In addition, the Board of Trustees—Concordia Plans will have including the powers and duties set forth in the respective plans, as amended from time to time. It may create or amend any plan within limits established by the Board of Directors of the Synod so long as such changes are reported to the Synod’s Board of Directors, since such power is finally vested in the Synod’s Board of Directors.

(a) When the Board of Managers Trustees—Concordia Plans is carrying out its functions with respect to any such separate plan, it may be designated as the Board of Man-agers Trustees of such separate plan.

(b) When the board is carrying out its functions generally, it may be designated as the “Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans Trustees—Concordia Plans of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.”

(c) The board shall make investment decisions at its own discretion or select and utilize investment counsel

~~other than the Board of Managers~~ and select agents and actuaries, in accordance with the Synod’s policies governing the investment of trust funds.

(d) It shall design for the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s approval benefit plans which compare favorably with other similar plans while meeting the unique needs of full-time church workers in the Synod.

(e) It shall provide copies of all audit reports to the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for information, advice, and counsel.

(f) It shall settle disputes which arise in enrollment in the plans and the payment of claims and benefits.

6.1.4 Being a recognized auxiliary of the Synod offers the following privileges:

(a) Eligibility of ordained and commissioned ministers of the Synod serving such organizations to remain on the membership rosters of the Synod as “active members,” if otherwise eligible.

(b) Eligibility for obtaining church extension loans from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod (LCEF), unless the policies of LCEF preclude such organization as an eligible borrower.

(c) Eligibility to be an “employer” under the various Worker Benefit Plans Concordia Plans of the Synod unless the policies of such a plan preclude such organization as an eligible employer.

Action: Adopted (4)

(As the resolution was introduced, the committee noted four instances in the proposed bylaw changes where words should have been underscored to designate new wording: *(5) the Concordia Plans* under Bylaw 3.3.5.6; and *Trustees—Concordia Plans* at the end of Bylaw 3.7.1.1 paragraphs (b), (c), and (d). The resolution was adopted as presented after brief discussion [Yes: 1,133; No: 17].)

To Amend Bylaw 3.7.1.2 re Membership of Board of Directors—Concordia Plan Services and Board of Trustees—Concordia Plans

RESOLUTION 4-07

Overture 4-02 (CW, pp. 190–191)

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of Concordia Plan Services and the Board of Managers of Worker Benefit Plans (the latter’s name to be changed to Board of Trustees—Concordia Plans per Res. 4-06) consist of the same appointed board members, currently ten voting members (two parish pastors, one teacher, and seven laypersons) and one non-voting member. At present, at least three of the laypersons must be experienced in the design of employee benefit plans and the remaining in the management of benefit plan investments; and

WHEREAS, With the growth of the Concordia Plans over the past decade (\$3 billion in assets, nearly \$400 million annual benefit payments, and a \$12.5 million administrative budget), increasingly complex decisions are required that affect investments, employee benefit design, and financial oversight. In addition, general corporate governance has changed in recent years as a result of financial problems in the corporate world, requiring greater financial oversight by audit committees of boards, resulting in

the establishment of specific requirements for financial literacy for membership on audit committees; and

WHEREAS, The current structure with seven laypersons with specialized capabilities no longer provides adequate resources for the input and review needed from the board members, especially in committee sessions where much board work is accomplished and where the specialized capabilities are split between committees that meet concurrently. When board members' schedules force them to miss a meeting, multimillion-dollar benefit or investment decisions end up being made in committee sessions by possibly only two members of the board; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Plan Services and Worker Benefit Plans believe that adding more laypersons with specialized benefit, investment, and finance/audit experience would greatly enhance its board's ability to function more effectively; and

WHEREAS, At its September 2006 meeting, a resolution was adopted to request the 2007 LCMS convention to amend paragraph 3.7.1.2 of the Bylaws to add three additional laypersons to the membership of the board, such laypersons to be appointed by the Board of Directors of the Synod (as are all other board members); and

WHEREAS, This change would necessitate amendments to the LCMS Bylaws and various Concordia Plans and Pension Plan for Pastors and Teachers documents, a resolution was proposed by the Board of Directors—Concordia Plan Services and Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans to obtain the support of the Board of Directors of the Synod for the change; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Board of Directors at its November 2006 meeting adopted a resolution supporting the Board of Directors of Concordia Plan Services' and the Board of Managers of Worker Benefit Plans' request to have the 2007 LCMS convention amend paragraph 3.7.1.2 of the Bylaws by adding three additional laypersons to the membership of the board, such laypersons to be appointed by the Board of Directors of the Synod (as are all other board members); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention amend Bylaw 3.7.1.2 (3.7.1.3 upon adoption of Res. 4-06) of the *Handbook* as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

3.7.1.2 The Board of ~~Managers~~ Directors of Worker Benefit Plans ~~Concordia Plan Services and the Board of Trustees of Concordia Plans~~ shall consist of ~~40-13~~ voting members appointed by the Board of Directors of the Synod and the Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer of the Synod as a nonvoting member. The ~~40-13~~ voting members shall include:

1. Two parish pastors
2. One teacher
3. ~~Seven~~ Ten laypersons, at least ~~three~~ four of whom shall be experienced in the design of employee benefit plans, at least four of whom shall be and the others inexperienced in the management of benefit plan investments, and at least one of whom shall have significant financial/audit experience.

Action: Adopted (4)

(The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee without discussion [Yes: 1,121; No: 31].)

To Amend Bylaw 3.8.2.5.5 (i) (2) re Financial Management

RESOLUTION 4-08

Overture 4-32 (CW, p. 202)

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.8.2.5.5 (i) (2) is part of the list of the responsibilities of the institutional boards of regents. The bylaw reflects a period in the history of higher education in which the Synod Treasurer provided all operational funds for institutions of higher education from a pool of Synod dollars. Tuition and gifts received at an institution were transferred to the Synod treasury and drawn out as needed to maintain the operation of the institution. Today, institutions of higher education are largely responsible for their own financing of operations, either from tuition or donor gifts. A line of credit supports their operations during the months between tuition receipts. The amendment that follows places the responsibility for managing cash flow on the institution; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.8.2.5.5 (i) (2) be amended to read as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

(2) Receiving of all gifts by deed, will, or otherwise made to the ~~seminary institution~~ and ~~delivering them to the Vice-President—Finance/Treasurer of the Synod or such other person as may be designated by the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, unless precluded by law or the terms of the gift. In such case, the board of regents shall hold and administer~~ managing the same, in accordance with the terms of the instrument creating such gift and in accordance with the policies of the ~~Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod~~ board of regents.

Action: Adopted (4)

(The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee without discussion [Yes: 1,093; No: 52].)

To Provide Financial Support and Adopt Funding Model for Seminaries

RESOLUTION 4-09A

Overtures 4-04, 4-12–17 (CW, pp. 191–192, 195–96)

WHEREAS, Holy Scripture tells us that among the gifts that God has given to His Church is the gift of “pastors and teachers” (Eph. 4:11); and

WHEREAS, The support of seminaries for the recruitment and preparation of pastors is a key objective of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod according to Art. III of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has understood the wisdom of providing support for these seminaries so that their energies may be properly focused on the preparation of pastors, missionaries, and deaconesses with integrity and a strong sense of service to the church; and

WHEREAS, God is blessing the efforts of the seminaries to recruit and prepare more men to study for the Office of the Holy Ministry; and

WHEREAS, The financial aid now needed challenges the financial structures of our seminaries, they being depen-

dent on development and third-source income to cover the financial aid that subsidizes tuition; and

WHEREAS, There has been a shift in member offerings from undesignated to designated giving resulting in a continuous increase in giving in support of the overall mission of the church, including support of the seminaries; and

WHEREAS, This shift has resulted in limited resources available from corporate Synod to our seminaries; and

WHEREAS, Both seminaries have responded to this shift in giving and to the Synod's call with increased attention to recruitment, financial aid, and development; and

WHEREAS, The corporate Synod is supporting the seminaries with \$750,000 total from undesignated funds in the 2006–2007 budget; and

WHEREAS, The Synod as a whole supports the seminaries and neither requires nor expects them to contribute to the budget of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Pastoral Education undertook as its immediate first task a systemic study of the funding models for theological education in our Synod (2004 Res. 4-02A); and

WHEREAS, The Board for Pastoral Education sought to engage leaders and representative agencies of the church for counsel and support in resolving this crisis (2004 Res. 4-02A); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod as a whole continue to support each seminary's development efforts; and be it further

Resolved, That the funding model adopted by the Board for Pastoral Education be put into place, including:

- Continued direct funding of the seminaries by corporate Synod from its annual budget in the form of subsidy.
- An intentional and fundamental return to being tuition-driven institutions in order to make funding more predictable and reduce the risk of financial crises at the seminaries.
- The LCMS as a whole (individuals, congregations, circuits, districts, corporate Synod, and agencies) assumes primary responsibility for gathering funds to support seminary students and assist them in paying undiscounted tuition.

Action: Adopted (4)

(After discussion, the resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 1,051; No: 89].)

To Encourage Funding for Center for Hispanic Studies

RESOLUTION 4-10

Overture 4-18 (CW, p. 196)

WHEREAS, The Center for Hispanic Studies (formerly known as the Hispanic Institute of Theology [HIT]) has been the most effective program for preparing LCMS Hispanic church workers, both lay and rostered; and

WHEREAS, Both the Synod's Board for Mission Services and the Board for University Education have eliminated their funding for the former HIT; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, currently provides funding for the Center through its budget; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention give thanks to God for the opportunity to be involved with training church

workers through the Center for Hispanic Studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; and be it further

Resolved, That Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, be thanked for recognizing the importance of this ministry to the future of the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, be encouraged to continue to include funding for the Center for Hispanic Studies in its annual budget; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod's Board of Directors be encouraged to seek additional funding to maintain and expand this program.

Action: Adopted (10)

(The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee without discussion [Yes: 837; No: 74].)

To Encourage Participation in Concordia Plan Services, LCEF, and LCMS Foundation

RESOLUTION 4-12A

Overture 4-30, (CW, pp. 201–202)

WHEREAS, The 2006 Blue Ribbon Task Force for Funding the Mission recommended a stewardship renaissance and called on entities and individuals of the LCMS to be good stewards; and

WHEREAS, Biblical stewardship imperatives require each organization to accomplish its tasks in the most efficient and effective manner possible for the "common good" of the whole body; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Plan Services has designed "The Church's Plan" so that each of the individual Concordia Plans complements the other in providing a total benefit package for the LCMS church worker; and

WHEREAS, At the present time, approximately 70 percent of LCMS employers have elected to adopt "The Church's Plan"; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Plan Services seeks to serve the entire LCMS and can do so with greater efficiency and effectiveness if all districts, congregations, and other LCMS entities are participating employers; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) was incorporated in 1978 and ratified by unanimous action of the 1979 LCMS convention more effectively to serve the churches and entities of the LCMS by consolidating all district church extension funds into a single organization, pooling available funds to better meet all church needs, and efficiently meeting evolving state regulations; and

WHEREAS, LCEF seeks to serve the entire LCMS on a local, national, and worldwide basis through a full range of investment, loan, and service opportunities and can do so with greater efficiency and effectiveness if all LCMS districts become members of the national program; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Foundation exists to serve the entire church, and can do so more efficiently and effectively if all organizations utilize its services; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Foundation currently has Partner Member relationships with 18 LCMS districts, 9 universi-

ties/seminaries, and 12 other Synod auxiliaries and recognized service organizations; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Foundation has helped and continues to help individuals establish direct and planned gifts for congregations and other entities within all 35 LCMS districts, for all 10 colleges and universities, for both seminaries, and for virtually all ministries of the church; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention encourage all governing boards and committees to review their responsibilities and their opportunities in relation to Concordia Plan Services, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, and the LCMS Foundation to demonstrate our working together for the “common good” and to multiply current and future benefits for their congregations, districts, and the whole church body.

Action: Declined (6)

(After discussion of the resolution as presented by the committee, it was not adopted [Yes: 521; No: 654].)

To Give Thanks and Praise to God for LCMS Foundation’s 50 Years of Service

RESOLUTION 4-13

Overture 4-31 (CW, p. 202)

WHEREAS, Following the 1956 LCMS convention, the Synod’s Board of Directors appointed a special committee to engage in preliminary planning for a foundation to serve the needs of the congregations and organizations of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Based upon the committee’s recommendation, the Synod’s Board of Directors established The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation in December 1958, which action was ratified by the 1959 LCMS convention; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Foundation will observe its 50th anniversary in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its history the LCMS Foundation has served congregations, organizations, and individuals with stewardship training, direct and planned gifts for ministry and family, and the administration of endowed gifts and custodial funds; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Foundation has processed over \$1 billion in direct and planned gifts since its inception in 1958; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Foundation continues to serve the church under its mission of *Linking Christians with Giving Opportunities®* and its vision of *Every Christian with a Lifetime Plan for Giving*; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 2007 LCMS convention acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the LCMS Foundation and give thanks to God for its work; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage congregations and organizations to engage the LCMS Foundation through its local representatives for assistance in the cultivation and stewardship of direct, planned, and endowed gifts to support family and ministry *today, tomorrow, and forever*.

Action: Adopted (2)

(After its introduction by the committee, the resolution was adopted without further discussion [Yes: 1,027; No: 41].)

To Hold 2010 Convention in Houston, Texas

RESOLUTION 4-16

WHEREAS, The president of the Texas District has submitted an invitation to hold the 2010 convention of the Synod in Houston, Texas, and documentation has been provided by the Synod’s Director of Travel and Meeting Planning to support this invitation; and

WHEREAS, Major cost-saving considerations include (1) complimentary convention center rental and (2) complimentary transportation from the one hotel located 10 blocks from the convention center (Hyatt) while the other hotel (Hilton) is attached to the convention center; and

WHEREAS, Other factors supporting acceptance of the invitation include the following:

- The volunteer staff from the Houston area have graciously supported the 2007 convention.
- Houston hotel room rates are less expensive than St. Louis by a minimum of \$25 per room per night.
- Houston is served by two major airports, hubs for Southwest and Continental Airlines.
- Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau and the George R. Brown Convention Center are eager for the LCMS convention to return;

therefore be it

Resolved, That in response to the invitation received from the president of the Texas District, and upon consideration of site information received from the Synod’s Director of Travel and Meeting Planning, and with the recommendation of the Synod’s Board of Directors, the 2010 convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will be held in Houston, Texas.

Action: Adopted (10)

(When introducing the resolution, the committee also introduced a number of changes to the resolve, inserting *and with the recommendation of after Meeting Planning*; inserting *Synod’s before Board of Directors*; deleting *recommends to the 2007 convention that*, and inserting *will* in the final line before the words *be held in Houston, Texas*. The resolution was adopted as changed by the committee [Yes: 805; No: 118].)

5. Seminary and University Education

To Establish Specific Ministry Pastor Program

RESOLUTION 5-01B

Overtures 5-01–10 (CW, pp. 205–216)

Background

Amidst today's mission challenges, including the persistent need to provide pastoral ministry in ways that go beyond the current residential models, we will do well to engage the best collaborative thinking and creativity that we can muster to provide missional pastoral leadership driven by the depth of theological integrity that remains a hallmark of our church and its ministerium. The mission focus ignited by the *Ablaze!* movement has generated the need to identify laymen already in place in a local community to serve as church planters and missionaries. This work will certainly entail Word and Sacrament ministry. Historically, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its antecedents have attempted to meet such needs by preparing men as quickly as possible to be called and ordained in order to meet the urgent mission needs of the church. Such men were prepared to catechize, preach, and provide pastoral care. Within the LCMS, the need for such a track to ordination was initially embodied in the seminary begun by F. C. D. Wyneken and Wilhelm Löhe in Fort Wayne, Indiana. However, developments in ministerial formation since World War II have effectively eliminated this track altogether.

Ministers of religion—ordained will have two designations. “General ministry pastor” will serve as the designation for pastors graduated from a current approved theological education program (e.g., M.Div., Certificate, DELTO), and “specific ministry pastor” will be the designation for those educated for a specific ministry context through distance education. The Specific Ministry Pastor Program seeks to address the needs of the church by reinstituting a multiple-track approach and by developing a program that combines a commitment to faithfulness to a Lutheran theological confession with a missionary perspective and that is tailored to the preparation of men for service in specific kinds of ministries.

Such an effort must attempt in some measure to uphold two significant considerations in the service of our Lord's mission and Great Commission. On the one hand, we are committed to upholding the Lutheran understanding of the pastor as theologian and insist on as much education as possible for the good of the church. On the other hand, emerging needs and economic pressures often make it impossible to call a pastor who has received a broad and thorough theological education to every congregation or mission station where, nevertheless, people need to hear the Gospel. This proposal is offered as a sincere and thoughtful attempt to address real-world needs with an urgency for bringing the Gospel to a dying world and to do so with theological integrity with respect to both the doctrine of the ministry and our commitment to high standards of pastoral education and formation.



Committee 5 Chairman Jon Diefenthaler

Theological Foundations Guiding the Proposal

1. All those who regularly and publicly perform the functions of the Office of the Holy Ministry should do so as those called to and placed into that office. “It is taught among us that nobody should publicly teach or preach or administer the sacraments in the church without a regular call” (AC XIV). As it is true that means of grace, the Gospel and the Sacraments, are the rightful possession of all believers in Christ as members of the priesthood of all believers, only the one Office of the Holy Ministry is entrusted with the public exercise of these means. As such, we affirm that only those who are rightly and publicly called and ordained should publicly exercise the functions which are entrusted to this ministry.
2. Lutherans affirm that there is only one Office of the Holy Ministry, established by God for the public conduct of the ministry of Word and Sacrament. However, the church may recognize certain distinctions within that one Office of the Holy Ministry and establish degrees of supervision without undermining the unity of the office.
 - a. All those who serve Christ and the church in the Office of the Holy Ministry exercise *de iure divino* (by divine authority) the power to preach the Gospel, forgive sins, administer the Sacraments, and exercise church discipline. There is no distinction within the one office with respect to *this* power and authority.
 - b. Nevertheless, all ministers serve under supervision. In ancient times, the practice of making certain

distinctions within the one Office of the Holy Ministry *de iure humano* (by human authority) was established so that those ministers with broader and deeper theological understanding should be able to provide doctrinal supervision for less experienced, or less well-prepared, ministers. These distinctions were made to ensure that the Gospel was rightly preached and taught, and to preserve the unity of the church.

- c. By the time of the Reformation, the common way of talking about such distinctions within the Office of the Holy Ministry was to speak of the differentiation between the power (or authority) associated with the Office of the Holy Ministry and the jurisdiction (or scope of the administration) of the office.
3. The church may establish, by human authority, distinctions in jurisdiction and in categories of service of its pastors so long as these distinctions do not compromise the authority of the office, undermine the Gospel, or burden the consciences of Christians by confusing human regulations with divine commands.
4. Ordination vows may be taken prior to the conclusion of a complete course of study provided that the ordained has received a preparation sufficient to preach and teach the Gospel rightly, administer the Sacraments correctly, and take his vows with integrity.
5. The church should provide the opportunity for a pastor who has been certified and ordained to serve in a specific kind of ministry subsequently to be prepared to serve the church more broadly through a combination of further academic preparation, accumulated pastoral experience, and examination.

Overview of the “Specific Ministry Pastor” Program

The student will take a *core curriculum* so as to acquire a *foundational competency* in Lutheran theology for pastoral ministry. This foundational core will be both contextualized and specialized within and for a specific ministry. In addition to the original objective of the Distance Education Leading To Ordination (DELTO) Program to provide pastoral ministry where full-time ministry cannot be maintained, such specific ministries will include such categories as church planter, staff pastor, and others as needs arise.

The specific curriculum will be determined and developed by the seminary faculties, in collaboration with those from the field who represent the specific ministerial contexts at district and congregation levels. It will be based on the following principles:

1. Curricular goals based on outcome competencies appropriate to the stages of the program
2. The contextual nature of this educational model, which includes experiential learning within a mission context
3. The engagement of supervisors/mentors by the seminary in consultation with the district president as a critical element of the distance education model
4. A combination of distance education and residential components (likely through short-term seminars and

the option to take courses within the residential curriculum)

5. The potential applicability of coursework for academic credit towards an M.Div.
6. A time frame for completion of approximately 4–5 years

The Specific Ministry Pastor Program will be divided into a preordination curriculum and a post-ordination curriculum. The preordination curriculum will equip the student in such a way that the church has confidence that the student will preach the Gospel in its truth and purity and conduct his ministry in conformity with Lutheran doctrine and practice. In order to do this, the preordination curriculum will address such basic competencies as *Catechism, interpretation of Scripture, God and Christ and the work of Christ, the Sacraments, introduction to the Book of Concord, the conduct of worship, and preaching*.

The post-ordination curriculum will address these topics *in greater depth and detail and will include such topics as OT content and theology, NT content and theology, gifts of Christ, body of Christ, Church history and the history of Lutheranism, Christian education, pastoral theology, and theology of missions*.

In addition, the student will participate in several residential and field seminars aimed at cultivating the requisite ministry skills for his specific ministry context (e.g., church planters, staff pastors, and evangelists).

- Possible residential seminars might include *pastoral formation, issues in pastoral ministry, team ministry, urban ministry, and spiritual formation*.
- Possible field seminars might include *basic mission planter training, edge gathering, and advanced mission planter training*.

The Specific Ministry Pastor Program will utilize selected mentors in the preparation of a man for pastoral ministry with an emphasis on the area of spiritual formation.

Step 1: Preparation for and Admission to the Program

The identification of an applicant will be carried out by the congregation and district through a comprehensive screening process.

For entry into the program, a student will need to show that he possesses the requisite social skills and passion for theology and mission, as well as demonstrating the specific skills and competence needed to be successful in a distance-education program.

For entry into the program, a student will need to pass the Entry Level Competency Exams (ELCEs) in the areas of OT, NT, and Catechism/Christian Doctrine. Preparation for the ELCEs may be accomplished by taking the corresponding district-level courses, Concordia University System or seminary-offered courses. In addition, other courses within a district's lay training program may be helpful, such as courses on evangelizing and catechizing. All students will need to demonstrate competency to engage the program in the English language and in public speaking.

Based upon completion of the above requirements and with recommendations from congregation and district, the

student's application will be presented to the admissions committee of the seminary for action. As part of the application process, each student, sponsoring congregation, and district will sign a covenant of commitment to complete the entire specific ministry pastor curriculum, including all coursework and seminars following examination and ordination.

Step 2: Preordination Curriculum

Upon entrance into the Specific Ministry Pastor Program, the student will be assigned as a vicar in a specific locality but normally will not be authorized to administer the Sacraments. He will preach sermons prepared in collaboration with and approved by his supervisor. At this point, he will participate in courses and seminars comparable to those offered to residential seminary students designed to prepare him in the following areas:

- *Catechism, hermeneutical principles, God and Christ, work of Christ, the Sacraments, worship, the Book of Concord, and preaching*
- *Possible residential seminars: intro to pastoral formation; issues in pastoral ministry*
- *Possible field seminars: basic mission planter training, etc.*

Step 3: Certification/Call/Ordination

After demonstrating competence in the preordination areas, the student must apply for an examination hearing by the seminary in order to be certified for call and ordination. Each student will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The examination hearing shall include a review of the student's portfolio, vicarage reports, an interview by the faculty, and recommendations by the district president and circuit counselor.

After certification, call, and ordination according to the usual order, the student is placed on the pastoral roster of the Synod as a "specific ministry pastor." He now may preach and administer the Sacraments under supervision in a specific locality.

Step 4: Post-Call and Ordination Curriculum

Upon call and ordination, the student shall complete the remainder of the Specific Ministry Pastor Program. The following areas are intended to continue development of the foundational competencies necessary for serving as a specific ministry pastor:

- *OT content and theology, NT content and theology, gifts of Christ, body of Christ, Church history and the history of Lutheranism, Christian education, pastoral theology, and theology of missions*
- *Residential seminars, possibly including pastoral formation, issues in pastoral ministry, team ministry, urban ministry, and spiritual formation*
- *Field seminars, possibly including basic mission planter training, edge gathering, and advanced mission planter training*

Refusal to complete the Specific Ministry Pastor Program would result in the pastor's removal from the Synod roster, at which point he is not eligible for a call.

Step 5: Completion of the Specific Ministry Pastor Program

Upon completion of the program, the candidate is examined by a committee of faculty, laity, and district representatives in order to be recognized as eligible for calls elsewhere within his rostered status. Apart from the usual need for continuing education, he is not required to take any further prescribed course of studies (but see below).

Specific ministry pastors are recognized as just that: pastors certified for calls into specific ministry contexts, who serve under the supervision not only of the district president but also of a designated general ministry pastor. As such, they are eligible for calls into a similar specific ministry context, where they continue under the supervision of a general ministry pastor.

Because their theological education is formed within the context of their specific ministry and does not represent the breadth and depth of theology and ecclesiology that forms a basis for pastoral oversight beyond the local level, they may not be placed into ecclesiastical roles of exercising pastoral oversight outside the location of their specific call (i.e., in the church-at-large), such as

- a. holding elected or appointed office at the district or Synod level that is assigned by the Bylaws to "a pastor" or "an ordained minister" (though they will serve in all other capacities, especially representing the ministerial contexts in which they serve);
- b. serving as circuit counselors;
- c. serving as a voting delegate to a national Synod convention (but they may serve as an advisory delegate at national conventions and as a pastoral delegate at district conventions); and
- d. supervising vicars.

Step 6: Continued Service and Status

Students who have completed the Specific Ministry Pastor Program may decide to remain in their rostered status as "specific ministry pastor" for the remainder of their ministry, or they may choose to pursue a growth path that leads to a change in roster status to "general ministry pastor." It is envisioned that most students will pursue the second path, either through an M.Div. route or nondegree certification. Thus, they have three options:

1. They may remain rostered as a specific ministry pastor.
2. They may enroll in an M.Div. program. It is anticipated that coursework done for the Specific Ministry Pastor Program may become applicable to an M.Div., determined by equivalencies.
3. They may continue their theological education and pastoral formation, reaching a level appropriate to general ministry pastor without a full M.Div. (cf. current "alternate route") and then complete an interview with an examining board in order to have their rostered status changed to "general ministry pastor."

Resolution

WHEREAS, The DELTO Oversight Committee was formed by the 2001 convention and given the task "to revise DELTO"; and

WHEREAS, This oversight committee concluded that original assignment, and a revised DELTO Program was deployed by the two seminaries in the fall of 2004; and

WHEREAS, The original and ongoing intent of DELTO was to “provide ordained pastoral service to congregations that cannot support a full-time pastor, ordained pastoral service to contexts where English is not spoken, ordained missionary personnel where finances and/or conditions do not permit calling a full-time missionary” (BHE document, “What Is DELTO?” Sept. 2000); and

WHEREAS, The needs for providing pastoral ministry in specific and specialized situations where a traditionally prepared seminary candidate or pastor is not available continue to multiply; and

WHEREAS, Our Synod needs to find a way to provide for an increase in pastoral ministry to meet such needs of the church, especially in light of the mission challenges of today’s world; and

WHEREAS, Our Synod has resolved to plant 2,000 new congregations by 2017, for which a net gain of 2,000 pastors will be needed; and

WHEREAS, Any way of providing for pastoral ministry must be faithful to our Lutheran Confessions, faithful to our historic commitment to a well-educated and well-formed ministerium, faithful to our historic commitment to provide pastors in both academic and practical tracks, and faithful to our historic commitment to provide pastoral ministry and leadership at the cutting edges of the mission fields, wherever they might be; and

WHEREAS, All those who regularly and publicly perform the functions of the Office of the Holy Ministry should do so as those called to and placed into that office because “[i]t is taught among us that nobody should publicly teach or preach or administer the sacraments in the church without a regular call” (AC XIV); and

WHEREAS, A variety of programs and routes leading to pastoral service have arisen at both district and seminary levels; and

WHEREAS, The DELTO Oversight Committee, after concluding its original assignment, was given the further assignment by the President of the Synod to “study the various routes leading to ordination currently available, to study which routes leading to ordination would be most helpful to the Synod in producing a sufficient number of able and effective pastors to provide leadership to Synod’s congregations in fulfilling the Great Commission”; and

WHEREAS, In carrying out this further task, it was apparent that

- a. the existing focus of DELTO, even as it was redesigned and redeployed, would not be sufficient to meet these needs;
- b. the Synod would benefit from a more coherent and comprehensive approach to pastoral preparation and certification for ministry in specialized and specific contexts;
- c. the past years have provided the church, in general, and the seminaries, in particular, with substantial experimentation and experience with distance-education models, including the evaluation of both the advantages and disadvantages; and

- d. the Synod is presented with an opportunity to build on such experience and to coordinate and consolidate programs and curriculum into a more cohesive and comprehensive curriculum design that engages the best practices of educational design and pedagogy, including much of the current course materials already proven and in use; and

WHEREAS, The process of conversation and collaboration over the past six years has brought together representatives of the needs of the field with the entities of the Synod to whom leadership for pastoral education and certification is entrusted, and in so doing provided a helpful model for continuing such collaborative work; and

WHEREAS, Both seminaries have provided leadership in this process and worked together on written documents affirming the need for a new category within the one office of the pastoral ministry and in affirming an educational process that will lead to certification and ordination for such pastoral ministry, utilizing both traditional residential components along with new distance education models; and

WHEREAS, The DELTO Oversight Committee in seeking to fulfill its further task has

- a. worked closely with both seminaries in honing a proposal for a category of specific ministry pastor and an education and formation program that will lead to certification and ordination for such pastoral ministry; and has
- b. worked closely also with many other constituencies throughout the church in developing this proposal, including the Board for Pastoral Education, the Council of Presidents, district and Synod mission leaders, and pastors in the field;

and

WHEREAS, The great strengths of this proposal bring together several issues that have concerned our Synod for many years as it seeks to

- a. find a way to meet the existing and expanding needs for pastoral ministry, especially in the variety of contexts of mission and ministry in today’s church;
- b. respect our commitment to the doctrine of church and ministry, especially in light of AC XIV;
- c. honor our commitment to responsible theological education that provides the church with well-educated pastors, who as missional leaders are faithful to Lutheran theology and practice;
- d. retain our commitment to the importance, need, and great strengths of residential pastoral education at both the certificate and M.Div. level, along with a commitment to the continuing education of all clergy;
- e. restore our past creativity in recognizing the importance, need, and great strengths of alternative models of pastoral education leading to ordination, including a commitment to continuing education;
- f. utilize the advances in educational technology that allow for responsible pastoral education and formation through distance-education models; and
- g. develop a more coherent and comprehensive model for pastoral education by which various routes leading to certification, call, and ordination are coordinated and

potentially interrelated, so that, for example, a student in a nonresidential certificate route might be able to engage also in a residential degree program; and

WHEREAS, The Specific Ministry Pastor Program has the support of the Board for Pastoral Education, the faculties of both seminaries, and the Council of Presidents; and

WHEREAS, The Specific Ministry Pastor Program has been reviewed by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations and was found to be consistent with Scripture and the Confessions; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters has issued opinions 07-2499 and 07-2500 that no changes to Synod's Constitution are required should this resolution be adopted; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Specific Ministry Pastor Program be adopted in principle and the seminaries, Board for Pastoral Education, and Council of Presidents be authorized to implement it; and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw sections 2.13 and 2.14 of the *Handbook of the Synod* be amended accordingly, as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

(A) Change the title of Bylaw section 2.13 to read as follows:

**~~2.13 Restricting, Suspending, and Expelling
Congregations or Individuals from Membership~~
Membership Status and Limitations**

(B) Incorporate current Bylaws 2.13.1 and 2.13.2 into Bylaw 2.14.1 as follows:

- Current Bylaw 2.13.1 becomes Bylaw 2.14.1
- Current Bylaw 2.13.2 becomes Bylaw 2.14.1 (a)
- Current Bylaw 2.14.1 becomes Bylaw 2.14.1 (b)

The early paragraphs of Bylaw section 2.14 therefore to read as follows:

2.14 Expulsion of Congregations or Individuals from Membership in the Synod

~~Preamble~~

~~2.13.1~~

2.14.1 Termination of membership in the Synod is a serious matter involving both the doctrine and life of those to whom it has been granted. Such action should only be taken as a final step when it is clear that those who are being terminated after previous futile admonition have acted contrary to the confession laid down in Article II or the conditions of membership laid down in Article VI or have persisted in offensive conduct (Constitution, Art. XIII 1). For this reason the Synod establishes procedures for such action including the identification of those who are responsible for ecclesiastical supervision of its members. Such supervision includes not only suspension or termination of membership but also advice, counsel, encouragement, and, when necessary, admonition regarding teaching and/or practice. Furthermore, the procedures that may lead to termination of membership also provide for the protection of members by including provisions for challenging the decisions of ecclesiastical supervisors in these mat-

ters as well as provisions for restoration of membership that has been suspended or terminated.

General

2.13.2 (a) Although the Constitution (see Art. VI 3 and Art. XII 7–8) deals with the “life” of ordained and commissioned ministers of the Synod and provides for dealing with “ungodly life” of ordained and commissioned ministers, this does not suggest that the Synod, including any district of the Synod, has the duty or even an opportunity to observe the activities in the life of an individual member of the Synod or has the means or authority to regulate, restrict, or control those activities. The only remedy available to the Synod in response to improper activities in the life of such a member of the Synod is, as is true with respect to violations of other conditions of membership or is otherwise appropriate under the Constitution or these Bylaws, and following the procedures set forth in these Bylaws, to take such action as may lead to termination of that membership and the attendant rights and privileges.

2.14.1 (b) The action to commence expulsion of a congregation or individual from membership in the Synod is the sole responsibility of the district president who has the responsibility for ecclesiastical supervision of such member. This Bylaw section 2.14, among others, provides the procedures to carry out Article XIII of the Constitution, “Expulsion from the Synod.” However, it does not provide the procedure for the expulsion of the district presidents and the officers of the Synod (Bylaw section 2.15), the President of the Synod (Bylaw section 2.16), or individual members in cases involving sexual misconduct or criminal behavior (Bylaw section 2.17).

(C) Add a new section at the beginning of Bylaw section 2.13 to define a “specific ministry pastor” and the limitations on membership privileges and responsibilities that pertain, as follows:

Specific Ministry Pastor Status and Limitations

2.13.1 A “specific ministry pastor” is a minister of religion—ordained who has completed the requirements for service as a specific ministry pastor and has been examined by one of the Synod's seminaries, has received a regular call and has been placed by the Council of Presidents into a specific Word and Sacrament ministry context. He is eligible to serve only in that specific ministry context for which he has been trained and may not be offered or accept a call for ministry for which he has not been certified as determined by his district president. He shall serve under the supervision of his district president and another pastor who is not a specific ministry pastor.

(a) Because he is under supervision of another pastor and because a specific ministry pastor's theological education has been formed in part by and for a specific ministry context, he may not be placed or called into ecclesiastical roles that exercise pastoral oversight outside the location of his call.

(b) A specific ministry pastor is not eligible to

(1) serve as a voting delegate to a national convention of the Synod—but may serve as an

- advisory delegate to national conventions and as a pastoral delegate to district conventions;
- (2) hold any elected or appointed office on the district or national Synod level that is assigned by the Bylaws of the Synod to “a pastor” or “an ordained minister” (although specific ministry pastors may serve in all other capacities, especially representing the ministerial contexts in which they serve);
- (3) supervise vicars; or
- (4) serve as a circuit counselor.
- (c) The ministers of religion—ordained records maintained by district presidents as well as the official membership roster of the Synod shall distinguish between specific ministry pastors and other pastors.

(D) Change the titles and bylaw numbering of subsequent paragraphs of Bylaw section 2.13 to accommodate the introduction of the “specific ministry pastor status and limitations” paragraphs, as follows:

Restricted Status and Limitations

2-13.2

2.13.2 An individual member of the Synod may be placed...

Removal of Restricted Status and Limitations

2-13.4

2.13.3 An individual member of the Synod who is placed...

Suspended Status and Limitations

2-13.5

2.13.4 When formal proceedings have been commenced...

(E) Change Bylaw 3.1.3.1 to read as follows:

- 3.1.3.1 Each district shall select one advisory delegate for every 60 advisory ordained ministers and specific ministry pastors, and one advisory delegate for every 60 commissioned ministers on the roster of the Synod. Fractional groupings shall be disregarded except that each district shall be entitled to at least one advisory delegate in each category.

and be it further

Resolved, That the DELTO Oversight Committee be renamed the Specific Ministry Pastor Committee; and be it further

Resolved, That the Specific Ministry Pastor Committee be placed under the supervision of the Board for Pastoral Education; and be it further

Resolved, That the Specific Ministry Pastor Committee develop comprehensive guidelines that are consistent with the theological foundations, educational expectations, rostering process, training of mentors and supervising pastors, and membership limitations intended for this Specific Ministry Pastor Program; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Specific Ministry Pastor Committee submit a progress report to the Synod at least nine months prior to the 2010 convention.

Action: Adopted (8)

(Discussion of this proposed action began during Session 3, when the assembly received background information for Res. 5-01A and received answers during a Q & A session with the com-

mittee. The committee announced that the introductory information preceding the actual resolution was supplied only to inform the convention's decision. The Q & A session continued during Session 5 until Res. 5-01B was introduced by the committee and discussion continued for the remainder of the committee's allotted time.

During Session 8, the committee called attention to several changes, inserting *certification*, before the words *call and ordination* in the second paragraph under step 3 of the introductory information; inserting or “*an ordained minister*” after “*a pastor*” in paragraph “a.” of step 5 of the introductory information; and inserting the words or “*an ordained minister*” after “*a pastor*” in paragraph (b) (2) of proposed Bylaw 2.13.1. A lengthy amendment was proposed for the introductory materials accompanying the resolution, which the chair ruled a substitute motion and which was not accepted for consideration by the convention. An amendment to delete the words *others responsible for the program* in the first resolve and replace them with *Board for Pastoral Education and Council of Presidents* was agreed to by the committee. An amendment was introduced to delete all of Step 6 after the word *Program* and to replace it with *will be expected, whenever possible, to pursue the path to become a “general ministry pastor.” To accomplish this:—also deleting the next line, 1. They may remain rostered as a specific ministry pastor.* An amendment to the amendment was then introduced to replace the word *expected* in the amendment with *encouraged*. After further debate, the amendment to the amendment was adopted, but the amended amendment failed to be adopted. As discussion returned to the original resolution, a motion was introduced to add a final resolve: *Resolved, That the Specific Ministry Pastor Committee submit a progress report to the Synod at least nine months prior to the 2010 convention.* After this change was agreed to by the committee, Res. 5-01B was adopted as changed [Yes: 908; No: 287].)

To Address Licensed Lay Deacons

RESOLUTION 5-02

Overtures 5-11–12 (CW, pp. 216–217)

WHEREAS, 1989 Res. 3-05B, “To Adopt Recommendations of Lay Worker Study Committee Report as Amended,” which authorized lay men to serve in Word and Sacrament ministry in certain circumstances as licensed lay deacons, was never intended to serve as an alternate route into the pastoral office; and

WHEREAS, The need for such licensed lay deacons may still be present in those relatively rare and unusual situations where no ordained pastor is available, “lest God’s people be deprived of the opportunity for corporate worship and the celebration of the Sacraments” (*Convention Proceedings*, 1989, p. 112); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Pastoral Education and the Council of Presidents be requested to study the situations currently served by licensed lay deacons to determine whether there continues to be a genuine need for this program within the Synod and to present a report with recommendations to the 2010 convention of the Synod.

Action: Adopted (9)

(After the committee chairman reported that Committees 3 and 5 had harmonized their nearly identical resolutions according to the text of Res. 5-02, the resolution was introduced for consideration. A substitute motion was offered: *Resolved, That all laymen licensed by synodical or district programs to conduct word and sacrament ministry be enrolled in the specific ministry pastor program by August 1, 2009, or such licensure shall be rescinded.* The assembly voted not to consider the substitute resolution, and discussion continued until a motion was introduced to amend the resolution by replacing the second and third paragraphs with the following: *WHEREAS, The need for such licensed lay deacons continues to be crucial and necessary, “lest God’s people be deprived of the opportunity for corporate worship and the celebration of the*

Sacraments" (Convention Proceedings, 1989, p. 112); therefore be it Resolved, *That the Board for Pastoral Education and the Council of Presidents be requested to study the situations currently served by licensed lay deacons, and to present that report with recommendations at the 2010 convention of the Synod.* The chair ruled this to be a substitute resolution, and the assembly voted not to consider it. An amendment was introduced to add the following words to the resolve following the word *Synod*: *and additionally, to study this program as it relates to Augustana XIV.* The motion to amend failed, leaving Res. 5-02 without amendment. An amendment was proposed to add a resolve paragraph before the existing resolve paragraph as follows: *Resolved, That the Board for Pastoral Education be encouraged to develop financial incentives for licensed lay deacons to enroll in the Specific Ministry Pastor Program (SMPP); and be it further.* This proposed amendment also failed, and the resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 948; No: 202].)

To Strengthen Seminary Boards of Regents

RESOLUTION 5-03A

Overtures 5-19–21 (CW, pp. 219–220)

WHEREAS, The boards of regents of Concordia Seminary and Concordia Theological Seminary are to be commended for their fine work within the inherited configuration of seminary boards of regents; and

WHEREAS, The seminaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod find that new challenges and opportunities are facing them as they seek to sustain their service to the Synod in an increasingly difficult educational environment; and

WHEREAS, The local campus leaders and boards of regents must exercise an increasing level of governance and leadership in response to the needs and opportunities presented by campus constituencies while remaining faithful to the mission and needs of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, Effective boards of regents must include members with a specific set of skills, including knowledge in the areas of finance, law, investments, human resources, facilities, fund development, administration of complex organizations, and higher education administration; and

WHEREAS, The seminaries total over 1,500 students and faculty/staff personnel, resulting in legal and human resource management challenges; and

WHEREAS, The seminaries manage operational budgets between \$12 million and \$20 million, requiring strategic decision making to maintain fiscal viability; and

WHEREAS, The seminaries insure facilities in excess of \$150 million, some of which is financed through state and local bond issues, requiring management, maintenance, financing, and scheduling of multiple facilities to minimize capital debt; and

WHEREAS, There must be sufficient board of regents members with commitment to the mission and purpose of the respective institution, knowledge regarding the region in which the institution is located, and commitment to allocating time, talent, and treasure to the institution and assisting with the identification and encouragement of donors; and

WHEREAS, Effective governance of our seminaries requires competent leadership in all skills sets, and boards of

regents need authority to appoint additional regents to complement the skills of the existing regents; and

WHEREAS, Each board of regents is best able to assess its own unique needs and identify and appoint individuals who best meet those needs; and

WHEREAS, Currently all elected and appointed board of regents members hold membership in the LCMS, and LCMS membership will continue to be required for all elected and appointed board of regents members; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Pastoral Education encourages the adoption of the following changes so that seminary education can serve the Synod's mission and ministry needs more effectively; therefore be it

Resolved, That Synod Bylaw 3.8.2.5.2 be amended to read as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

3.8.2.5.2 The board of regents of each theological seminary shall consist of ~~nine~~ no more than thirteen voting members:

1. Three ordained ministers, one commissioned minister, and three laypersons shall be elected by the convention of the Synod.
- (a) Elected and appointed ~~Seminary~~ boards of regents members may ~~be elected to~~ serve a maximum of two consecutive six-year terms and must hold membership in a member congregation of the Synod.
- (b) Not more than two of the elected members shall be members of the same congregation.
2. A vice-president of the Synod shall be designated by the President of the Synod.
3. A district president other than the geographical district president shall be appointed by the Council of Presidents.
4. Four members may be appointed as voting members by the board of regents.
5. Appointed members may not vote on the appointment of other members of the board.
6. In order to achieve continuity, a plan of staggered terms for the appointed board members will be adopted by each board of regents.

Action: Adopted (10)

(During discussion, an amendment was offered to insert a new #5 under Bylaw 3.8.2.5.2, 5. *Appointed members may not vote on the appointment of other members of the board.* After the Commission on Constitutional Matters reported that the amendment would affect other appointed members of the board such as the officers of the Synod, discussion continued until debate was terminated, the amendment was adopted, and the resolution was adopted as amended [Yes: 742; No: 214].)

To Strengthen College and University Boards of Regents

RESOLUTION 5-04

Overtures 5-17, 5-22 (CW, pp. 218, 220)

WHEREAS, The colleges and universities of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod find that new challenges and opportunities are facing them as they seek to sustain and advance their service to the Synod in an increasingly complex educational environment; and

WHEREAS, The local campus leaders and boards of regents must exercise an increasing level of governance and leadership while remaining faithful to the mission and needs of the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, Effective boards of regents must include members with a specific set of skills, including knowledge in the areas of finance, law, investments, human resources, facilities, local and regional markets, fund development, administration of complex organizations, and higher education administration; and

WHEREAS, Most Concordia University System colleges/universities have more than 1,000 students and faculty/staff personnel in excess of 200, resulting in legal and human resource management issues; and

WHEREAS, CUS colleges/universities manage operational budgets from \$6 million to \$55 million, requiring strategic decision making to maintain fiscal viability; and

WHEREAS, CUS colleges/universities insure facilities in excess of \$1.5 billion, some of which is financed through state and local bond issues requiring management, maintenance, financing, and scheduling of multiple facilities to minimize capital debt; and

WHEREAS, CUS colleges/universities are subject to increasing federal and state regulations and assessment by regional accrediting agencies; and

WHEREAS, The current board of regents members demonstrate a commitment to the mission and purpose of the respective institution, knowledge regarding the region in which the institution is located, commitment to allocating time, talent, and treasure to the institution, and assisting with the identification and encouragement of donors; and

WHEREAS, Effective governance of our CUS colleges and universities requires competent leadership in all skills sets, and boards of regents need authority to appoint additional regents to complement the skills of the existing regents; and

WHEREAS, Each board of regents is best able to assess its own unique needs and identify and appoint individuals who best meet those needs; and

WHEREAS, Currently all elected and appointed board of regents members hold membership in the LCMS, and LCMS membership will be continue to be required for all elected and appointed board of regents members; and

WHEREAS, The following encourage adoption of these changes so that the governance structure of the CUS colleges/universities can serve the Synod's mission and ministry more effectively: BUE/CUS Board, the presidents of our Concordias, the boards of regents of our Concordias, the Council of Members of the Concordia University System, the Task Force for Funding the Mission, the LCMS Board of Directors, the Council of Presidents including the LCMS Praesidium, and the President and Treasurer of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Synod Bylaw 3.8.3.6.2 be amended to read as follows:

PRESENT PROPOSED WORDING

3.8.3.6.2 The board of regents of each college and university shall consist of ~~13~~ no more than 17 voting members:

1. One ordained minister, one commissioned minister, and ~~three~~ two laypersons shall be elected by the conventions of the Synod.

2. One ordained minister, one commissioned minister, and ~~one layperson~~ two laypersons shall be elected by the geographical district in which the institution is located.

3. ~~Four~~ No less than four and no more than eight laypersons shall be appointed as voting members by the board of regents ~~in a nonconvention year~~.

4. The president of the district in which the college or university is located or a district vice-president as his standing representative shall serve as an *ex officio* voting member.

5. College and university boards of regents members may be elected or appointed to serve a maximum of three consecutive three-year terms and must hold membership in a member congregation of the Synod.

6. Not more than two of the elected members shall be members of the same congregation.

Action: Adopted (3)

(During discussion, an amendment was proposed to add the prefix *non* to *voting* in the proposed wording for the third numbered sentence under Bylaw 3.8.3.6.2. After the amendment failed, the resolution was adopted as presented by the committee by a rising vote without the use of the electronic voting system.)

To Encourage Commitment to Continuing Education for Clergy

RESOLUTION 5-05

Overtures 5-35–36 (CW, p. 225)

WHEREAS, Those called into the Office of the Holy Ministry are encouraged by St. Paul to “guard the deposit” of the faith “entrusted to them” (1 Tim. 6:20) and “to teach what accords with sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1); and

WHEREAS, Paul exhorts Timothy and all those who serve in the pastoral ministry to “fan into flame the gift of God” given through the laying of hands (2 Tim. 1:6); and

WHEREAS, The pastors of the church are called to preach the Gospel in season and out of season by engaging a constantly changing world; and

WHEREAS, The cultures that surround the pastor's ministry are diverse and continually changing; and

WHEREAS, Such change and diversity call for sound and sure theological moorings upon which to ground pastoral ministry; and

WHEREAS, A pastor, when he graduates from a seminary, possesses a foundation for pastoral ministry but is continually growing in the virtue of servant leadership among the people of God; therefore be it

Resolved, That all LCMS pastors be encouraged to feed their minds and spirits with the living Word; and be it further

Resolved, That all LCMS pastors be encouraged to engage in an ongoing pattern of spiritual growth, professional enrichment, and theological education; and be it further

Resolved, That all LCMS pastors be encouraged to develop a plan for continuing theological education on a yearly basis, and that the plan be developed in coordina-

tion with congregational leadership and shared with each pastor's ecclesiastical supervisor; and be it further

Resolved, That all LCMS congregations be encouraged to support the continuing education plans of their pastors by granting requisite study leaves, by providing financial remuneration to cover the costs incurred by their pastors for continuing education, as well as by providing additional compensation for the pastor as he continues spiritual growth, professional enrichment, and theological education; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Council of Presidents, the Board for Pastoral Education, and the Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support work together in developing strategies for implementing continuing education plans for pastors.

Action: Adopted (2)

(During discussion, a suggestion to make changes to the resolution as necessary to apply it to all church workers was referred to the committee by the chair for the preparation of a separate resolution if the committee desired. The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 1,084; No: 132].)

To Clarify Membership on the Board for Pastoral Education and the Board for University Education

RESOLUTION 5-06

Overtures 5-14–15 (CW, pp. 217–218)

Rationale

To ensure elimination of conflict of interest and potential competition from and with other Lutheran institutions of higher education, a statement specifying ineligibility of certain persons should be included in Bylaws 3.8.2.1 and 3.8.3.2.

Therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.8.2.1 be revised to read,

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

3.8.2.1 The Board for Pastoral Education shall be composed of nine voting and five nonvoting members (no more than one voting member elected by the Synod shall be from the same district), and no executive, faculty member, or staff member from a Lutheran institution of higher education may serve on the Board for Pastoral Education as a voting member);

Voting Members:

1. Three ordained ministers (at least two shall be parish pastors) elected by the Synod
2. One commissioned minister elected by the Synod
3. Four laypersons elected by the Synod
4. The President of the Synod or his representative

Nonvoting Advisory Members:

1. A district president appointed by the Council of Presidents
2. The Vice-President–Finance—Treasurer of the Synod
3. The Concordia University System executive director
4. The two seminary presidents

and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.8.3.2 be revised to read,

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

3.8.3.2 The Board for University Education shall ~~consist of~~ be composed of nine voting and four nonvoting members (no more than one member elected by the Synod shall be from the same district), and no executive, faculty member, or staff member from a Lutheran institution of higher education may serve on the Board for University Education as a voting member);

Voting Members:

1. Two ordained ministers elected by the Synod
 2. One commissioned minister elected by the Synod
 3. Two laypersons elected by the Synod
 4. Three laypersons appointed by the Concordia University System Council of Members
 5. The President of the Synod or his representative
- Nonvoting Advisory Members:*

1. A district president appointed by the Council of Presidents
2. The Vice-President–Finance—Treasurer of the Synod
3. The executive director of the Board for Pastoral Education
4. One university president

and be it finally

Resolved, That current board members on both boards stay in place through their terms, each then replaced according to this bylaw.

Action: Adopted (2)

(When introducing the resolution, the committee called attention to two changes, adding *as a voting member* after “Education” as additional new wording to Bylaws 3.8.2.1 and 3.8.3.2. During discussion, the committee also added the words *at least* prior to the words *two shall be parish pastors* in the requirement for three ordained ministers under *voting members* in Bylaw 3.8.2.1. The resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 1,120; No: 72].)

To Change CUS Membership Structure

RESOLUTION 5-07A

Overture 5-16 (CW, p. 218)

Rationale

The initial organization of the Concordia University System identified named individuals to serve on the Council of Members of the Concordia University System (convention action, 1992). Under Missouri corporate law the Council of Members membership structure may be revised to a corporate membership of the Board of Directors of the Synod, the Council of Presidents of the Synod, and the boards of regents of the colleges and universities of the Synod rather than named individuals selected by these entities. This approach will give the Concordia University System greater flexibility in setting meeting dates and place of meetings, and granting corporate entities the privilege of selecting delegates to represent their respective corporate entities at the membership meetings.

In order to accomplish this membership structure revision of the Council of Members of the Concordia University System, Bylaw 3.6.6.2 should be revised.

Resolved, That Concordia University System change its Council of Membership structure from an individual member structure to a corporate member structure; and be it further

Resolved, That Synod Bylaw 3.6.6.2 be amended to read as follows:

~~PRESENT~~ PROPOSED WORDING

3.6.6.2 The members of Concordia University System shall consist of ~~two groups, one group consisting of individuals appointed the Synod and the colleges and universities of the Synod. The Board of Directors of the Synod and the Council of Presidents of the Synod each shall elect delegates representing the Synod. The boards of regents of the colleges and universities of the Synod shall elect delegates representing the colleges and universities. The numbers of delegates elected~~ by the Board of Directors of the Synod, ~~and~~ the Council of Presidents, and the ~~other group consisting boards of individuals representing the colleges and universities, as regents shall be~~ established by the ~~corporation's bylaws. Articles of Incorporation and/or Bylaws of Concordia University System.~~

and be it finally

Resolved, That item four (4) under the heading "Voting Members" in Bylaw 3.8.3.2 be amended to read as follows:

~~PRESENT~~ PROPOSED WORDING

4. Three laypersons appointed by the delegates of the members of Concordia University System ~~Council of Members~~

Action: Adopted (10)

(After introduction by the committee, the resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 611; No: 78].)

To Clarify Responsibility of Board for Pastoral Education re Recognized Service Organizations

RESOLUTION 5-08

Overture 5-18 (CW, p. 219)

WHEREAS, The Board for Pastoral Education is a program board of the Synod (Bylaw 1.2.1 [l]); and

Whereas, Recognized service organizations that extend the mission and ministry of the Synod but are not part of the Synod as defined by its Constitution and Bylaws may request recognized service status from the board of the Synod to which the organization desires to relate (Bylaw 6.2.2); and

WHEREAS, Boards of the Synod may determine those organizations to which recognized service organization status will be granted (Bylaw 6.2.2 [b]); and

WHEREAS, The Board for Pastoral Education has adopted policies for granting recognized service organization status under the common policies of the Board of Directors of The Lutheran—Church Missouri Synod (Bylaw 6.2.1 [b] and [c]); and

WHEREAS, The Board for Pastoral Education in its 2004 formation by the Synod was not assigned the monitoring function for the board (Bylaw 3.8.2.3); therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention assign to the Board for Pastoral Education the responsibility to monitor recognized service organization status standards and follow up in cases of inadequacy (Bylaw 6.2.1) as is the case for the Board for University Education (Bylaw 3.8.3.4 [m]).

Action: Adopted (2)

(The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee without discussion [Yes: 1,108; No: 97].)

6. Human Care

To Give Thanks for Disaster Relief and Support

RESOLUTION 6-01

Overture 6-01 (CW, p. 227)

WHEREAS, The past triennium has been a period of unprecedented natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, These disasters brought horrific damage and devastation and the displacement of families, along with loss of employment, schools, and stability; and

WHEREAS, The people of God in the LCMS have opened their hearts and have offered substantial time, talents, and generous material and spiritual assistance; and

WHEREAS, Every national entity of this Synod and every district answered the cries of distress from their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, It is impossible to give thanks properly to all the individuals and organizations that have so faithfully, mercifully, and effectively responded to these disasters; and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther says in the Smalcald Articles, "Therefore the Church can never be better governed and preserved than if we all live under one head, Christ, and all the bishops equal in office (although they be unequal in gifts), be diligently joined in unity of doctrine, faith, Sacraments, prayer, and works of love" (II.4.9); therefore be it

Resolved, That the people of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod give thanks to the Lord for the good work He has done among us through the untold numbers of people and organizations; and be it further

Resolved, That we pray that this historic display of compassion and unity serve to embolden our future witness of the saving grace of Christ in Word and deed. *Soli Deo Gloria*

Action: Adopted (4)

(After a lengthy introduction by the committee and brief discussion, the resolution was adopted as presented [Yes: 1,177; No: 4].)

To State LCMS Position on Stem Cell Research

RESOLUTION 6-02

Overture 6-03 (CW, pp. 227–228)

WHEREAS, Medical research continues to generate new advances that create ethical questions which prior generations did not have to face; and

WHEREAS, Stem cell research, in particular, offers the promise of delivering cures to debilitating diseases; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS is not opposed to all stem cell research as a means of seeking alleviation for disease; and

WHEREAS, The pro-life position supports adult stem cell research, which does not involve the destruction of human life and has been utilized in treatment of maladies such as multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, sickle cell anemia, stroke, limb gangrene, corneal regener-



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ation, heart damage, Parkinson's disease, and spinal cord injury; and

WHEREAS, The pro-life position opposes embryonic stem cell research (ESCR), which destroys human life in order to obtain embryonic stem cells for research and has so far shown no success for treatment in humans even though touted in the media as the source of great cures in the future; and

WHEREAS, There are calls across the nation by many for state and federal funding of ESCR; and

WHEREAS, Voters in the state of Missouri faced such a campaign in the November 2006 election, which passed by a narrow margin in support of ESCR, now allowing this type of research in that state; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures are replete with references showing that God cares for and defends the weak and the fatherless (Deut. 10:18; Ps. 68:5; Ps. 10:14) and, furthermore, that we are to "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves" (Prov. 31:8–9 NIV); and

WHEREAS, Christians are to let their light shine in this dark world regarding this type of ethical dilemma, and since the LCMS takes a strong and clear pro-life position; therefore be it

Resolved, That in our preaching and teaching we emphasize that it is God alone who gives life and who is to take human life; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod urge its members to give public witness against the destruction of human life in embryonic stem cell research; and be it finally

Resolved, That the 2007 LCMS convention make known its support of adult stem cell research and its opposition to ESCR, which involves the taking of a human life.

Action: Adopted (4)

(During discussion, an amendment to add *embryonic* before *stem cell research* in the second-last resolve was agreed to by the committee. An amendment to delete *and has so far shown no success for treatment in humans even though touted in the media as the source of great cures in the future* from the fifth whereas paragraph failed. After further discussion, the resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 1,165; No: 41].)

To Care for Foster and Adoptive Children in a Pure and Undeified Way by Not Placing Children in Morally Ambiguous Contexts

RESOLUTION 6-03A

Overture 6-04 (CW, p. 228)

WHEREAS, Even though the Scriptures do not directly address social and political questions concerning the adoption (or foster care) of children, they do call for Christians to care for orphans in a pure and undeified way; and

WHEREAS, All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and no sin is intrinsically more sinful than another, yet the Bible does clearly teach that sexual relations outside of marriage, including homosexual practice, are intrinsically sinful (see 1973 Res. 2-04); and

WHEREAS, The God-given union of husband and wife in marriage “is the only proper context for human procreation” (1983 Res. 3-14) and therefore the divinely intended context for raising children; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) has stated, “On the basis of the clear teaching of Scripture regarding homosexual behavior and about God’s will and design for marriage and the family as foundational units for society as a whole, it is the opinion of the CTCR that a policy of placing adopted or foster children into homosexual contexts would stand in opposition to the official doctrinal position of the LCMS” (May 2, 2006); and

WHEREAS, Christ died for the sins of all people and forgives repentant people and calls for them to live sanctified lives in accord with His natural law; therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod commit themselves to pray for wisdom and guidance for those charged with placing adopted or foster children in light of the challenging circumstances presented to us by a fallen society; and be it further

Resolved, That LCMS World Relief and Human Care be commended for its faithful witness and be encouraged to continue dealing evangelically with this delicate issue; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod express its deepest appreciation for the faithful service of its recognized service organizations in this area; and be it further

Resolved, That LCMS World Relief and Human Care, in consultation with the CTCR, be directed to have ongoing conversation with LCMS recognized service organizations as they continue faithfully to care for children in these difficult situations; and be it finally

Resolved, That LCMS organizations and LCMS recognized service organizations may not knowingly place adopted or foster children into any intrinsically sinful situations where individuals and families are not living in accordance with the Lord’s natural and revealed law (Bylaw 6.2.1).

Action: Adopted (8)

(During discussion, the committee agreed to add *and revealed* after *natural* in the final resolve. The resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 1,017; No: 52].)

To Encourage and Assist Congregations to Respond to the Ministry Needs of the Immigrants in their Midst

RESOLUTION 6-04A

Overture 6-02 (CW, p. 227)

WHEREAS, The President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, and the Executive Director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care, Rev. Matthew Harrison, have issued a joint statement (June 2, 2006) urging compassionate mercy on undocumented immigrants living in our communities, according to our scriptural conviction to love one another as God, in Jesus Christ, loves us (1 John 4:22); and

WHEREAS, An increasing number of our LCMS congregations are being set *Ablaze!* by the power of the Holy Spirit to reach out to documented and undocumented immigrant souls living in their respective geographical areas in the clear and powerful name of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Our LCMS congregations, compelled by vibrant faith in the reconciling love of Christ for all sinners (Eph. 2:8–9, 13–17; 2 Cor. 5:18–20) have included in their outreach ministries a concern for both body and soul, assisting documented and undocumented immigrants with legal and counseling services, helping them to identify and realize God-pleasing goals; and

WHEREAS, It is important for congregations compassionately to address the sinfulness of illegal activity through the application of Law and Gospel; and

WHEREAS, Our LCMS pastors and congregations, as a matter of conscience and conviction, take seriously the scriptural mandate to welcome the stranger in our midst:

Deut. 10:18–19: “He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are alien, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt.”

Lev. 19:33–34: “When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

Heb. 13:2: “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.”

Matt. 25:40: “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.’”

and

WHEREAS, The United States of America is a country governed by law; and

WHEREAS, Immigration reform may open opportunities for our LCMS congregations, in partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services affiliate agencies, to assist undocumented immigrants to become residents and citizens; and

WHEREAS, Legal documentation will open opportunities for immigrants and their families now living in our communities to enhance their God-given dignity and self-respect, becoming increasingly productive and vital participants in our American society and LCMS congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention:

1. Thank President Gerald Kieschnick and Rev. Matthew Harrison for their joint statement urging the church's compassionate mercy on documented and undocumented immigrants.
2. Encourage our LCMS members to pray for the resolution of this issue facing our nation and local congregations, and as conscience and faith conviction leads them, to contact their congressmen and senators encouraging them to address this issue with compassionate mercy.
3. Encourage the Board for Human Care Ministries to assist congregations by providing information regarding legal and counseling services possibly needed by undocumented immigrants responding to legislation enabling them to become residents and citizens.

Action: Adopted (10)

(During discussion, the committee agreed to change #3 of the resolve to read: 3. *Encourage Board for Human Care Ministries to provide legal and counseling services to undocumented immigrants responding to legislation enabling them to become residents and citizens.* After a motion was introduced to amend the resolution by striking #3 in the resolve, new wording was again proposed: 3. *Encourage the Board for Human Care Ministries to assist congregations by providing information regarding legal and counseling services possibly needed by undocumented immigrants responding to legislation enabling them to become residents and citizens.* After the motion to delete #3 failed, the resolution with the newest wording for #3 was adopted [Yes: 744; No: 204].)

To Develop Domestic and Child Abuse Education Materials and Programs

RESOLUTION 6-06

Overture L6-07 (TB, pp. 47–48)

WHEREAS, Domestic violence in this country has reached epidemic proportions, with 31 percent of women experiencing physical assault from a partner¹ and 40 percent of teenage girls age 14–17 report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend²; and

WHEREAS, In 1992, Synod President Dr. Alvin Barry recognized the gravity of this issue and convened the President's Commission on Women to look into the problem of domestic violence in the church; and

WHEREAS, Although in 2001 this commission produced and distributed to pastors two booklets entitled, *Never Will I Leave You; A Pastor's Handbook on Domestic Violence* and *Has God Abandoned Me?; A Christian Woman's Guide to Domestic Violence*, these booklets are no longer in print; and

WHEREAS, Child abuse in this country has also reached epidemic proportions, with 2.5 million cases of child abuse reported each year³ and the actual incidence estimated at

three times that amount⁴, with one in three girls and one in seven boys sexually abused prior to the age of 18⁵; and

WHEREAS, Due to advances in technology via the Internet, pornography is more readily available than ever before and pedophilia attempts are escalating at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, Clergy sexual misconduct constitutes a portion of the abuse problem and each congregation has a responsibility to monitor these situations and to protect parishioners from this type of misconduct; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is primarily perpetrated against females⁶, child abuse affects both males and females equally, so that in all cases, churches need to equip themselves to deal with both female and male victims and perpetrators; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod direct the Board for Human Care Ministries to appoint a committee to examine these issues and provide materials and trained individuals to assist districts, congregations, and schools in addressing abuse and ministering to the spiritual needs of those struggling with the effects of abuse; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod make these same materials and training available to seminary and professional church worker students; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Human Care Ministries, in consultation with the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR), examine these issues and comment specifically on the topics of forgiveness, repentance, and reconciliation in the context of abuse situations.

Notes

1. The Commonwealth Fund, "Health Concerns across a Woman's Lifespan: 1998 Survey of Women's Health", May 1999.
2. Children Now/Kaiser Permanente poll, December 1995.
3. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, "Child Maltreatment 2001" (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2003). Online summary of findings: www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cm01/outcover.htm.
4. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. "Third National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect: Final Report (NIS-3)" (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, September 1996).
5. From the Faith Trust Institute Web site: www.faithtrustinstitute.org/indcx.php?p=Q_%26_A&s=49.
6. Bureau of Justice Statistics Selected Findings: "Violence between Intimates" (NCJ-149259), November 1994, and "A Report of the Violence against Women Research Strategic Planning Workshop" sponsored by the National Institute of Justice in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1995.

Action: Adopted (8)

(During discussion, a motion to delete the words *recognized the gravity of this issue and* in the second whereas prompted the chair to advise that the resolution be referred back to the committee to resolve concerns with wording. The committee attempted to resolve the concerns by changing *sexual misconduct to domestic violence* in the second whereas. Additional amendments adding *and professional church worker after seminary* in the second resolve and changing the title by inserting *Domestic and Child before Abuse* were agreed to by the committee. A motion to amend the resolution by deleting the sixth whereas led to a motion to recommit the resolution to the committee because the meaning of the resolution had been changed. The motion to recommit failed as did the motion to amend. After continued discussion, the resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 1,027; No: 48].)

To Include People with Disabilities in All Aspects of the Church's Life

RESOLUTION 6-07

Report 6-01 (CW, pp. 91–96)

WHEREAS, 2004 LCMS convention Res. 6-09 directed the LCMS Board for Human Care Ministries to address the following:

1. a mission statement for this ministry with and to people with disabilities;
2. a congregational self-assessment tool to assess the needs of people with disabilities;
3. plans and guidelines to address physical and attitudinal barriers in churches;
4. suggestions whereby people with disabilities can be involved in the life and ministry of a congregation; and
5. congregational outreach to people with disabilities to achieve participation in the life and ministry of the congregation;

and

WHEREAS, The Board for Human Care Ministries established the Disability Ministry Task Force, which began meeting in September 2005 under the mission statement: "To facilitate the full participation of people with disabilities in the life of Christ's Church"; and

WHEREAS, The Disability Ministry Task Force has identified the disabilities that fall under its oversight, namely:

1. Blindness
2. Deafness
3. Developmental disabilities
4. Learning disabilities
5. Mental illness
6. Physical disabilities

and

WHEREAS, People with disabilities and their families represent millions of people in the United States and around the world, 90 percent of whom do not attend church, many unaware of the Good News of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, The Disability Ministry Task Force has developed a Web site, a disability awareness DVD, a Bible study, a congregational assessment tool, and other resources for use by national and district Synod and by local congregations; and

WHEREAS, The Disability Ministry Task Force has gathered resources from agencies and organizations supporting

people with the disabilities under its oversight and has placed those resources and Web sites on the Disability Ministry Web site; and

WHEREAS, The church is called to reach out to all people (Matt. 28:16–20) so that they may believe in Christ and have eternal life (John 3:16), and the outreach includes people with disabilities (Acts 10:34); therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, through its national and district offices and local congregations, utilize the resources at its disposal to educate congregations and to encourage and facilitate the full inclusion of people with disabilities and their families in the life of Christ's church, including service as church work professionals; and be it further

Resolved, That the seminaries and universities of Synod be commended and encouraged in their effort to educate church work students for ministry with people with disabilities, and that workers, schools, universities and congregations partner with agencies and organizations that support people with disabilities, such as Bethesda Lutheran Homes and the Board for Human Care Ministries; and be it finally

Resolved, That Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod entities and individual members advocate for people with disabilities within Synod and in the community-at-large, and support people with disabilities in advocating for themselves.

Action: Adopted (10)

(After discussion, the resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 926; No: 13].)

To Encourage Congregations to Provide Professional Church Worker Sabbaticals

RESOLUTION 6-08

Overture 6-06 (CW, pp. 228–231)

WHEREAS, Nourishing one's soul and regaining perspective requires a change of pace and place—a pilgrimage. We can be recharged by walking with Jesus during an extended time of reflection, spiritual encounter, and community; and

WHEREAS, A sabbatical typically includes time for study, rest, prayer, spiritual enrichment, and experiencing different cultures; and

WHEREAS, A sabbatical is a time to receive, to be nurtured, and to reflect on one's relationship with God so that one may be renewed, refreshed, and revitalized for a life of service to others; and

WHEREAS, Sabbaticals are beneficial to congregations and church workers and their families as well as the church at large; therefore be it

Resolved, That the concept and the use of sabbaticals be encouraged among the congregations and agencies of the LCMS as it pertains to their professional church workers; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to consider resources for developing sabbatical guidelines such as Wheat Ridge, Thrivent Financial, Louisville Institute, Lilly Foundation, as well as several of our LCMS districts which have existing sabbatical guidelines; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support be charged with developing model Synod guidelines for use in the Synod.

Action: Adopted (10)

(After brief discussion, the resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 680; No: 59].)

To Encourage Ministry to Armed Forces Personnel and Families

RESOLUTION 6-09

Overture 6-05 (CW, p. 228)

WHEREAS, United States Armed Forces continue to serve around the world, and many of these service members are on their second and third deployments; and

WHEREAS, The stress of deployments in a war zone is tremendous, not only on the service member but also their families; and

WHEREAS, Many of these service members and their families are members of LCMS congregations; and

WHEREAS, The Ministry to the Armed Forces of the LCMS can only reach so many of these service members and their families; and

WHEREAS, The Northwest District of the LCMS through its Ministry to Military Personnel, Families, and Congregations Task Force has developed an intentional and comprehensive plan for ministry to this specific area of need; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention encourage all of its districts to develop intentional and specific ministry plans for reaching out to the specific needs of service members and their families; and be it further

Resolved, That we thank the Ministry to the Armed Forces of the LCMS for its outstanding leadership and ministry and request that it identify guidelines for districts in this vital area of need.

Action: Adopted (10)

(The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee without discussion [Yes: 715; No: 10].)





7. Planning and Administration

To Standardize Candidate Information

RESOLUTION 7-01A

Overtures 7-31–34 (CW, pp. 247–248)

WHEREAS, Informed electors strengthen the integrity of the voting process; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod allow for additional biographical information of nominees for other offices (Bylaw 3.12.3.6 [c]); and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.12.3.6 (c) should be expanded to provide uniformity in content of candidate statements and to summarize their service throughout the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.12.1.2 be amended to read as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED

3.12.1.2 The Secretary of the Synod shall publish in the *Convention Workbook* brief biographies of the five candidates for President, the five candidates for First Vice-President, and the 20 candidates for vice-presidents two through five. This report shall contain such pertinent information as age, residence, number of years in the Synod, present position, offices previously held in a district or the Synod, year of ordination, former pastorates, involvement in community, government, or interchurch affairs, ~~and any other specific experience and qualification for the office, and if the candidate so desires, also a brief personal statement.~~

and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.12.3.6 (c) be amended to read as follows:

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

Action: Adopted (2)

(After the resolution's introduction by the committee, a substitute motion "to consider Ov. 7-33 (CW, p. 247) in place of Res. 7-01A" was declined consideration by the convention. As discussion continued, an amendment to retain the word *age* in the proposed Bylaw 3.12.1.2 was adopted, and a motion to add the words *one's position with regard to the Anderson lawsuit until 2013* was ruled out of order. The resolution was adopted as amended [Yes: 1,073; No: 100].)

To Amend Bylaw 2.11.1 (k) re Roster Eligibility

RESOLUTION 7-02

Overture 7-04 (CW, pp. 237–238)

Introduction

This proposed change to Bylaw 2.11.1 (k) was encouraged by the LCMS Council of Presidents at its February 11,



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2007, meeting. Because the council cannot submit business to a convention of the Synod, it asked the Secretary of the Synod to forward the proposed change to the Commission on Structure with the request that the commission develop an appropriate overture and submit it to the Synod's 2007 convention.

WHEREAS, A lack of clarity in the granting of RSO (Recognized Service Organization) status to school associations has resulted in a change in practice that will exclude from RSO consideration all schools that are governed solely by LCMS congregations and that will reserve RSO status for those school associations that include non-LCMS participation and therefore are "independent of the Synod" (Bylaw 6.2.1); and

WHEREAS, While this change will restore to solely LCMS schools the ecclesiastical supervision of the district president through his supervision of their congregations, and while it will not affect their eligibility for benefits that accompany RSO status, it does call into question the right of a solely LCMS school association to call church workers; and

WHEREAS, While Bylaw 2.11.1 (k) provides the right to call church workers to "an auxiliary (Bylaw section 6.1) or other recognized service organization (Bylaw section 6.2), including a person serving an educational institution, whether elementary or secondary, recognized by the Synod," it does not specifically grant that right to school associations governed solely by LCMS congregations; and

WHEREAS, Such provision is necessary for the continued eligibility of a school association's church workers to remain

on the roster of the Synod as active members (Bylaw 2.11.1); and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Structure has studied this issue and recommends the following change; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 2.11.1 (k) be amended to include as active members of the Synod those church workers called by school associations that are solely governed by LCMS congregations, as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

2.11.1 To remain on the roster of the Synod as an active member, an ordained or commissioned minister of religion must be a communicant member of a congregation which is a member of the Synod (except as provided in paragraph [c] below) and be regularly performing the duties of one of the following:...

(k) An executive or professional staff member called or appointed by an auxiliary (Bylaw section 6.1) or other recognized service organization (Bylaw section 6.2), ~~including or~~ a person serving an educational institution ~~solely governed by congregations of the Synod, whether elementary or secondary, and~~ recognized by a district of the Synod.

Action: Adopted (2)

(The resolution was adopted without discussion after the committee changed *Unclearity* in the second whereas paragraph to *A lack of clarity* [Yes: 1,077; No: 84].)

To Amend Bylaw 3.2.5

RESOLUTION 7-03A

Overtures 7-39–40 (CW, pp. 249–250)

WHEREAS, Confusion has become apparent regarding bylaw requirements for determining the slate to be considered for filling vacancies on elected boards and commissions by the appointing authority; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.2.5 (a) currently allows for broad input in gathering a list of nominees, including the board or commission where the vacancy occurs, the President of the Synod, the district boards of directors, and the slate of candidates from the previous convention of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Structure has recommended clarification of Bylaw 3.2.5; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention amend Bylaw 3.2.5 to add the following:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED

(d) The appointing board may not amend the list of candidates.

Action: Adopted (2)

(During discussion, the propriety of a motion to amend the resolution by deleting *not* from the proposed bylaw wording was discussed, and a motion to introduce this deletion as a substitute motion was declared out of order. After further discussion, the resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 774; No: 399].)

To Amend Bylaw 2.11.2.1 re Emeritus Members

RESOLUTION 7-04A

Overture 7-03 (CW, p. 237)

Introduction

This proposal for amending Bylaw 2.11.2.1 was approved by the LCMS Council of Presidents at its February 11, 2007, meeting. Because the council cannot submit business to a convention of the Synod, it asked the Secretary of the Synod to forward the proposed overture to the Commission on Structure with the request that the commission submit it to the Synod's 2007 convention.

WHEREAS, Emeritus members of the Synod are, like candidate and non-candidate members, "inactive members" of the Synod (Bylaw 2.11.2.1); and

WHEREAS, Candidate and non-candidate members are required to file an annual report with their district presidents; and

WHEREAS, There is an increasing mobility on the part of our emeritus members; and

WHEREAS, These veterans of the church often continue to serve the church in various locations; and

WHEREAS, District presidents are responsible for the ecclesiastical supervision of these veteran servants of the church; and

WHEREAS, It is important, as with candidate and non-candidate members, to maintain contact with emeritus members; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Structure has studied this issue and recommends the following change; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 2.11.2.1 be amended with the addition of the following paragraphs:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

(a) The emeritus member or a representative identified by the member's district president shall, by January 31, make an annual report to the member's district president.

(b) This report shall include current contact information and address the criteria for remaining an inactive member of the Synod.

Action: Adopted (5)

(During discussion, an amendment to add *or a representative identified by the member's district president after emeritus member* in proposed Bylaw 2.11.2.1 (a) was agreed to by the committee, and the resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 965; No: 172].)

To Promote Transparency in Governance of Synod and Its Institutions

RESOLUTION 7-05B

Overture 7-41 (CW, p. 250)

WHEREAS, The Synod has established a number of program boards and commissions in order to carry out its business between conventions; and

WHEREAS, From time to time the Synod establishes special boards or commissions to accomplish specific goals or address specific concerns; and

WHEREAS, These program boards and commissions are responsible to the Synod and its members as to the conduct of their duties; and

WHEREAS, Openness and transparency of operation by these program boards and commissions builds trust and confidence in the members of the Synod that the Synod is being governed correctly and competently; and

WHEREAS, Minutes of these program boards and commissions provide a historic record of proceedings; and

WHEREAS, There exists no secular legal requirement to publish such minutes; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors and various program boards and commissions currently publish minutes or proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Allowing members of the Synod the ability to obtain copies of official minutes of program boards or commissions promotes transparency; therefore be it

Resolved, That agencies of the Synod announce their upcoming meetings; and be it further

Resolved, That any member of the Synod may request a copy of any official minutes of program boards or commissions by submitting a written or electronic via e-mail request to the Secretary of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Synod provide such minutes according to the policy of the Board of Directors; and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on Constitutional Matters incorporate this resolution into the appropriate place in the Bylaws; and be it finally

Resolved, That agencies of the Synod develop policies and procedures for making available official minutes of their meetings.

Action: Adopted (5)

(Upon its introduction by the committee, the parliamentarian advised that the adoption of this resolution would require a two-thirds vote. During discussion, an amendment was introduced to add a new second resolve: *Resolved, That all bylaws and procedures of our boards and commissions allow for a one-fifth minority of any board or commission to call for a roll call vote of its members at any time; and be it further.* By common consent, bylaws in the proposed resolve was changed to *policies* before the amendment failed to be adopted. When the parliamentarian advised that accurate registration information would be necessary before voting on the resolution, the convention went on to other business until voting delegate registration information could be obtained. Upon the report of the chairman of Committee 9 that the voting delegate registration totaled 1,239, discussion continued and the addition of *or electronic via e-mail after written* in the second resolve was agreed to by the committee. The resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 1,053; No: 109].)

To Amend Bylaws 3.9.2.2.4 and 3.3.5.3

RESOLUTION 7-06A

Overture 7-55 (CW, p. 255)

WHEREAS, There is confusion regarding the respective roles of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) and the Board of Directors regarding the review of program boards' and commissions' policy manuals; and

WHEREAS, Both groups have responsibility for certain different aspects of these policies related to their spheres of responsibility; and

WHEREAS, The CCM is given the responsibility in the *Handbook* to examine the documents of these agencies of Synod "to ascertain whether they are in harmony with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod" (Bylaw 3.9.2.2.4); and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors is given the responsibility in the *Handbook* for the "coordination of the policies and directives of the Synod" (Bylaw 3.3.5.3); therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaws 3.9.2.2.4 and 3.3.5.3 be amended to read as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

3.9.2.2.4 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall examine in advance the articles of incorporation and the bylaws or ~~regulations governing instruments~~ of every agency of the Synod and all proposed amendments of such documents to ascertain whether they are in harmony with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.

(a) An agency of the Synod shall make such amendments to or changes in these documents as may be necessary to conform.

(b) The commission shall maintain a file of the articles of incorporation, ~~and~~ bylaws, and ~~regulations governing instruments~~ of all agencies of the Synod.

3.3.5.3 The Board of Directors shall provide for the review and coordination of the policies and directives of the Synod authorized by the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod, evaluating plans and policies and communicating to the appropriate boards and commissions suggestions for improvement and, in the case of program boards and commissions, require changes for compliance with Board of Directors' policies within the sphere of its responsibility.

Action: Adopted (5)

(The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee without discussion [Yes: 1,044; No: 80].)

To Revise Bylaw Section 1.5 and to Add Definitions to Handbook

RESOLUTION 7-07A

Overtures 7-01-02 (CW, pp. 233-237)

Rationale

After the 2004 convention, the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) was requested to give an opinion regarding the term "agency" in Bylaw 1.5.9, specifically, whether every agency of the Synod is required to follow the human resources policies of the Synod. Prior to the 2004 revision of the *Handbook*, the term "agency" was not used in the comparable bylaw but was substituted for the phrase "every board, commission, and synodwide corporate entity" (2001 *Handbook* Bylaw 3.69 [e]). With the introduction of the broader term "agency" into Bylaw 1.5.9, the application of the bylaw appeared to have been expanded to include all agencies as defined in Bylaw 1.2.1 (a), *i.e.*, not only boards, commissions, and synodwide corporate entities, but also districts, colleges, and seminaries, which had never before been required to follow the human resource policies of the national office of the Synod. In its Opinion 05-2426 (CW, p.

324), the CCM referred the use of the term “agency” in Bylaw 1.5.9 to the Commission on Structure (COS).

As the COS began its work, it quickly became apparent that terminology in the Bylaws and especially Bylaw section 1.5 was not used clearly and consistently (terms such as “officer,” “executive,” “chief executive,” “chief executive officer,” “executive director,” “chief administrator,” and others). The COS addressed this issue by proposing definitions for the terms “officer,” “executive director,” and “chief executive” to be included in the definitions of terms provided by Bylaw 1.2.1 in the *Handbook*.

To provide clarification of Bylaw 1.5.9 regarding the human resources policies of the Synod, it was necessary for the COS to consider Bylaw section 1.5 in its entirety. The commission concluded that it would be helpful to rearrange the material in the section to make clear when the regulations of the bylaw section are applicable to corporate Synod and when they are applicable to the Synod in the broader sense.

In order to deal with these issues; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw section 1.2 be amended as follows, the existing paragraph lettering to be adjusted to provide for the inclusion of three new terms:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

1.2 Definition of Terms

1.2.1 The following definitions apply to the entire Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod:

- ...(b) **Chief Executive:** The top staff administrator of an agency of the Synod, who may be referred to as President, other than a program board or commission.
- ...(h) **Executive Director:** The top staff administrator of a program board or commission of corporate Synod.
- ...(l) **Officer:** Those positions identified in Constitution Art. X A or Art. XII 3 or Bylaw section 3.4 unless qualified by a modifier.

and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw section 1.5 be revised as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING [2004 BYLAW REFERENCES IN BRACKETS]

1.5 Regulations for Corporate Synod and Agencies of the Synod

General

1.5.1 ~~Board and commission members~~ Members of all agencies shall be members of member congregations of the Synod. [1.5.1]

1.5.1.1 Unless otherwise specified or permitted by the Bylaws, chief executives and executive directors, faculty, and all staff on either the national or district level shall not be members of the board of the agency under which they serve, nor shall any such executives or staff be members of the board of any other agency of the Synod. [1.5.4]

1.5.1.2 No one, either in the Synod or ~~in~~ a district, or between the Synod and a district, shall hold more than one elective office; or hold more than two offices, although one or both be appointive; or ever hold two offices of which one is directly responsible for the work done by the other. [1.5.5]

(a) An office shall be regarded as elective only if it is an office filled through election by a national or a district convention, even though a vacancy in such an office may be filled by appointment. [1.5.5 (a)]

(b) Doubtful cases shall be decided by the President of the Synod. [1.5.5 (b)]

1.5.1.3 ~~Members of Every boards and or commissions and member, officers, and all executive staff of the corporate Synod and its agencies every agency of the Synod~~ shall be sensitive in their activities to taking or giving offense, giving the appearance of impropriety, causing confusion in the Synod, or creating potential liability. [1.5.6 (a)]

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

1.5.2 Every board, ~~or~~ commission ~~member~~, officer, and all staff member of the corporate Synod and every agency of the Synod shall avoid conflicts of interest as described in this bylaw. [1.5.12]

(a) ~~Each governing board~~ Every agency shall ~~maintain and monitor a~~ implement the synodwide conflict-of-interest policy, which and that policy shall be applicable to them and all the boards, commissions, officers, and executive staff operating under them, respective agency. This policy shall include the following provisions: [1.5.12.1]

(1) ~~Each~~ Every board or commission member shall disclose to the chairman of the agency and ~~each~~ all staff person shall disclose to the chief executive or executive officer director of the agency any potential conflicts of interest. Each chairman or chief executive or executive officer director shall disclose personal potential conflicts of interest to the governing appropriate board or commission. [1.5.12.1 (a)]

(2) 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 corporate Synod~~ or any of ~~its~~ the agencies of the Synod. [1.5.12.1 (a) (1)]

(3) ~~Board members or staff persons~~ Every board or commission member, officer, and all staff of corporate Synod and every agency of the Synod who receives honoraria or payments for any sales or services rendered to ~~the corporate Synod~~ or ~~its~~ any of the agencies of the Synod shall disclose such information. [1.5.12.1 (a) (2)]

(4) All such disclosures shall be reported to the respective board or commission ~~or its designated representative(s), who shall to determine by a vote of its remaining impartial members whether an inappropriate interest exists, and such vote shall be recorded in its official minutes. In the case of officers, all such disclosures shall be reported to the President of the Synod to determine whether an inappropriate interest exists.~~ [1.5.12.1 (a) (3)]

(b) Responsibilities shall be ~~conducted~~ carried out in a manner reflecting the highest degree of integrity and honesty consistent with the Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, the ~~Handbook Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod, board the policies of corporate Synod and the agencies of the Synod~~, and civil laws. [1.5.12.1 (b)]

- (1) Activities shall not be entered into which may be detrimental to the interests of the Synod. ~~and its agencies.~~ (5) Any inappropriate activity shall cease or the position will be vacated. [1.5.12.1 (b) (1), (5)]
- (2) Information acquired in the course of carrying out duties of the Synod shall not knowingly be used in any way that would be detrimental to the welfare of the Synod ~~and its agencies.~~ [1.5.12.1 (b) (2)]
- (3) ~~No board or commission member and/or staff or executive officer of the Synod or its agencies. No one~~ shall vote on any transaction in which the individual ~~shall~~ might receive a direct or indirect financial gain. [1.5.12.1 (b) (3)]
- (4) ~~Gifts.~~ The Board of Directors shall establish policy regarding the acceptance of 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 corporate Synod or its the agencies of the Synod shall not be accepted.~~ [1.5.12.1 (b) (4)]
- (c) Individuals, prior to accepting elected, ~~or~~ appointed, ~~office~~ or staff positions, shall initially and annually thereafter sign statements stating that they have received, understand, and agree to abide by this bylaw and the Synod's conflict of interest policy ~~of the respective corporation.~~ Each shall also sign annually a "Statement of Compliance" with the bylaw ~~and policy.~~ [1.5.12.2]

Removal from Board or Commission Membership

[Note: A new Bylaw 1.5.3 is being submitted under Resolution 7-08]

Organization

- 1.5.4 Every agency of the Synod shall meet at least quarterly unless otherwise stipulated in the Bylaws. Exceptions require the approval at least annually of the President of the Synod. [1.5.8]
- 1.5.4.1 ~~All agencies~~ At the initial meeting after election or appointment, all program boards, commissions, and governing boards shall organize themselves as to officers chair, vice-chair, secretary, and subcommittees at the initial meeting after election or appointment ~~other committees and positions as necessary or mandated by these Bylaws~~ and shall conduct business in accordance with accepted parliamentary rules. [1.5.2]
- 1.5.4.2 ~~All agencies may employ program boards, commissions, and governing boards may make use of~~ executive committees to act in times of emergency between plenary meetings and to act on delegated assignments. [1.5.3]
 - (a) Executive committees may not perform acts specifically required by statute or by legislation or the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod to be performed by the agency, nor may they overturn actions of the agency. [1.5.3 (a)]
 - (b) All executive committee actions shall be reported to plenary sessions of the agency. [1.5.3 (b)]
- 1.5.4.3 ~~The agencies~~ All program boards, commissions, and governing boards may also delegate a specific assignment for a limited time to a committee composed of its own members. [1.5.3 (c)]

~~1.5.4.4 Boards and commissions~~ All program boards, commissions, and governing boards may appoint standing committees of specialists to provide professional or technical assistance to the board or commission and may delegate certain responsibilities to such committees while retaining supervision. Standing committees may be made up of or include non-board or commission members. The creation of standing committees shall be reported to the President and the Board of Directors of the Synod. [1.5.11]

1.5.4.5 ~~All agencies~~ program boards, commissions, and governing boards shall maintain and make available upon request and at a reasonable price a verbatim copy of the minutes of their meetings except for executive sessions. [1.5.7]

Full Financial Disclosure

- 1.5.5 The Synod and each of its agencies shall fully disclose their financial books and records to any member congregation of the Synod. [1.5.13]
 - (a) 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 that would violate the expected confidentiality of donors.
 - (2) Personnel files or other information that would violate the expected confidentiality of ~~officers and~~ employees.
 - (3) Information that relates to in-process negotiations of financial matters.
 - (4) Information the disclosure of which would breach a legal obligation of the Synod or its agencies or affect pending litigation or claims against the Synod or its agencies.
 - (5) Information that is preliminary in nature or otherwise has not been finalized in its form and content. [1.5.13 (a)]
 - (b) Salaries of elected officers of the Synod, as identified in Constitution Art. X A, shall be published annually in an official periodical. [1.5.13 (b)]
 - (c) 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 agencies. [1.5.13.1]
 - (d) The Synod and its agencies shall share, upon request, the quarterly financial statements as reported to the respective governing boards. [1.5.13.1 (a)]
 - (e) All information produced for normal publication or distribution shall be provided free of charge. [1.5.13.1 (b)]
 - (f) 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. [1.5.13.2]
 - (1) All responses to requests for information involving research or compilation shall be billed to the member on the basis of actual costs.
 - (2) 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.

- (3) The board may decline to provide the information requested if the board can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the member's ~~congregation's~~ request is with the specific intent to cause harm to the Synod or one of its agencies or with the sole intent of deliberately and significantly disrupting the operations and affairs of the Synod or one of its agencies.
- (4) Any declination to provide information or ~~decision to~~ limit inspection shall be explained in writing.
- (5) Challenges to any board decisions declining to provide information or to limit inspection may be reviewed under the Synod's dispute resolution process. [1.5.13.2 (a-e)]

Agency Operations

1.5.6 Every agency of ~~the corporate Synod and every synodwide corporate entity~~ shall operate under the general human resources policies of the Synod as provided by the Board of Directors of the Synod, in accordance with Bylaw 3.3.5.3. Specific policies under these general policies may be adopted by each synodwide corporate entity in order to accommodate the unique character of its operation. Such policies may, recognize the unique character of the operations of each. [1.5.9]

1.5.6.1 Every agency of corporate Synod and every synodwide corporate entity may create ~~officer and chief executive (who may be designated as an officer of the corporation) or executive director~~ staff positions, pursuant to Bylaw 1.2.1, and fill them ~~same~~ in accordance with ~~its policies~~ the Bylaws of the Synod and the human resources policies adopted pursuant to Bylaw 1.5.6. [1.5.9 (a)]

(a) The chief executive ~~or executive director of each agency~~ shall serve at the pleasure of the governing board ~~or commission~~. [1.5.9 (b)]

(1) The slate of candidates for the initial appointment of the ~~chief executive or executive director officer of an agency~~ shall be selected by the board or commission in consultation ~~with~~ and ~~with the~~ mutual concurrence ~~with of~~ the President of the Synod. [1.5.9 (f)]

(2) In the event of a vacancy, the appropriate ~~governing board or commission~~ and the President of the Synod shall act expeditiously to fill the vacancy. This board ~~or commission~~ shall present its list of candidates to the President. [1.5.9 (e)]

(3) The ~~governing board or commission~~ shall conduct an annual review of ~~each the chief executive or executive director~~ and, before the expiration of five years, conduct a comprehensive review. [1.5.9 (c)]

(4) At the conclusion of each five-year period, the appointment shall terminate unless the ~~governing board or commission~~ takes specific action to continue the person in the office. [1.5.9 (d)]

(b) Any interim appointments of ~~a chief executive or executive director officer~~ shall ~~be processed in follow a process similar manner to the initial appointment of a chief executive or executive director.~~ [1.5.9 (g)]

(1) Such interim appointees must be approved by the President of the Synod; ~~and~~ may not serve

more than 18 months without the concurrence of the President of the Synod. [1.5.9 (g)]

(2) ~~and~~ Such interim appointees shall be ineligible to serve on a permanent basis without the concurrence of the President of the Synod. [1.5.9 (g)]

(c) ~~Executive officers~~ The chief executives and executive directors shall normally attend all meetings of their agencies except when their own positions are being considered. [1.5.9 (h)]

1.5.6.2 Every agency of corporate Synod and every synodwide corporate entity may create ~~officer and executive staff positions~~ and fill ~~the same other staff positions~~ in accordance with ~~its the~~ human resources policies adopted pursuant to Bylaw 1.5.6. Other Such staff may attend meetings of their agencies upon request of the agency. [1.5.9 (a) and (h)]

1.5.6.3 ~~The governing boards of all~~ All agencies shall develop ~~policy statements policies~~ regarding their relations ~~between boards and with~~ staffs. [1.5.6]

Agency Conflict Resolution

1.5.7 Dissent to decisions made by ~~the agencies~~ an agency shall ordinarily be expressed within the structure of ~~the respective that~~ agency. [1.5.6 (b)]

1.5.7.1 Administrative and programmatic conflicts between agencies of ~~the corporate Synod, and~~ between such agencies and the synodwide corporate entities, ~~and between synodwide corporate entities~~ shall be ~~handled dealt with~~ by the parties concerned in a Christian manner with the assistance of the President of the Synod. [1.5.10]

and be it finally

Resolved, That Bylaw section 1.5 as amended and revised read in its final form as follows:

1.5 Regulations for Corporate Synod and Agencies of the Synod

General

1.5.1 Board and commission members of all agencies shall be members of member congregations of the Synod.

1.5.1.1 Unless otherwise specified or permitted by the Bylaws, chief executives and executive directors, faculty, and all staff on either the national or district level shall not be members of the board of the agency under which they serve, nor shall any such executives or staff be members of the board of any other agency of the Synod.

1.5.1.2 No one, either in the Synod or a district, or between the Synod and a district, shall hold more than one elective office; or hold more than two offices, although one or both be appointive; or ever hold two offices of which one is directly responsible for the work done by the other.

(a) An office shall be regarded as elective only if it is an office filled through election by a national or a district convention, even though a vacancy in such an office may be filled by appointment.

(b) Doubtful cases shall be decided by the President of the Synod.

1.5.1.3 Every board or commission member, officers, and all staff of corporate Synod and every agency of the Synod shall be sensitive in their activities to taking or giving offense, giving the appearance of impropriety, causing confusion in the Synod, or creating potential liability.

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

1.5.2 Every board or commission member, officer, and all staff of corporate Synod and every agency of the Synod shall avoid conflicts of interest as described in this bylaw.

(a) Every agency shall implement the synodwide conflict-of-interest policy, and that policy shall be applicable to them and all staff operating under them. This policy shall include the following provisions:

(1) Every board or commission member shall disclose to the chairman of the agency and all staff shall disclose to the chief executive or executive director of the agency any potential conflicts of interest. Each chairman or chief executive or executive director shall disclose personal potential conflicts of interest to the appropriate board or commission.

(2) 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 corporate Synod or any of the agencies of the Synod.

(3) Every board or commission member, officer, and all staff of corporate Synod and every agency of the Synod who receives honoraria or payments for any sales or services rendered to corporate Synod or any of the agencies of the Synod shall disclose such information.

(4) All such disclosures shall be reported to the respective board or commission to determine by a vote of its remaining impartial members whether an inappropriate interest exists, and such vote shall be recorded in its official minutes. In the case of officers, all such disclosures shall be reported to the President of the Synod to determine whether an inappropriate interest exists.

(b) Responsibilities shall be carried out in a manner reflecting the highest degree of integrity and honesty consistent with the Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod, the policies of corporate Synod and the agencies of the Synod, and civil laws.

(1) Activities shall not be entered into which may be detrimental to the interests of the Synod. Any inappropriate activity shall cease or the position will be vacated.

(2) Information acquired in the course of carrying out duties of the Synod shall not knowingly be used in any way that would be detrimental to the welfare of the Synod.

(3) No one shall vote on any transaction in which the individual might receive a direct or indirect financial gain.

(4) The Board of Directors shall establish policy regarding the acceptance of gifts, entertainment, or favors from any individual or outside concern which does or is seeking to do business with corporate Synod or the agencies of the Synod.

(c) Individuals, prior to accepting elected, appointed, or staff positions, shall initially and annually thereafter sign statements stating that they have received, understand, and agree to abide by this bylaw and the Synod's conflict of interest policy.

Removal of Individual Members from Board or Commission Membership

[Note: A new Bylaw 1.5.3 is being submitted under Resolution 7-08]

Organization

1.5.4 Every agency of the Synod shall meet at least quarterly unless otherwise stipulated in the Bylaws. Exceptions require the approval at least annually of the President of the Synod.

1.5.4.1 At the initial meeting after election or appointment, all program boards, commissions, and governing boards shall organize themselves as to chair, vice-chair, secretary, and other committees and positions as necessary or mandated by these Bylaws and shall conduct business in accordance with accepted parliamentary rules.

1.5.4.2 All program boards, commissions, and governing boards may make use of executive committees to act in times of emergency between plenary meetings and to act on delegated assignments.

(a) Executive committees may not perform acts specifically required by statute or by legislation or the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod to be performed by the agency, nor may they overturn actions of the agency.

(b) All executive committee actions shall be reported to plenary sessions of the agency.

1.5.4.3 All program boards, commissions, and governing boards may also delegate a specific assignment for a limited time to a committee composed of its own members.

1.5.4.4 All program boards, commissions, and governing boards may appoint standing committees of specialists to provide professional or technical assistance to the board or commission and may delegate certain responsibilities to such committees while retaining supervision. Standing committees may be made up of or include non-board or commission members. The creation of standing committees shall be reported to the President and the Board of Directors of the Synod.

1.5.4.5 All program boards, commissions, and governing boards shall maintain and make available upon request and at a reasonable price a verbatim copy of the minutes of their meetings except for executive sessions.

Full Financial Disclosure

1.5.5 The Synod and each of its agencies shall fully disclose their financial books and records to any member congregation of the Synod.

(a) 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 that would violate the expected confidentiality of donors.

(2) Personnel files or other information that would violate the expected confidentiality of employees.

(3) Information that relates to in-process negotiations of financial matters.

(4) Information the disclosure of which would breach a legal obligation of the Synod or its agencies or affect pending litigation or claims against the Synod or its agencies.

- (5) Information that is preliminary in nature or otherwise has not been finalized in its form and content.
- (b) Salaries of elected officers of the Synod, as identified in Constitution Art. X A, shall be published annually in an official periodical.
- (c) 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 agencies.
- (d) The Synod and its agencies shall share, upon request, the quarterly financial statements as reported to the respective governing boards.
- (e) All information produced for normal publication or distribution shall be provided free of charge.
- (f) 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.
 - (1) All responses to requests for information involving research or compilation shall be billed to the member on the basis of actual costs.
 - (2) 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.
 - (3) The board may decline to provide the information requested if the board can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the member congregation's request is with the specific intent to cause harm to the Synod or one of its agencies or with the sole intent of deliberately and significantly disrupting the operations and affairs of the Synod or one of its agencies.
 - (4) Any declination to provide information or decision to limit inspection shall be explained in writing.
 - (5) Challenges to any board decisions declining to provide information or to limit inspection may be reviewed under the Synod's dispute resolution process.

Agency Operations

- 1.5.6 Every agency of corporate Synod and every synodwide corporate entity shall operate under the general human resources policies of the Synod as provided by the Board of Directors of the Synod, in accordance with Bylaw 3.3.5.3. Specific policies under these general policies may be adopted by each synodwide corporate entity in order to accommodate the unique character of its operations.
- 1.5.6.1 Every agency of corporate Synod and every synodwide corporate entity may create chief executive (who may be designated as an officer of the corporation) or executive director positions, pursuant to Bylaw 1.2.1, and fill them in accordance with the Bylaws of the Synod and the human resources policies adopted pursuant to Bylaw 1.5.6.
 - (a) The chief executive or executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the board or commission.
 - (1) The slate of candidates for the initial appointment of the chief executive or executive director shall be selected by the board or commission in

consultation with and with the mutual concurrence of the President of the Synod.

- (2) In the event of a vacancy, the appropriate board or commission and the President of the Synod shall act expeditiously to fill the vacancy. This board or commission shall present its list of candidates to the President.
- (3) The board or commission shall conduct an annual review of the chief executive or executive director and, before the expiration of five years, conduct a comprehensive review.
- (4) At the conclusion of each five-year period, the appointment shall terminate unless the board or commission takes specific action to continue the person in the office.
- (b) Any interim appointments of a chief executive or executive director shall follow a process similar to the initial appointment of a chief executive or executive director.
 - (1) Such interim appointees must be approved by the President of the Synod, and may not serve more than 18 months without the concurrence of the President of the Synod.
 - (2) Such interim appointees shall be ineligible to serve on a permanent basis without the concurrence of the President of the Synod.
- (c) The chief executives and executive directors shall normally attend all meetings of their agencies except when their own positions are being considered.

1.5.6.2 Every agency of corporate Synod and every synodwide corporate entity may create and fill other staff positions in accordance with the human resources policies adopted pursuant to by Bylaw 1.5.6. Such staff may attend meetings of their agencies upon request of the agency. [1.5.9 (a) and (h)]

1.5.6.3 All agencies shall develop policies regarding their relations with staffs.

Agency Conflict Resolution

1.5.7 Dissent to decisions made by an agency shall ordinarily be expressed within the structure of that agency.

Administrative and programmatic conflicts between agencies of corporate Synod, between such agencies and the synodwide corporate entities, and between synodwide corporate entities shall be dealt with by the parties concerned in a Christian manner with the assistance of the President of the Synod.

Action: Adopted (9)

(As the committee introduced the resolution, it inserted into Bylaw 1.5.2 (a) under the second resolve the following changed paragraph: (4) All such disclosures shall be reported to the respective board or commission or its designated representative(s), who shall to determine by a vote of its remaining impartial members whether an inappropriate interest exists, and such vote shall be recorded in its official minutes. In the case of officers, all such disclosures shall be reported to the President of the Synod to determine whether an inappropriate interest exists. The same insertion was made under the third resolve, same bylaw and paragraph: (4) All such disclosures shall be reported to the respective board or commission to determine by a vote of its remaining impartial members whether an inappropriate interest exists, and such vote shall be recorded in its official minutes. In the case of officers, all such disclosures shall be reported to the President of the Synod to determine whether an inappropriate interest exists. After discussion, the resolution was adopted with the changes presented by the committee [Yes: 997; No: 116].)

To Amend Bylaws 1.9 and 3.9.3 Pertaining to Doctrinal Review Process

RESOLUTION 7-10A

Overture 7-05 (CW, pp. 238–239)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Doctrinal Review has collaborated with Concordia Publishing House, with the assistance of the office of the President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, to propose changes to Bylaws 1.9 and 3.9.3, in order to clarify the doctrinal review process and to establish certain time frames to streamline the process; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Doctrinal Review believes that certain study documents prepared by boards, commissions, or other subordinate groups of the Synod should not be subject to the doctrinal review process if clearly marked as such; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 1.9.1.1 be amended to read as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

1.9 Doctrinal Review

Definition

- 1.9.1 Doctrinal review is the exercise of the Synod's responsibility to determine that every doctrinal statement made in its or any of its agencies' or auxiliaries' materials is in accord with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

Material Subject to Doctrinal Review

- 1.9.1.1 The following materials are subject to doctrinal review:

- (a) All official periodicals and journals of the Synod, as well as any material with doctrinal content issued publicly by boards, commissions, or other subordinate groups of the Synod, except as stipulated in these Bylaws, shall be subject to doctrinal review.
- (b) The right to produce study documents and exploratory material plainly designated as such and published by boards, commissions, or other subordinate groups of the Synod is recognized, and such material is not required to be submitted to the doctrinal review process. Publication of such study material that is not submitted for doctrinal review shall always include this notice on or immediately following the title page: "This material is being released for study and discussion purposes, and the author(s) is (are) solely responsible for the contents. It has not been submitted to the process of doctrinal review stipulated in the Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and does not necessarily reflect the theology of the Lutheran Confessions or the doctrinal position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod." ~~When such material is to be issued publicly, it shall be subject to doctrinal review.~~
- (c) Each district is accountable to the Synod through its respective president and board of directors for the content of all of its published materials.
- (d) Each of the Synod's schools is accountable to the Synod through its respective president and board of regents for the content of its professional journals and all of its published materials that are not the official publications of the Synod (paragraph [a] of Bylaw 3.8.5.2.3). The editorial boards of such

publications shall serve as their own doctrinal reviewers.

- (e) Auxiliary organizations recognized by the Synod shall be held directly accountable for their material. However, in accord with his office as defined in Article XI B 1 of the Synod's Constitution, the President of the Synod shall require doctrinal review.
- (f) In the case of broadcasts over the Synod's radio station by other than staff members, individuals must be held responsible for their own material since it is not feasible to apply the process of doctrinal review to such broadcasts.
- (g) Official reports of the boards, commissions, task forces, and committees of the Synod prepared in response to directives from the Synod shall not be subject to doctrinal review;

and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaws 1.9.2 and 3.9.3 be amended to read as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

Procedure

- 1.9.2 Before materials stipulated in 1.9.1 are published, they shall be submitted to (a) doctrinal reviewer(s). Doctrinal reviewers shall make a careful evaluation of the doctrinal content of all items submitted. Materials are to be reviewed in a prompt manner and completed in no longer than four weeks. Exceptions shall be arranged by mutual agreement between the reviewer(s) and the originating entity.

- (a) The primary responsibility for doctrinal supervision and review lies with the President of the Synod (Constitution, Art. XI B 1).
- (1) Each board, commission, and other subordinate group of the Synod shall advise the President of the Synod of the number and desired competency of doctrinal reviewers needed by it and may suggest a list of qualified persons. The President shall appoint reviewers for each group according to its needs. They shall be broadly representative of the ministry of the Synod.
- (2) Reviewers shall be appointed for renewable three-year terms. An appointment may be terminated prior to the completion of the appointed term if the reviewer is unable or unwilling to carry out the reviewing tasks assigned. In the event of such termination, the President of the Synod shall appoint another reviewer to complete the unexpired term.
- (b) Each agency of the Synod, synodwide corporate entity, or auxiliary shall establish procedures that will insure that its material as specified in Bylaw 1.9.1 will be submitted for doctrinal review to one of the reviewers referred to in Bylaw 1.9.2 (a).
- (c) Since time requirements vary according to the type of material being reviewed, the procedure in each case shall be worked out to the mutual satisfaction of the ~~producing sponsoring group and the publisher~~ doctrinal reviewer(s).
- (d) The identity of author(s) and reviewer(s) shall not be disclosed without the approval of the President. Consultation may at times be advisable, however, where clarification is necessary.

- (e) The reviewer's primary concern is that items submitted to him be in agreement in their doctrinal content with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.
- (f) The reviewer(s) shall also be concerned that the items submitted do not contain statements that are inadequate, misleading, ambiguous, or lacking in doctrinal clarity.
- (g) The reviewer(s) shall further be concerned that resolutions of the Synod be honored and upheld and that positions deviating from the doctrinal resolutions of the Synod be clearly identified as such.
- (h) When the author is also a reviewer, his material shall be assigned to another reviewer. In order to avoid any conflict of interest, no author shall be involved in any way in the selection or assignment of reviewer(s) for his or her own work.
- (i) The reviewer may request that specific material assigned to him also be reviewed by another reviewer.
- (j) Where changes appear to be necessary, the reviewer(s) shall submit a thorough and clearly written documented critique that shall be made available to the author, the sponsoring group, and the publisher. The documentation provided by the reviewer(s) shall provide a thorough and detailed explanation, with all appropriate biblical and confessional references used to support the opinion offered.
- (k) The author shall consider the critique and make necessary revisions until there is agreement between the author and the reviewer(s).
 - (1) Should any problem arise between an author, a reviewer(s), the publisher, or any other party involved with respect to the material submitted for review, the sponsoring group shall endeavor to resolve it to the satisfaction of the reviewer(s). If it cannot do so, the problem shall be submitted to the Commission on Doctrinal Review under, which shall follow the appeals procedure and criteria stated in Bylaw 3.9.3.2.1.

Commission on Doctrinal Review

- 3.9.3 The Commission on Doctrinal Review exists to assist the President of the Synod in the exercise of his responsibility that all doctrinal content in its or any of its agencies' materials be in accord with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.
- 3.9.3.1 The Commission on Doctrinal Review shall consist of five members appointed by the President of the Synod from the total number of doctrinal reviewers.
 - (a) The commission shall elect its own officers.
 - (b) The commission shall effect its own organization.
- 3.9.3.2 The Commission on Doctrinal Review functions in accordance with Bylaw section 1.9 and shall meet as often as necessary to provide guidelines for the work of doctrinal reviewers and to concern itself with problem areas in the procedures of doctrinal review and appeals.

Appeals Prior to Publication

- 3.9.3.2.1 Appeals regarding materials not yet published may be initiated by an author, the sponsoring group, or an executive staff member of that group and submitted to the chairman of the Commission on Doctrinal Review.

- (a) Within seven business days ~~After~~ receipt of an appeal, the chairman of the Commission on Doctrinal Review shall inform all concerned and shall appoint three members of the commission to serve as a review panel and shall designate one as its chairman. A panel member shall disqualify himself on the basis of any kind of personal involvement in the issue.
- (b) The review panel shall provide a copy of the appeal to the author and the sponsoring group and invite them to provide a response to the appeal. All parties to the appeal shall be given 14 days to provide their response.
- (~~bc~~) To aid objectivity, the identity of author and review panel shall ordinarily not be disclosed. However, consultation may at times be necessary for clarification.
- (~~ed~~) In making its recommendation, the panel shall decide within 30 days whether the item in question
 - (1) is suitable for publication; or
 - (2) may be published after alteration; or
 - (3) may be published as a study document; or
 - (4) shall be denied publication.
- (~~ee~~) The decision of the panel shall be determined by a majority vote and shall be final so far as the Commission on Doctrinal Review is concerned. A report together with the panel's minutes shall be submitted to the chairman of the Commission on Doctrinal Review.
- (~~ef~~) The chairman of the commission shall report the decision within seven business days to the author, the original reviewer(s), the sponsoring group, and the President of the Synod.

Appeals Following Publication

- 3.9.3.2.2 A challenge to the doctrinal review certification of a published item may be initiated by any member of the Synod and shall be submitted in writing via mail or personal delivery to the chairman of the Commission on Doctrinal Review.
 - (a) In order for the Commission on Doctrinal Review to consider a challenge, the challenger is obliged to provide specific references demonstrating how the published item is not in agreement with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.
 - (b) After receipt of the challenge, the chairman of the commission shall within seven business days inform the President of the Synod, the sponsoring group, and, if applicable, Concordia Publishing House, ~~and~~ shall appoint three members of the commission to serve as a review panel, and shall designate one as its chairman.
 - (c) The chairman of the Commission on Doctrinal Review shall provide a copy of the appeal to the President of the Synod, the sponsoring group, and, if applicable, Concordia Publishing House, and offer them the opportunity to respond to the appeal within 14 days from the date of notification.
 - (~~ed~~) To aid in maintaining objectivity, the identity of the challenger and the identity of the panel will ordinarily not be disclosed. There shall be no pub-

licity given to the appeal, nor an effort to circularize the Synod on a pending appeal.

- (~~de~~) The panel shall after reviewing the published material declare, within 45 days following the expiry of the 14-day response period provided in 3.9.3.2.2(c), whether the doctrinal review certification is affirmed or revoked based on whether the published material is in agreement with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

~~(1) that the doctrinal review certification of the published material is affirmed because the item is in agreement with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions; or~~

~~(2) that the doctrinal review certification of the published material is revoked because the item is not in agreement with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.~~

- (~~ef~~) If the panel revokes the doctrinal review certification, it must identify the part(s) of the item in need of clarification, amplification, and/or deletion

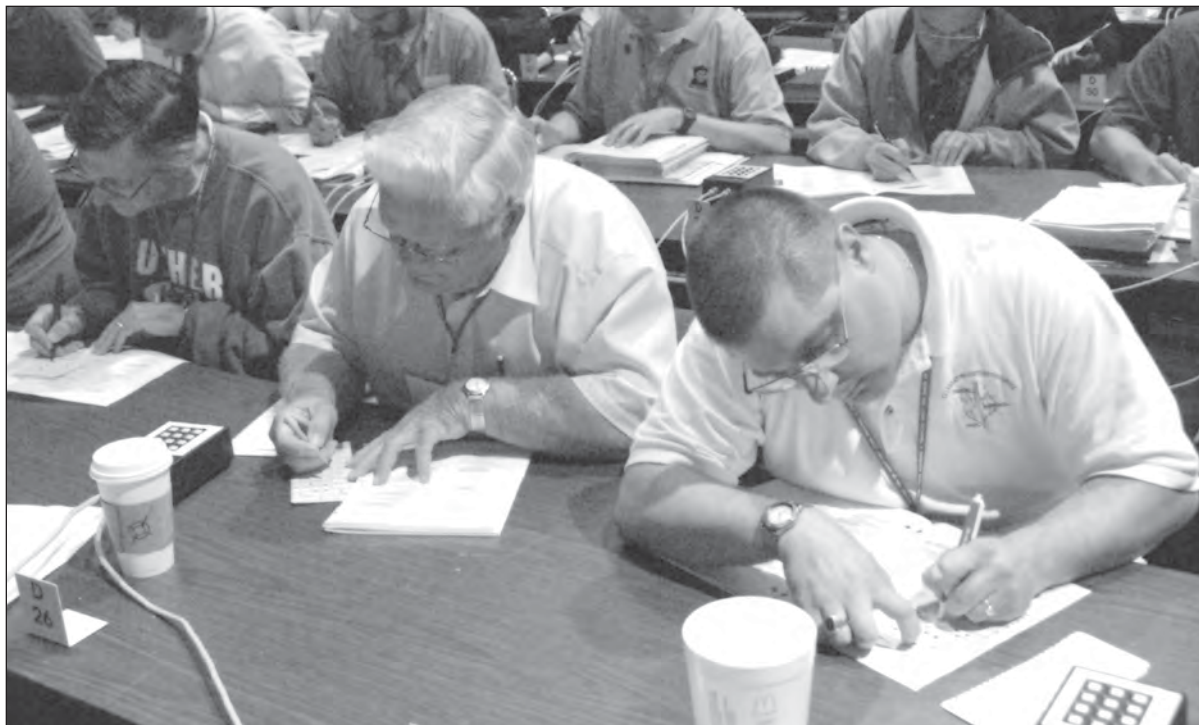
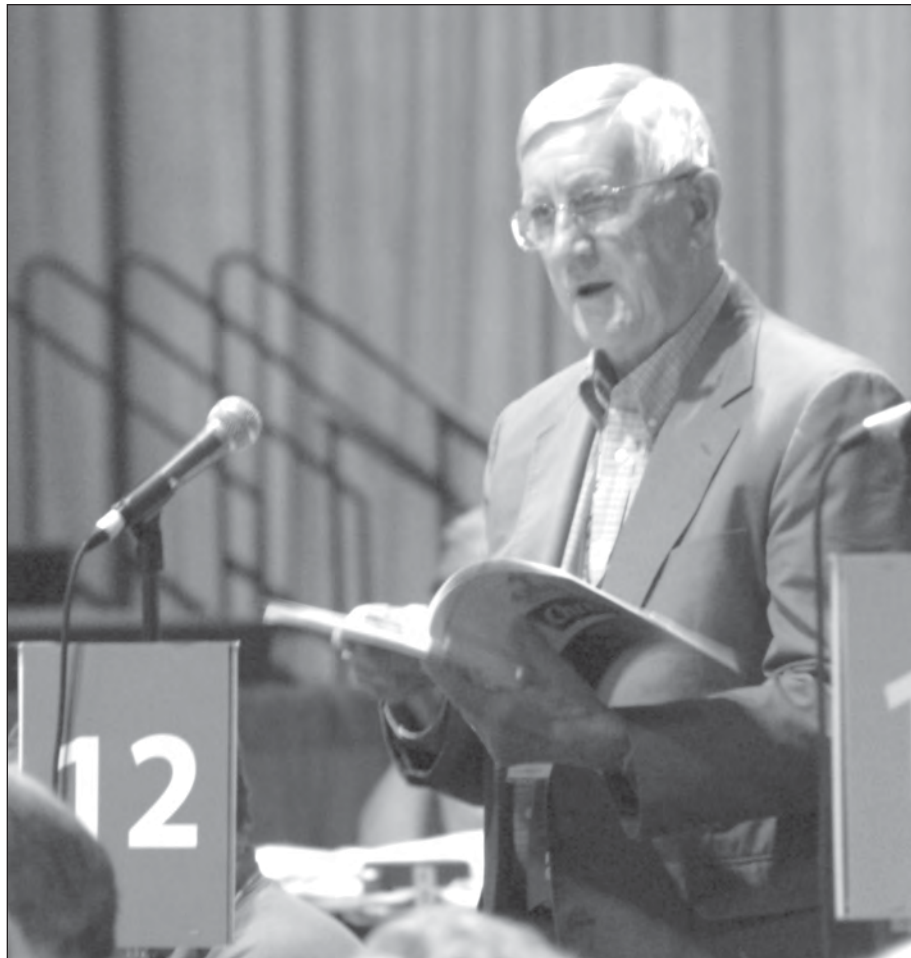
in order to bring it into agreement with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and withdraw the publication until such agreement is reached.

- (~~fg~~) The panel will appoint one of its members to be the doctrinal reviewer for the recycling of the revised material to assure the item's agreement with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions if republished.

Action: Adopted (10)

(As discussion began, an amendment to add to Bylaw 1.9.1.1 (b) the words *Each page of the document shall be prominently marked "not doctrinally reviewed"* was not adopted, as also was an amendment to delete from the first sentence of Bylaw 1.9.1.1 (b) the words *or immediately following the title page* and replace them with *the cover and title page in print not smaller than fourteen-point type*. A motion to divide the question was ruled a substitute motion, which the assembly declined to consider. The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 761; No: 119].)





8. Synod Structure and Governance

To Adopt Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws re Resolution 7-02A

RESOLUTION 8-01

Overtures 7-52–54, 8-01, 8-03–04, (CW, pp. 254; 257–259)

WHEREAS, The 2004 convention of the LCMS created the Resolution 7-02A Committee; and

WHEREAS, The Resolution 7-02A Committee has issued its final report, which all convention delegates have received; and

WHEREAS, The Resolution 7-02A Committee unanimously approved the report; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters at its meeting on April 21–22, 2007, upon hearing the report by the chairman of the Resolution 7-02A Committee, discussed each section of the report with its recommended bylaw changes, and, by consensus, commended the committee for its work; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors meeting on May 16–18, 2007, passed the following resolution without dissent:

Resolved, That upon hearing and reviewing the report of the Resolution 7-02A Committee, the Board of Directors commends the committee for its hard work and the results of its prayerful efforts, heartily endorses the committee's recommendations, and prays that the convention will look upon the recommendations positively and adopt them;

therefore be it

Resolved, That we give thanks to the Resolution 7-02A Committee for its diligent and excellent work; and be it further

Resolved, That the following amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws recommended by the Resolution 7-02A Committee be adopted.

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

Article V Officers

The corporation shall have a board of directors of such number and qualifications and who shall be elected in such manner and for such terms of office as shall be set forth in the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In addition, the corporation shall have officers having such qualifications and who shall be elected or appointed in such manner and for such terms of office as provided for in the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The management authority and duties of the Board of Directors of the Synod shall be limited to the extent such authority and duties are delegated by the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to other officers and agencies of the Synod. The management authority and duties of the Board of Directors and such other officers and agencies shall be defined in the Constitution and Bylaws, and each of them shall be responsible to the Synod for the proper and prudent fulfillment of the authority and duties so designated to them. In case of any conflict or uncertainty in determining the authority and duties of the Board of Directors and such other



Committee 8 Chairman Lane Seitz

officers and agencies, the opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters interpreting the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall be binding, unless and until overruled by a ~~synodical~~ synodical convention of the Synod. In case of any conflict or uncertainty relative to the applicability of the laws of the State of Missouri, such issues shall be resolved in accord with the provisions in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

1.4.4 The Board of Directors serves the Synod as its legal representative and as custodian of all property of the Synod, and upon it is incumbent the general management and supervision of the business affairs of the Synod, except to the extent that management authority and duties have been delegated by the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws, or resolutions of a convention of the Synod to other officers and agencies of the Synod or to separate corporate or trust entities. Each other board of directors, board of regents, and board of trustees also serves the Synod with respect to the property of the Synod, to the extent of its jurisdiction, as provided or authorized in these Bylaws. Upon each such board of the Synod is incumbent the general management and supervision of the business affairs of the Synod to the extent of its jurisdiction. Any issues relative to the applicability of the laws of the State of Missouri shall be resolved in accord with the provisions in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

3.3.5.4 The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the general management of the business and legal affairs of the Synod. It shall receive copies of all legal opinions or written counsel received by program boards, com-

~~missions, and councils of the Synod. It and~~ shall be authorized to take on behalf of the Synod any action related to such business and legal affairs which has not been expressly delegated by the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod to other officers or agencies of the Synod, and as to those shall have general oversight responsibility.

~~PRESENT/PROPOSED~~ WORDING

3.3.5.5 The Board of Directors shall allocate available funds to the program boards, commissions, councils, and departments of corporate Synod and hold them responsible therefor.

- (a) To the extent of its responsibilities relative to the general management and supervision of the business and legal affairs of the Synod:
 - (1) It shall receive such reports as it requests on the operations and policies of the program boards, commissions, and councils.
 - (2) It shall have the right to ~~call up for request review and criticism, and request modification or revocation of,~~ of any action or policy of a program board, commission, or council which primarily relates to business, property, and/or legal matters and, after consultation with the agency involved and when deemed necessary, require modification or revocation thereof, except opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters.

~~PRESENT/PROPOSED~~ WORDING

3.9.2.1 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall consist of

- 1. five voting members ~~appointed by the President of the Synod,~~ whose terms shall be for six years renewable once, three of whom shall be ordained ministers and two shall be lawyers;
- 2. the Secretary of the Synod, who shall serve as a non-voting member of the commission and its secretary.

~~PRESENT/PROPOSED~~ WORDING

3.9.2.1.1 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall be appointed in the following manner:

- (a) Candidates shall be nominated only by the district boards of directors and shall be presented to the Council of Presidents through the office of the Secretary.
- (b) The Council of Presidents shall select five candidates for each vacant position and present them through the office of the Secretary of the Synod to the President of the Synod.
- (c) The President of the Synod, in consultation with the vice-presidents of the Synod, shall appoint the members of the commission from the list presented by the Council of Presidents.
- (d) Thereafter the appointments shall become effective upon ratification by a majority vote of the members of the Council of Presidents.
- (e) Vacancies in appointed positions shall be filled by following the procedure set forth above.

~~PRESENT/PROPOSED~~ WORDING

3.9.2.2 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall interpret the Synod's Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions upon the written request of a member (congregation, ordained or commissioned minister), official, board, commission, or agency of the Synod.

- (a) A request for an opinion may be accompanied by a request for an appearance before the commission.
- (b) The commission shall notify an officer or agency of the Synod if a request for an opinion involves an activity of that officer or agency and shall allow that officer or agency to submit in writing information regarding the matter(s) at issue.
- (c) An opinion rendered by the commission shall be binding on the question decided unless and until it is overruled by a convention of the Synod. Over- tures to a convention that seek to overrule an opinion of the commission shall support the pro- posed action with substantive rationale from the Constitu- tion, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod. All such overtures shall be considered by the floor committee to which they have been assigned and shall be included in a specific report to the con- vention with recommendations for appropriate action.
- (d) ~~When an opinion pertains primarily to business, legal, finance, civil rights, contracts, or property matters; and the Board of Directors of the Synod concludes that such opinion of the commission is contrary to the laws of the State of Missouri, the board and the commission, or their respective representatives, shall meet jointly to discuss the issue(s) and seek resolution thereof first consult with the Board of Directors of the Synod and/or the Synod's legal counsel. If agreement cannot be reached on whether the matter is governed by the laws of the State of Missouri, that question shall be presented to a five-member panel consisting of three hearing facilitators (Bylaw 1.10.12) chosen by blind draw by the Executive Director of Internal Audit of the Synod from the pool of hearing facilitators; one person appointed by the Commission on Constitutional Matters; and one person appointed by the Board of Directors. At least one of the hear- ing facilitators shall be an attorney, and the ap- pointees of the commission and board shall not be members of the groups that appointed them. The decision of the panel in support of the position of the Commission on Constitutional Matters or the Board of Directors shall be binding on the issue(s) unless and until it is overruled by a convention of the Synod.~~

Action: Adopted (3)

(Special Standing Rule 7 was used to attend to this resolution, allowing up to 15 minutes for the committee's introduction and 30 minutes of uninterrupted discussion of the proposed resolution. During the final 45-minute period of debate, a motion was introduced to delete the proposed wording for Bylaw 3.9.2.1.1 and to insert two new paragraphs: (a) *The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall be elected by the Synod in convention.* (b) *In the event of a vacancy, the President shall nominate a replacement with the consent of three vice-presidents, that nomination to be effective upon ratification by a majority vote of the Council of Presidents.* Because the proposed amendment included a bylaw change that had not been reviewed by the Commission on Constitutional Matters, the commission was asked to look into the matter. Because the amendment had not been presented to the floor committee prior to its introduction to the convention, the maker of the amendment was asked first to consult with the floor committee prior to further consideration by the convention. When the convention voted to end debate, the resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 905; No: 292].)

To Affirm Christian Resolution of Disputes

RESOLUTION 8-02A

Overtures 8-05–10, L8-72 (CW, pp. 259–261)

WHEREAS, God has clearly stated in 1 Cor. 6 His intent that brothers and sisters in the faith not enter into lawsuits against one another:

If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly judgment instead of before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things in this life! Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church! I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? But instead, one brother goes to law against another—and this in front of unbelievers! The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers (1 Cor. 6:1–8).

and

WHEREAS, The early church provides a model in Acts 15 for settling disputes without resorting to charges and accusations; and

WHEREAS, The Synod, in walking together, has agreed to abide by the exclusive and final remedy for resolving conflict among its members provided in the Bylaws:

1.10.1 When disputes, disagreements, or offenses arise among members of the body of Christ, it is a matter of grave concern for the whole Church. Conflicts that occur in the body should be resolved promptly (Matt. 5:23, 24; Eph. 4:26–27). Parties are urged by the mercies of God to proceed with one another with “the same attitude that was in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5). In so doing, individuals, congregations, and various agencies within the Synod are urged to reject a win-lose attitude that typifies secular conflict. For the sake of the Gospel, the church should spare no resource in providing assistance.

1.10.1.1 The Holy Scriptures (1 Cor. 6:1–7) urge Christians to settle their differences by laying them before the “members of brotherhood.” Therefore, the Synod, in the spirit of 1 Corinthians 6, calls upon all parties to a disagreement, accusation, controversy, or disciplinary action to rely exclusively and fully on the Synod’s system of reconciliation and conflict resolution. The use of the Synod’s conflict resolution procedures shall be the exclusive and final remedy for those who are in dispute [emphasis added]. Fitness for ministry and other theological matters must be determined within the church. Parties are urged, in matters of a doctrinal nature, to follow the procedures as outlined in Bylaw 1.8;

and

WHEREAS, The Synod, in Bylaw 1.10.3, has defined certain exceptions to the fact that the dispute resolution process is to be the exclusive and final remedy for those who are in dispute; and

WHEREAS, The Synod, through the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, has previously addressed this

issue in the Commission on Theology and Church Relations Report of April 1991, *1 Cor. 6:1–11, An Exegetical Study*; and

WHEREAS, Opinion 05-2444 of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CW, p. 320), adopted at the Nov. 28–29, 2005, meeting of the commission, states:

- “All members of the Synod are required to resolve all matters of dissent or all disputes by the avenues and structures available to them as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod without resorting to secular courts and without resorting to avenues, means, structures, or communications that are foreign or contrary to the synodical agreements and which are not in harmony with the polity of the Synod.”
- “A lawsuit is not a legitimate avenue of dissent. In the agreement to live and work together, a member of the Synod is required to follow the avenue of dissent as set forth in Bylaw section 1.8, including honoring and upholding the resolutions of the Synod. While a lawsuit may be an appropriate process in which to resolve a dispute in the secular world, members of the Synod are governed by Bylaw section 1.8 as the required, exclusive, and agreed-to avenue of dissent and Bylaw section 1.10 as the required, exclusive, and agreed-to method of dispute resolution.”
- “In the agreement to live and work together, a member of the Synod is required to rely exclusively and fully on the Synod’s system of reconciliation and conflict resolution. Unless the dispute is one concerning property rights or contract arrangements under Bylaw 1.10.3 (a) or (b), such suit would be a gross violation of the process of Bylaw section 1.10 and the covenants which bind members together in the Synod. The use of the Synod’s conflict resolution procedures is the exclusive and final remedy for those who are in dispute (Bylaw section 1.10).”

and

WHEREAS, Our witness to the world is affected by the way we conduct ourselves when we have a disagreement with a brother or sister in Christ; therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod honor their commitment to utilize the Synod’s dispute resolution process as the exclusive and final remedy to resolve any disputes, conflicts, disagreements, or offenses within the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That we commend to the members of the Synod the April 1991 CTCR document, *1 Cor. 6:1–11, An Exegetical Study* for study and guidance.

Action: Adopted (6)

(After the entire resolution was read by the committee, and after discussion, the resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 665; No: 341].)

To Provide Wording for Congregations’ Constitutions and Bylaws

RESOLUTION 8-04

Overtures 8-60–66 (CW, pp. 280–283)

WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution states, “Membersh

gregations...of the Evangelical Lutheran Church who confess and accept the confessional basis of Article II"; and

WHEREAS, Article VI states, "Conditions for acquiring and holding membership in the Synod are the following: 1. Acceptance of the confessional basis of Article II"; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 1.6.1 states, "The confessional position of the Synod is set forth in Article II of its Constitution, to which all who wish to be and remain members of the Synod shall subscribe"; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention recognizes that the words *inspired, inerrant, infallible*, and/or *revealed* with respect to the written Word of God are in harmony with the confessional basis of the Synod (Art. II); and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to include the words *inspired, inerrant, infallible*, and/or *revealed* with respect to the written Word of God in their constitutions and/or bylaws.

Action: Adopted (10)

(During discussion, an amendment to change *may* in the last resolve to *be encouraged* to was agreed to by the committee. The resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 1,054; No: 35].)

To Encourage the Study of CTCR Documents Relating to Public Rebuke of Public Sin and to Amend the Synod's Bylaws Relating to Matthew 18

RESOLUTION 8-05A

Overtures 8-11-30 (CW, pp. 261-272)

WHEREAS, In 2004 Res. 8-01A, the Synod adopted new procedures for ecclesiastical supervision and dispute resolution; and

WHEREAS, These newly adopted bylaws have created uncertainty for some in the church as they relate to matters of public rebuke of public sin; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) has recently approved a study document, *Public Rebuke of Public Sin* (May 2006, CW, pp. 361-368), which has been distributed to all LCMS congregations, pastors, and church workers; and

WHEREAS, Within the *CTCR Response to Expressions of Dissent (2004-2006)* (CW, pp. 400-410), the CTCR has further addressed public rebuke of public sin in a section entitled "Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution (2004 Res. 8-01A; 2004 Res. 7-02A)"; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the adoption of 2004 Res. 8-01A, the practice of face-to-face meetings included in the former adjudication process of the Synod, dispute resolution process of the Synod, bylaws of the Synod, and CCM opinions from 1968 to the present reflected a practice and desire for fraternal and evangelical relations among members of the Synod toward the goal of reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, The *CTCR Response to Expressions of Dissent (2004-2006)* states in part (pp. 18-19),

It is clear that Matthew 18 does not directly apply to cases of public rebuke of public sin. The Scriptures make this clear and the Large Catechism teaches accordingly. In the opinion of the CTCR the dissenters make a good point in this connection. 2004 Res. 8-01A could have made it more clear that Matthew 18 does not directly apply to instances of public sin. *However,*

when it comes to the Synod's humanly devised procedures for expulsion from membership in the Synod or dispute resolution, it is legitimate for the Synod to expect a face-to-face meeting [emphasis added]. In its May 2006 report on *Public Rebuke of Public Sin: Considerations in Light of the Large Catechism Explanation of the Eighth Commandment* [p. 15] the CTCR says:

While there is no requirement to follow the steps outlined in Matthew 18 in cases where the text does not apply, this does not mean that steps outlined by Jesus in this text are *prohibited* in any case. Following the steps of Matthew 18 in cases beyond their direct application may in fact be beneficial to the church and its administrative structures and therefore advisable in the given case. But the church should neither assume nor insist that *Scripture requires* the procedure in every instance of public sin.

and further

Matthew 18 does not speak specifically to cases of public sin, as Luther declares in his explanation of the Eighth Commandment. The steps outlined in Matthew 18, therefore, are not to be considered absolute requirements mandated by Scripture nor the Confessions in cases of public sin. These steps may, however, be part of synodical processes that would lead to specific consequences of public sin (e.g., removal from the clergy roster of the Synod). Public rebuke is not the same as the filing of formal charges [emphasis added];

and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations in *Public Rebuke of Public Sin* formulated additional conclusions (pp. 26-28) on the public rebuke of public sin to help the Synod in its deliberations:

- Public rebuke should not be the first response to a first offense. A rapid rush to judgment should be avoided (cf., Gal. 6:1-3);
- Public rebuke should be pursued first by those who have the office and responsibility of ecclesiastical supervision in the Synod, but if those having that responsibility fail in their duty public rebuke may be pursued by any Christian;
- One who offers public rebuke should be certain that he/she properly understands the nature of the sin to be rebuked;
- Public rebuke is not to be undertaken lightly but only after much prayer, deliberation, and consultation "with others who know of the sin";
- In cases where the sin is not apparent to all and therefore perhaps not truly public, a call for discussion rather than rebuke might best serve the needs of the church;
- Public rebuke should be rare and used primarily in dealing with notorious or scandalous teaching or conduct in which the Gospel is at stake;
- The purposes of public rebuke are both to warn and instruct the church and to offer spiritual care to the offender;

and

WHEREAS, Paul teaches us to deal evangelically with one another: "Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:1-2 NIV); and

WHEREAS, Neither the words of Jesus in Matt. 18 nor the words of Luther in the Large Catechism prevent or preclude talking to a brother or sister who has caused offense, even with a public sin, but both Scripture and the Confessions teach the importance of reconciliation and winning the brother or sister; therefore be it

Resolved, That we affirm that Matt. 18 does not apply directly in cases of public sin; and be it further

Resolved, That we affirm the bylaw requirement of face-to-face meetings, even in the case of public sin, toward the goal of reconciliation and winning the brother or sister; and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on Constitutional Matters be directed to bring the *Handbook* of the Synod into harmony with the understanding that Matt. 18 does not directly apply to cases of public sin (Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3); and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod in convention encourage its congregations, clergy, commissioned ministers, laity, circuits, and districts to study the CTCR document *Public Rebuke of Public Sin* and the section on “Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution” in the *CTCR Response to Expressions of Dissent* document (CW, pp. 402–405) to address the uncertainty of some in the church related to 2004 Res. 8-01A and the public rebuke of public sin (2004 Res. 8-01A; 2004 Res. 7-02A).

Action: Adopted (10)

(The resolution was read in its entirety as it was introduced by the committee. During the discussion that followed, the committee agreed to replace *recognize* with *affirm* in the first resolve and to add *and to Amend the Synod's Bylaws Relating to Matthew 18* to the resolution's title. When a lengthy amendment was offered expressing concern regarding the ecclesiastical supervisory responsibility of district presidents (printed in *Today's Business*, p. 377), the chair was supported in ruling that the amendment was not germane to the resolution. The resolution was adopted as changed by the committee [Yes: 950; No: 122].)

**To Recommend Further Study
of Composition of Hearing Panels
in Bylaws 2.14, 2.15, and 2.17**

RESOLUTION 8-06

Overtures 8-11–30 (CW, pp. 261–272)

WHEREAS, In 2004 Res. 8-01A, the Synod adopted new procedures for ecclesiastical supervision and dispute resolution; and

WHEREAS, This process has been a blessing to the Synod in resolving disputes and cases of ecclesiastical supervision that have arisen since its adoption and in better stewardship of the time and other resources of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Concerns have been expressed by some regarding the composition of the Hearing Panel under current Bylaws 2.14, 2.15, and 2.17 which makes decisions for or against an accused member who is facing expulsion from membership in the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention call for a special task force to study further the composition of the Hearing Panel under Bylaws 2.14, 2.15, and 2.17; and be it further

Resolved, That this special task force be comprised of two members appointed by the Commission on Constitu-

tional Matters, one of whom shall be a commissioned minister; two members appointed by the Commission on Structure, one of whom shall be a layperson who is a hearing facilitator; and two district presidents appointed by the Council of Presidents; and be it finally

Resolved, That this special task force report the results of its study, and any recommendations that may result from its study, no later than the 2010 64th Regular Convention of the Synod.

Action: Adopted (10)

(During discussion of the resolution, an amendment to replace the reference to the 2010 convention in the final resolve with a reference to the 2009 special convention was offered and then withdrawn. The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 654; No: 89].)

**To Call Special Convention to Amend
Synod Structure and Governance**

RESOLUTION 8-07S

Overture 8-67 (CW, p. 283)

WHEREAS, We, the delegates of the 63rd Regular Convention of the Synod, stand ready to meet our responsibility to serve throughout our three-year term of service; and

WHEREAS, Our Synod has over its history changed its structure many times in order to meet its changing needs; and

WHEREAS, Former Synod Presidents Bohlmann and Kuhn, other current elected leaders, as well as our Council of Presidents all support having a special convention; and

WHEREAS, Constitution Article XIV 1 states: “Changes in the Constitution and amendments thereto may be made provided they do not conflict with the provisions laid down in Article II and in Article VI”; and

WHEREAS, A two-thirds majority of the votes cast by the congregations of the Synod is required to ratify any changes to the Constitution of the Synod for them to become effective (Art. XIV 4); and

WHEREAS, Article VIII B 2 allows for the President of the Synod with the consent of two-thirds of the district presidents to call special sessions of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That we as delegates of this convention direct President Kieschnick to meet with the Council of Presidents within the next 90 days, after consulting with our two seminary presidents, the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, the Board of Directors, the Vice-President–Finance–Treasurer, other officers of the Synod, and the Commission on Constitutional Matters; and be it further

Resolved, That if President Kieschnick and two-thirds of the district presidents determine at that time to call a special convention, we stand ready to serve; and be it finally

Resolved, That no proposed changes to the structure and governance of the Synod will conflict with Article II and Article VI of the Constitution.

Action: Adopted (10)

(The committee introduced the Res. 8-07A version of this resolution (TB, pp. 213–214) in Session 7, at which time an amendment to insert a new second resolve *That since Articles II, VI, and XIV do not pertain to structure and governance, amendments thereto are specifically prohibited* failed to be adopted. Discussion continued during Session 9, when the committee presented a sub-

stitute resolution that was accepted for consideration by the convention. An amendment resolving *That the said special convention shall have no authority to impair the title of congregations to their assets, most particularly to their land and buildings* was ruled out of order upon advice of the parliamentarian. After the chair was supported in this ruling, discussion continued for the remaining time allotted to the committee during the session. During Session 10, the committee introduced Res. 8-07S (provided as a handout prior to Session 10) with an accompanying motion “That a two-thirds majority vote be required for this substitute resolution.” The motion to require a two-thirds majority vote was carried, and the substitute resolution was adopted by the required vote [Yes: 793; No: 325].)

To Refer for Theological Study CCM Opinions 02-2296, 02-2309, and 02-2320

RESOLUTION 8-10

Overtures 8-47–57 (CW, pp. 277–279)

WHEREAS, The above-referenced overtures have variously expressed scriptural concerns regarding Opinions 02-2296, 02-2309, and 02-2320 of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM); and

WHEREAS, None of the said overtures has expressed a substantive rationale arising from the Constitution, Bylaws, or resolutions of the Synod whereby said CCM Opinions 02-2296, 02-2309, and 02-2320 may be in error as concerns their interpretation of said Constitution, Bylaws, or resolutions of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The responsibility of the CCM is solely to “interpret the Synod’s Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions” (Bylaw 3.9.2.2) and not to determine theological issues pertaining thereto; and

WHEREAS, The means, methods, and manner of dispute resolution and ecclesiastical supervision (Bylaws 1.10, 2.12, and 2.13) were significantly revised at the 2004 62nd Regular Convention of the Synod, and policies adopted by the Council of Presidents for implementation of such changes have also occurred, including consideration of pertinent scriptural requirements as they may impact the same; and

WHEREAS, CCM Opinions 02-2296, 02-2309, and 02-2320 were rendered prior to these substantive changes; and

WHEREAS, The primary concern of these overtures may have already been addressed by the changes indicated; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention refer these above referenced overtures to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations for consideration, and in consultation with the Council of Presidents and Commission on Structure report back to the 2010 64th Regular Convention as to how the theological issues are addressed under the most recent changes to the Bylaws, namely dispute resolution and ecclesiastical supervision, and the policies implemented by the COP.

Action: Adopted (10)

(During discussion, a substitute resolution was proposed (printed in *Today’s Business*, p. 378). After the assembly voted not to consider the substitute resolution and discussion continued, a motion to amend the resolution with Overture 8-37 (CW, p. 273) was ruled a substitute resolution, which the convention also declined to consider. The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 603; No: 191].)

To Amend Bylaws for Special Convention

RESOLUTION 8-13

Overture 8-67 (CW, p. 283)

WHEREAS, A special convention of the Synod is limited in scope to the purpose for which that convention is called; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following bylaws be added to Bylaw section 3.1:

PROPOSED WORDING

3.1.11 The business of any special session of the Synod (Constitution Art. VIII B) is limited to the specific stated purpose(s) for the calling of the special session.

3.1.11.1 The President of the Synod, in consultation with the Council of Presidents and the Board of Directors of the Synod, shall establish the specific provisions for any special session of the Synod such as “Reports and Overtures,” “Convention Committees,” “Pre-convention Publications,” “Convention Order,” and “Convention Communications,” including any required implementation time frames.

Action: Adopted (10)

(This resolution was distributed as a handout to the convention prior to Session 10 and, after discussion, was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 937; No: 156].)

10. Nominations

To Consider Additional Nominations for Board for Black Ministry Services

RESOLUTION 10-01

Overture 10-01 (CW, p. 287)

WHEREAS, The Board for Black Ministry Services exists to serve as an advocate on behalf of black ministry within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.8.4.1 indicates that three members (one ordained minister, one commissioned minister, and one layperson) shall be elected by the Synod in convention; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.8.4.1.1 indicates that these candidates will have been reviewed, evaluated, and approved by the representatives of the black congregations, meeting in convocation; and

WHEREAS, The 2006 Black Ministry Family Convocation meeting in Selma, Alabama, evaluated and approved the names of Mr. Jeffery Howell and Ms. Karen Wiggins to be placed before the 2007 convention of the Synod as valuable assets to the church-at-large and to the Board for Black Ministry Services in particular; and

WHEREAS, These individuals have faithfully served the church through their respective ministries and are willing to serve further on the Board for Black Ministry Services; and

WHEREAS, Through administrative error of the Board for Black Ministry Services, the names of Mr. Jeffery Howell and Ms. Karen Wiggins were not submitted by the Oct. 14, 2006, deadline for nominations; and

WHEREAS, “Floor nominations may only be made from the list of names which have previously been offered to the Committee for Convention Nominations prior to the final deadline established and published by the committee, un-



Committee 10 Chairman John Brunner

less the convention shall otherwise order by a simple majority vote” (Bylaw 3.12.3.7); therefore be it

Resolved, That the 2007 convention of the Synod affirm the aforementioned names for consideration during the floor nominations process.

Action: Adopted (4)

(The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee after discussion [Yes: 1,002; No: 133].)



OMNIBUS RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION A

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

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

<i>Number</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Board, Commission, Task Force, Individual</i>
Ov. 1-01	Foreign Mission Work as Top Priority	Board for Mission Services
Ov. 1-04	Communications re Mission Initiatives	Board for Mission Services
Ov. 1-05	Clarification of Word <i>Israel</i> and Commitment to Jewish Evangelism	Board for Mission Services/CTCR
Ov. 1-11	<i>Ablaze!</i> Terminology	Board for Mission Services
Ov. 1-17	Reciprocal Word and Sacrament Ministry with Other Lutheran Military Chaplains	Board for Mission Services
Ov. L1-19	Chicago Racetrack Ministry	Board for Human Care Ministries
Ov. 2-05	Hymnal Resources in Print Form	Commission on Worship/Concordia Publishing House
Ov. 2-06	Publication of <i>Lutheran Worship</i>	Concordia Publishing House
Ov. 2-16	Board for District and Congregational Services Membership	Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synodical Structure and Governance (BRTFSSG)
Ov. 3-30	Creation Terminology	CCM, CTCR, BUE
Ov. 3-50	Terms for Office of Pastoral Ministry	CTCR
Ov. 3-59	Withdrawal of CTCR Report <i>Christian Faith and Human Beginnings</i>	CTCR
Ov. 3-84	Role of Doctrinal Resolutions	BRTFSSG
Ov. 3-85	Distinction between Doctrinal Resolutions and Statements	BRTFSSG
Ov. 3-86	Doctrinal Resolution Bylaw	BRTFSSG
Ov. 3-88	Use of Term <i>Bishop</i>	CTCR
Ov. 3-90	Pledging Allegiance to Christian Flag	Commission on Worship
Ov. 3-93	Status of 2001 Res. 3-07A	CCM
Ov. 3-94	2001 Res. 3-07A	CCM
Ov. 3-95	To Commit to Working Together with Other Denominations	CTCR
Ov. 3-96	Fellowship Practices among Partner Churches	President of Synod
Ov. 3-97	Communicate with Partner Churches re Membership in Lutheran Australia World Federation	President of Synod
Ov. 3-98	Encourage Lutheran Church of Australia re Service of Women	President of Synod
Ov. 3-99	Thanks to God for Rejection of Ordination of Women by Lutheran Church of Australia	President of Synod
Ov. L3-106	To Recognize Greater Specificity re Functions of the Pastoral Office	Commission on Worship
Ov. 4-19	Church Worker Salaries	CMGS
Ov. 4-20	Salary Scale for Synod	LCMS Board of Directors
Ov. 4-21	Compensation of Pastors and Synod Officers	LCMS Board of Directors
Ov. 4-22	Use of KFUO Radio to Spread Gospel	Board for Communication Services
Ov. 4-23	Operation of KFUO to Concordia Seminary	Board for Communication Services
Ov. 4-24	Synod Support of KFUO	LCMS Board of Directors
Ov. 4-25	Ministry of KFUO AM and FM Radio	Board for Communication Services
Ov. 4-26	KFUO AM and FM Mission Outreach	Board for Communication Services
Ov. 4-27	KFUO Radio	LCMS Board of Directors
Ov. 4-28	KFUO AM and FM Licenses	LCMS Board of Directors
Ov. 4-29	Sale of KFUO-FM Radio	LCMS Board of Directors
Ov. 4-35	Bylaw Compliance in Communication Practices	Commission on Structure
Ov. 4-36	To Change Appointment Process for Director of News and Information Services	Commission on Structure
Ov. 4-37	Pastors to Serve as District Treasurer	Commission on Structure
Ov. 5-13	Health Insurance Coverage for Seminary Students	Concordia Plans Services/Seminaries
Ov. 5-24	College and University Presidents	CTCR
Ov. 5-25	Theology Professors Teaching Males	CTCR
Ov. 5-31	Report re Teaching of Evolution in Synod Educational Institutions	CUS/Boards of Regents
Ov. 5-32	Survey re Teaching of Creationism	CUS/Boards of Regents

Ov. 5-33	Teaching of Six-Day Creation in Synod Higher Education Schools	CUS/Boards of Regents
Ov. 5-34	Place Candidate Status Pastors	Council of Presidents
Ov. L5-39	DCE Colloquy Admission and Curriculum	Commissioned Minister Colloquy Program
Ov. 7-06	Historic System of Convention Representation	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-07	Synod Legislative Representation System	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-08	Process for Delegate Representation	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-09	Representation at Conventions	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-10	Commissioned Ministers to Serve as Voting Delegates	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-11	Voting Delegate Representation	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-12	Delegate Representation	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-13	Circuit Exceptions	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-14	Address Voting Delegate Representation Exceptions	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-15	Regularly Examine Circuit Realignment	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-16	Process for Voting Representation	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-17	Number of Delegate Exceptions	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-18	Number of Delegate Exceptions	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-19	Exceptions for Voting Representation	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-20	Delegate Representation Exceptions	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-23	Selection of Convention Floor Committees	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-24	Appointment of Convention Committees	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-25	Convention Committees	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-28	Standing Rule for Keeping Debate Open	Convention Chair
Ov. 7-29	Use of Behnken Rule	Convention Chair
Ov. 7-30	Use of Behnken Rule	Convention Chair
Ov. 7-36	Election of the President and First Vice-President of Synod	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-37	New Election Process	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-42	Treatise on Power and Primacy of Pope	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-44	Equitable Terms for All Officers of Synod	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-45	Minimum Requirements for Officers of Synod	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-46	Procedure for Removal of an Officer	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-47	Theological Requirements for Office of the President	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-48	Powers and Duties of President	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-49	Term Limits for Office of President	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-50	First Vice-President and Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer to Vote on Board of Directors	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-52	Selection and Number of CCM Members	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-53	Selection and Number of CCM Members	BRTFSSG
Ov. 7-54	Members of Commission on Constitutional Matters	BRTFSSG
Ov. 8-32	Develop Method for Review of CCM Opinions	BRTFSSG
Ov. 8-44	CCM Reconsider Opinion 99-2157 re Art. VII	CCM
Ov. 8-68	Presentations of Walther Theses	Planning Committee for Model Theological Convocations

RESOLUTION B

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

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

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

<i>Number</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Previous Action</i>
Ov. 3-03	Scriptural Position of 1973 Res. 3-09 and Statement	1973 Convention Action
Ov. 3-49	Care of Consecrated Eucharistic Remains	1983 CTCR Document <i>Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper</i> , p. 17
Ov. 3-100	2001 Res. 3-21A re ELCA	2004 Res. 3-07
Ov. 3-101	ELCA re Human Sexuality Issues	2004 Res. 3-07
Ov. 3-104	Pulpit and Altar Fellowship with ELCA	2004 Res. 3-07
Ov. 5-37	Restore Sacrament to Alumni Gatherings	1995 Res. 3-12
Ov. 7-62	Certify Herman Otten for LCMS Ministry	1998 Proceedings Report of the President Declared the Matter Closed

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:

<i>Number</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Encouragement/ Thanks</i>
R1-8-03	Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synodical Structure and Governance Report	Thanks and Encourage- ment
R-7-04	LCMS Board of Directors Report	Thanks
R-7-06	Commission on Constitutional Matters	Thanks
R-7-07	Commission on Structure Report	Thanks
Ov. 1-10	Interim Report and <i>Fan Into Flame</i>	Thanks
Ov. 7-57	Work of Our Circuit Counselors	Thanks



LATE REPORT

The following report (LR8-01) was received after the deadline for receipt of reports and overtures but has been accepted for convention consideration according to Bylaw 3.1.6 (a) as “a matter of overriding importance and urgency which is not adequately covered by documents already before the convention.”

LR8-01

Resolution 7-02A Committee

Introduction

The 2004 convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod created the Resolution 7-02A Committee. With the adoption of Resolution 7-02A (the full text is in *Appendix A* of this report), which included amendments to the Synod's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the Synod said,

...*Resolved*, That the convention consider this action as resolving the current difficulty but directs the President and Board of Directors jointly to appoint a committee to address the matter and report to the 2007 convention;...

As indicated in that *Resolved* and as will be seen in this report, the 2004 convention recognized the difficulty and confusion that prompted the presentation of Resolution 7-02A. In adopting the resolution, the convention resolved “the current difficulty” by amending the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Synod. It also created the 7-02A Committee to “address the matter and report to the 2007 convention....”

“The matter” is explained in the WHEREAS section of Resolution 7-02A. Furthermore, “the matter” relates to questions that arose and subsequent actions that were taken during the triennium preceding the 2004 convention that involved the authority and responsibility of the Synod's Board of Directors (“the Board”) as defined by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and by the laws of the State of Missouri. Similarly, “the matter” has to do with whether official opinions of the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters (“the Commission”) having to do with such authority and responsibility of the Board under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod were authoritative in light of the laws of the State of Missouri.

The 7-02A Committee

Following the convention, the President of the Synod and the Board of Directors reached agreement on the composition of this Resolution 7-02A Committee, to include the Administrative Team of the Synod (President, First Vice-President, Secretary, Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer, and Chief Administrative Officer) and representatives from the Board of Directors (2), the program boards and commissions of the Synod (2), and the Council of Presidents (2)—one each of these representatives to be appointed by the President and one each by the Board of Directors. The following persons served on the “7-02A Committee”:

1. Gerald Kieschnick, President of the Synod

2. William Diekelman, First Vice-President of the Synod
3. Raymond Hartwig (secretary), Secretary of the Synod
4. Thomas Kuchta, Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer of the Synod
5. Ronald Schultz, Chief Administrative Officer of the Synod
6. Jean Garton, member of the Board of Directors, appointed by the President
7. Walter Tesch (chairman), member of the Board of Directors, appointed by the Board of Directors
8. Robert Roegner, Executive Director of the Board for Mission Services, appointed by the President
9. Matthew Harrison, Executive Director of the Board for Human Care Ministries, appointed by the Board of Directors
10. Lane Seitz, President of the Minnesota South District, appointed by the President
11. Ronald Garwood, President of the Wyoming District, appointed by the Board of Directors

The appointment process was completed by March 5, 2005. The 7-02A Committee met for the first time August 31, 2005, and thereafter by subcommittee, telephone conference, and face-to-face meetings. At its final meeting on April 13, 2007, the 7-02A Committee approved this report to the 2007 convention of the Synod. The committee respectfully submits this report in the hope and with the prayer that it will provide a reasonable solution and helpful assistance to the Synod in resolving conflict and confusion over “the matter” addressed in Resolution 7-02A.

A Summary of “The Matter”

To assist the Synod and especially the delegates to the 2007 convention, the committee offers what it believes to be a succinct summary of the essence of “the matter” to be addressed by the 7-02A Committee:

1. The essence of “the matter” relates to the delegation and exercise of authority in our Synod. The LCMS has never had a primarily hierarchical system of authority. Checks and balances have always been an integral part of the organization and administration of the LCMS. Its system of governance historically and traditionally includes boundaries that all, including officers of the Synod such as the Board of Directors, must honor and uphold. At the same time, there are decisions to be made and actions to be taken by officers, boards, or other entities within the Synod that have potential or real legal and/or liability implications. In such cases, what responsibility and/or authority does the Board of Directors have to overrule a decision or action in order to protect the Synod and its assets? This is the essence of “the matter.”
2. The Bylaws describe the authority and responsibilities of the Board of Directors, especially Bylaws
 - 3.3.5: “The Board of Directors of the Synod is the legal representative of the Synod and the custodian of all the property of the Synod. It shall be accountable to the Synod in convention for the discharge of its duties.”

• 3.3.5.2: “The Board of Directors shall have the powers and duties that have been accorded to it by the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod, and the laws of the State of Missouri.”

• 3.3.5.4: “The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the general management of the business and legal affairs of the Synod and shall be authorized to take on behalf of the Synod any action related to such business and legal affairs which has not been expressly delegated by the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod to other officers or agencies of the Synod, and as to those shall have general oversight responsibility.”

• 3.3.5.5 (a) (2): “It shall have the right to call up for review and criticism, and to request modification or revocation of, any action or policy of a program board, commission, or council, except opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters.”

• 3.3.5.7: “The Board of Directors shall serve as the custodian of all the property of the Synod as defined in Bylaw 1.2.1 (m). Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, it shall have the authority and responsibility with respect to the property of the Synod as is generally vested in and imposed upon a board of directors of a corporation.”

“The matter” at issue is: Does the authority granted or not granted to the Board by these bylaws conflict with the laws of the State of Missouri?

3. “The matter” includes the very important question: Who has the authority to decide, when or if there is disagreement, where certain boundaries of authority begin and end? These questions include, but are not limited to, the following:

• Are there conflicts between the authority and responsibility of the Board of Directors defined by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod on the one hand and those provided by the laws of the State of Missouri on the other hand?

• Who determines the boundaries of the authority of the Board of Directors when disagreement exists over whether a matter to be decided pertains to secular or ecclesiastical or property or business or legal affairs?

4. Bylaw 3.9.2.2 of our Synod's 2004 *Handbook* states:

The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall interpret the Synod's Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions upon the written request of a member (congregation, ordained or commissioned minister), official, board, commission, or agency of the Synod....

(b) An opinion rendered by the commission shall be binding on the question decided unless and until it is overruled by a convention of the Synod....

Does the authority granted by the Bylaws of the Synod to the Commission on Constitutional Matters conflict with the laws of the State of Missouri pertaining to the authority of the Board of Directors?

5. As noted in these bylaws, the Commission is charged with interpreting all the governing documents of the Synod except the Articles of Incorporation but has no such charge to interpret the laws of the State of Missouri. Meanwhile, the Board is accorded “the powers and duties” granted not only by the governing documents of the Synod, but also by the laws of the State of Missouri. Yet the Board is not authorized by the governing documents of our Synod to challenge opinions of the Commission, which is not authorized to interpret state laws. Do state laws for not-for-profit corporations, under which the Synod has voluntarily placed itself, convey to the Board “powers and duties” that supersede

those conveyed by the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws of the Synod? Therein lies the source of much of the confusion and conflict addressed by Resolution 7-02A and by this report of the 7-02A Committee.

The 2004 convention in Resolution 7-02A retained the authoritative nature of Commission on Constitutional Matters opinions, including those rendered on questions dealing with powers and duties of the Board of Directors. Yet it recognized the difficulty and confusion that exists and asked this committee “to address the matter and report to the 2007 convention.”

A Brief History

The Board of Directors had taken certain actions as it endeavored to carry out its responsibilities that it believed were in concert with, and required by, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and the laws of the State of Missouri. Some members of the Board and other individuals in the Synod took issue with certain board actions. Questions regarding these matters were submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters.

Several of the opinions rendered by the Commission reversed and/or nullified Board actions, raising questions regarding the authority of the Commission over against the authority of the Board in light of Missouri law for not-for-profit corporations. The Board disagreed with and challenged some Commission opinions, declaring them “of no effect.”

In July 2003, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors requested an opinion from an outside law firm (Bryan Cave) regarding the Board's authority under Missouri law. The Bryan Cave opinion articulated an understanding of the authority of the Board of Directors of the Synod more similar to that of a corporate board of directors than has generally been understood to be the historic polity reflected in the governing documents of our Synod.

The conclusions of the Bryan Cave opinion were challenged by individuals in the Synod, prompting the Board to request an opinion from a second outside law firm (Armstrong Teasdale). The second opinion was generally, but not identically, in agreement with the first. Subsequently, unsolicited extensive legal perspectives were offered by three individual attorneys, followed by briefer perspectives from a number of other attorneys, all of which were not in agreement with, differed sharply from, and questioned the validity and accuracy of the Bryan Cave and Armstrong Teasdale opinions.

Confusion, disagreement, and significant tension developed in the Synod and resulted in the submission of a number of overtures to the 2004 convention of the Synod. The President of the Synod also issued a Special Report to the 2004 LCMS convention titled: “LCMS Board of Directors and Bylaws Regarding Opinions of Commission on Constitutional Matters.” This report is referenced in a WHEREAS paragraph of Resolution 7-02A.

These documents, in addition to the research of Floor Committee 7 of the 2004 convention and advice from the Synod's general legal counsel at that time (Stolar Partnership) contributed to the floor committee's drafting and the convention's subsequent adoption of Resolution 7-02A. Neither the floor committee nor the convention had access to

the outside legal opinions requested by the Board of Directors. The convention also was not made aware of the contribution of the 1995 Blue Ribbon Task Force that specifically put into place some of the bylaw provisions for which change was being proposed, those provisions to clarify Board of Directors authority, especially in its relationship to corporate Synod boards and commissions.

In adopting Resolution 7-02A, the convention:

1. Amended the Articles of Incorporation of the Synod, especially "Article V Officers," specifically limiting Board of Directors authority and duties to the extent that they are delegated by the Constitution and Bylaws to other officers and agencies;
2. Amended Bylaw 1.07 c [current Bylaw 1.4.4] regarding the responsibilities and authority of the Board of Directors and the delegation of authority and duties by the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod to other officers and agencies;
3. Amended Bylaw 3.51 c [current Bylaw 1.2.1 (c)] regarding the definition of "corporate Synod" to acknowledge the Synod's "responsibility to be subject to civil authority" while also retaining "all authority and autonomy allowed a church under the laws and Constitution of the United States and the State of Missouri";
4. Amended Bylaw 3.183 d 2 [current Bylaw 3.3.5.5 (a) (2)] regarding Board of Directors authority with regard to actions or policies of a program board, commission, and council; and
5. Amended Bylaw 3.905 [current Bylaw 3.9.2.2 (b)] regarding Commission on Constitutional Matters functions, requiring the Commission's consultation with the Board of Directors or legal counsel when providing opinions pertaining "primarily to business, legal, finance, civil rights, contracts, or property matters."

In addition, the convention adopted Resolution 7-21, which approved an amendment to paragraph 2 of Article XI F of the Synod's Constitution. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Synod relative to making amendments thereto, the proposed amendment was submitted to the voting congregations of the Synod for ratification. In writing, both the chairman of Floor Committee 7 of the 2004 convention and also the Board of Directors advised the congregations of the Synod regarding this constitutional amendment. The floor committee chairman encouraged ratification of the action (approved by 70 percent of the voting delegates) and the Board of Directors discouraged ratification of this constitutional amendment (adopted without debate), both offering opposing viewpoints about its effect on the authority of the Board of Directors. The amendment failed to receive the required two-thirds majority of the congregational votes cast and thus was not ratified.

Following its formation after the 2004 convention, the 7-02A Committee sought and received advice from current legal counsel (Thompson Coburn). This opinion, in general agreement with the Bryan Cave and Armstrong Teasdale opinions, acknowledges the absence of not-for-profit Missouri case law but references case law from other states. It identifies the principles most likely to be followed by Missouri courts and advises that the 2007 convention of the Synod take certain actions essentially to reverse a number of the actions taken by the 2004 convention in Resolution 7-02A.

The 7-02A Committee carefully considered this advice, recognizing that many in the Synod, including delegates to both the 2004 and the 2007 conventions, could be confused by what basically amounts to two consecutive conventions coming to two different conclusions on the same topic. Such confusion would not be minimized by decisions made at the convention primarily on the basis of the reception of conflicting advice from two different law firms representing the LCMS, both of which were properly chosen at different times to provide legal counsel to the Synod.

A Desire for Clarity and Consensus

The committee sincerely desires to provide the Synod, especially the delegates to the 2007 convention, with as much clarity regarding "the matter" to be addressed by the committee as possible. In addition, the committee sincerely desires to present proposed solutions to resolve the issues still in question in a way that takes into consideration and is sensitive to the perspectives of key leaders of the LCMS. In that regard, before finalizing its report, the committee felt it both necessary and appropriate to seek input and counsel from the following:

- The Board of Directors
- The Council of Presidents
- The Commission on Constitutional Matters
- The Synod's current legal counsel
- The Synod's former legal counsel
- Representatives from 2004 Convention Floor Committee 7

It is clear from the responses received that consensus, which the committee believes would be most desirable for the sake of unity and harmony in the Synod, has not been achieved on several of the recommendations offered in the first draft of the committee's report. The committee offers this final report to inform the Synod of its review of "the matter" assigned to the committee by Resolution 7-02A. In addition, this report proposes amendments to the governing documents of the Synod affirming and building upon the actions of the 2004 convention in Resolution 7-02A.

Recommendations from the 7-02A Committee

In consideration of the information presented above, the 7-02A Committee recommends that the amendments listed below be made by the 2007 convention to the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation of the Synod regarding "the matter" referenced in 2004 Resolution 7-02A. It is the committee's prayer that this report and approval of its recommendations by the 2007 convention will allow the Synod to proceed with its far more important business of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with an unbelieving world in need of the great news of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation through faith in Christ alone!

— I —

Re: Articles of Incorporation: "Article V Officers"

The 2004 convention of the Synod added the following second paragraph to Article V of the Synod's Articles of Incorporation:

The management authority and duties of the Board of Directors of the Synod shall be limited to the extent such authority and duties are delegated by the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to other officers and agencies of the Synod. The management authority and duties of the Board of Directors and such other officers and agencies shall be defined in the Constitution and Bylaws, and each of them shall be responsible to the Synod for the proper and prudent fulfillment of the authority and duties so designated to them. In case of any conflict or uncertainty in determining the authority and duties of the Board of Directors and such other officers and agencies, the opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters interpreting the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall be binding, unless and until overruled by a synodical convention.

The 7-02A Committee notes that the Articles of Incorporation of a Missouri not-for-profit corporation is a public document on file with the State of Missouri. It is there for all the world to see, including members, non-members, and those who would do business with the corporation—in this case, the Synod. Thus, the Articles should alert the public to any deviation from corporate norms.

The 7-02A Committee advocates the addition of a single statement to the second paragraph of current Article V, the paragraph thereby acknowledging the applicability of the not-for-profit corporate laws of the State of Missouri while alerting the public to the Synod's deviation from corporate norms. The Committee therefore proposes that Article V of the Synod's Articles of Incorporation be amended to read as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

Article V Officers

The corporation shall have a board of directors of such number and qualifications and who shall be elected in such manner and for such terms of office as shall be set forth in the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In addition, the corporation shall have officers having such qualifications and who shall be elected or appointed in such manner and for such terms of office as provided for in the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The management authority and duties of the Board of Directors of the Synod shall be limited to the extent such authority and duties are delegated by the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to other officers and agencies of the Synod. The management authority and duties of the Board of Directors and such other officers and agencies shall be defined in the Constitution and Bylaws, and each of them shall be responsible to the Synod for the proper and prudent fulfillment of the authority and duties so designated to them. In case of any conflict or uncertainty in determining the authority and duties of the Board of Directors and such other officers and agencies, the opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters interpreting the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall be binding, unless and until overruled by a ~~synodical~~ convention of the Synod. In case of any conflict or uncertainty relative to the applicability of the laws of the State of Missouri, such issues shall be resolved in accord with the provisions in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

— II —

Re: Bylaw 1.4.4

Resolution 7-21 of the 2004 convention of the Synod proposed an amendment to paragraph 2 of Article XI F of the Synod's Constitution. The proposed amendment deleted the words “in those areas where it has delegated such authority to an agency of the Synod” in the third sentence following the word “except” and replaced them with the words “to the extent management authority and duties have been delegated by the Constitution, Bylaws, or resolutions of the Synod to other officers and agencies of the Synod.”

In accord with the provisions of the Constitution of the Synod relative to making amendments thereto, the proposed amendment was submitted to the voting congregations of the Synod for ratification. The amendment failed to receive the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast and thus was not adopted. Article XI F 2 therefore continues to read as follows:

2. The Board of Directors is the legal representative of the Synod. It is the custodian of all the property of the Synod, directly or by its delegation of such authority to an agency of the Synod. It shall exercise supervision over all the property and business affairs of the Synod except in those areas where it has delegated such authority to an agency of the Synod or where the voting members of the Synod through the adoption of bylaws or by other convention action have assigned specific areas of responsibility to separate corporate or trust entities, and as to those the Board of Directors shall have general oversight responsibility as set forth in the Bylaws.

The same 2004 convention, however, also adopted Resolution 7-02A, thereby amending Bylaw 1.07 c (now renumbered 1.4.4) by adding language similar to that which had been proposed for Article XI F 2 of the Constitution: “except to the extent management authority and duties have been delegated by the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws, or resolutions of a synodical convention to other officers and agencies of the Synod or to separate corporate or trust entities.”

The Committee recommends retaining the current language of Bylaw 1.4.4 but amending it with the addition of a final sentence to acknowledge that pertinent laws of the State of Missouri must also be taken into consideration when applicable. The bylaw with the proposed amendment reads as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

- 1.4.4 The Board of Directors serves the Synod as its legal representative and as custodian of all property of the Synod, and upon it is incumbent the general management and supervision of the business affairs of the Synod, except to the extent that management authority and duties have been delegated by the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws, or resolutions of a synodical convention to other officers and agencies of the Synod or to separate corporate or trust entities. Each other board of directors, board of regents, and board of trustees also serves the Synod with respect to the property of the Synod, to the extent of its jurisdiction, as provided or authorized in these Bylaws. Upon each such board of the Synod is incumbent the general management and supervision of the business affairs of the Synod to the extent of its jurisdiction. Any issues relative to the applicability of the laws of the State of Missouri shall be resolved in accord with the provisions in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

— III —

Re: Bylaw 3.3.5.4

The Constitution of the Synod provides that the Board of Directors is the legal representative of the Synod (Art. XI F 2). In the course of their operations, program boards, commissions, and councils that are part of corporate Synod may have reason to secure legal opinions. In order to carry out fully its duty as legal representative of the Synod, the 7-02A Committee believes that the Board of Directors should be furnished copies of all such legal opinions so that it is aware of any legal issues involving corporate Synod. Accordingly, the following addition to Bylaw 3.3.5.4 is recommended:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

3.3.5.4 The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the general management of the business and legal affairs of the Synod. It shall receive copies of all legal opinions or written counsel received by program boards, commissions, and councils of the Synod. It and shall be authorized to take on behalf of the Synod any action related to such business and legal affairs which has not been expressly delegated by the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod to other officers or agencies of the Synod, and as to those shall have general oversight responsibility.

— IV —

Re: Bylaw 3.3.5.5 (a)

Program boards and commissions are part of corporate Synod. Their budgets are established by its Board of Directors. Prior to 2004, the Bylaws of the Synod provided that the Board of Directors had “the right to call up for review, criticism, modification, or revocation” any action or policy of a program board, commission, or council except opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. Resolution 7-02A of the 2004 convention amended the bylaw to provide that the Board of Directors could only *request* modification or revocation of an action or policy.

Since the Constitution of the Synod provides that the Board of Directors is the legal representative of the Synod and the custodian of all of the property of the Synod and shall exercise supervision over all of the property and business affairs of the Synod, the 7-02A Committee believes that the 2004 amendment places an inappropriate limitation on the constitutional duties of the Board of Directors. In addition, confusion exists as to the meaning of the words “call up” in the current bylaw. The 7-02A Committee therefore recommends the following revision of Bylaw 3.3.5.5 (a):

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

3.3.5.5 The Board of Directors shall allocate available funds to the program boards, commissions, councils, and departments of corporate Synod and hold them responsible therefor.

(a) To the extent of its responsibilities relative to the general management and supervision of the business and legal affairs of the Synod:

(1) It shall receive such reports as it requests on the operations and policies of the program boards, commissions, and councils.

(2) It shall have the right to ~~call up for request~~ review ~~and criticism, and request modification or revocation of,~~ of any action or policy of a program board, commission, or council which primarily relates to business, property, and/or legal matters and, after consultation with the agency involved and when deemed necessary, require modification or revocation thereof, except opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters.

— V —

Re: Bylaw 3.9.2.1

Bylaw 3.9.2.1 states that the Commission on Constitutional Matters shall consist of “five voting members appointed by the President of the Synod, whose terms shall be for six years renewable once, three of whom shall be ordained ministers and two shall be lawyers.”

Concern has been expressed that the present wording “appointed by the President of the Synod” early in the bylaw could mislead readers to conclude that the only step in the commission selection process is appointment by the President. However, Bylaw 3.9.2.1.1 clearly outlines a progression of steps that includes active participation by district boards of directors, the Secretary of the Synod, and the Council of Presidents. The process only finally concludes with the President of the Synod, in consultation with the vice-presidents of the Synod, appointing the members of the commission from the list(s) presented by the Council of Presidents (Bylaw 3.9.2.1.1 [c]).

While perhaps not specifically or directly related to “the matter” referenced in Resolution 7-02A, the 7-02A Committee believes that confusion can be reduced by removing the words “appointed by the President of the Synod” from Bylaw 3.9.2.1 and recommends that the bylaw be amended to read:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

3.9.2.1 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall consist of

1. five voting members ~~appointed by the President of the Synod,~~ whose terms shall be for six years renewable once, three of whom shall be ordained ministers and two shall be lawyers;
2. the Secretary of the Synod, who shall serve as a non-voting member of the commission and its secretary.

— VI —

Re: Bylaw 3.9.2.1.1

The 7-02A Committee reviewed the present procedure for selecting the members of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The present process begins with the names of nominees being submitted to the Secretary of the Synod by district boards of directors. The names of these nominees and all supporting documents are then forwarded by the Secretary of the Synod to the Council of Presidents, which in turn studies the qualifications of the nominees and then, through the office of the Secretary of the Synod, submits five candidates for each vacant position to the President of the Synod. The President, after consultation

with the vice-presidents of the Synod, appoints one of the five candidates to each vacant position.

This bylaw was amended by the 2001 convention when a final step in the appointment process was eliminated. Prior to this amendment, the appointments by the President of the Synod became effective only upon ratification by a majority vote of the Council of Presidents. While perhaps not specifically or directly related to “the matter” referenced in Resolution 7-02A, the 7-02A Committee believes that the restoration of the final step in the appointment process that was eliminated by the 2001 convention will help to restore confidence in the process. The Committee therefore recommends that current paragraph (d) become paragraph (e) and that a new paragraph (d) be inserted that will again require final ratification by the Council of Presidents of the appointments made by the President of the Synod, the amended bylaw to read as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

3.9.2.1.1 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall be appointed in the following manner:

- (a) Candidates shall be nominated only by the district boards of directors and shall be presented to the Council of Presidents through the Office of the Secretary.
- (b) The Council of Presidents shall select five candidates for each vacant position and present them through the office of the Secretary of the Synod to the President of the Synod.
- (c) The President of the Synod, in consultation with the vice-presidents of the Synod, shall appoint the members of the commission from the list presented by the Council of Presidents.
- (d) Thereafter the appointments shall become effective upon ratification by a majority vote of the members of the Council of Presidents.
- (e) Vacancies in appointed positions shall be filled by following the procedure set forth above.

— VII —

Re: Bylaw 3.9.2.2

(A) Concern has been expressed that on occasion the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has issued an opinion that has affected an officer or agency of the Synod but that such officer or agency was unaware of the question placed before the Commission and thus was unable to furnish information that may have been helpful to the Commission in arriving at its opinion. Current bylaws include no provision for informing and inviting input from officers or agencies affected by requests for opinions. The 7-02A Committee therefore recommends that Bylaw 3.9.2.2 be amended with the addition of new paragraph (b) providing for the notification of an officer or agency when a request for an opinion from the Commission on Constitutional Matters involves an activity of that officer or agency and providing for an invitation to submit in writing pertinent information regarding the matter(s) at issue.

(B) Present Bylaw 3.9.2.2 (b) states that when opinions pertain primarily to business, legal, finance, civil rights, contracts, or property matters, the Commission shall first consult with the Board of Directors of the Synod and/or the

Synod’s legal counsel. The 7-02A Committee recommends that this requirement be eliminated in light of its proposal for the addition of new paragraph (b) whereby the Board as an officer of the Synod (Constitution Art. V) would necessarily be contacted by the Commission.

(C) Concern has also been expressed that the provisions of present paragraph 3.9.2.2 (b), which allows opinions of the Commission to be overruled by a convention of the Synod, be strengthened to make more certain that such opinions receive attention by a convention. The 7-02A Committee recommends that this matter be addressed by a new paragraph (c) to include specific provisions that will assure that convention overtures that seek to overrule opinions of the Commission receive appropriate attention.

(D) Finally, present Bylaw 3.9.2.2 (b) states that the Commission on Constitutional Matters shall interpret the Synod’s Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions. Article XI F 2 of the Synod’s Constitution states that the Board of Directors of the Synod is the legal representative of the Synod and Bylaw 3.3.5.2 states that the Board “shall have the powers and duties that have been accorded to it by the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod, *and the laws of the State of Missouri*” (emphasis added). Thus the Synod requires that the Board be responsive to the laws of the State of Missouri. The Bylaws do not give the Commission on Constitutional Matters the authority to interpret the laws of the State of Missouri. The Board alone is vested with the duty to determine the applicability of such laws as they pertain to the legal, property, and business affairs of the Synod.

Presently there is no clarification in the Bylaws of the Synod for those relatively rare occasions when the Commission on Constitutional Matters may issue an opinion related to a legal, property, or business matter that determines that the Constitution and/or Bylaws and/or resolutions of the Synod require a certain conclusion, while the Board of Directors determines, after consulting with the Synod’s legal counsel, that the laws of the State of Missouri require a different conclusion. 1 Corinthians 6:4 admonishes that disputes should be kept within the church. Accordingly, the 7-02A Committee recommends the creation of a new paragraph (d) for Bylaw 3.9.2.2 to address this situation.

In response to the above concerns, the 7-02A Committee recommends amendments to Bylaw 3.9.2.2 as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

3.9.2.2 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall interpret the Synod’s Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions upon the written request of a member (congregation, ordained or commissioned minister), official, board, commission, or agency of the Synod.

- (a) A request for an opinion may be accompanied by a request for an appearance before the commission.
- (b) The commission shall notify an officer or agency of the Synod if a request for an opinion involves an activity of that officer or agency and shall allow that officer or agency to submit in writing information regarding the matter(s) at issue.
- (c) An opinion rendered by the commission shall be binding on the question decided unless and until it is overruled by a convention of the Synod. Over-

tures to a convention that seek to overrule an opinion of the commission shall support the proposed action with substantive rationale from the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod. All such overtures shall be considered by the floor committee to which they have been assigned and shall be included in a specific report to the convention with recommendations for appropriate action.

- (d) When an opinion pertains primarily to business, legal, finance, civil rights, contracts, or property matters, and the Board of Directors of the Synod concludes that such opinion of the commission is contrary to the laws of the State of Missouri, the board and the commission, or their respective representatives, shall meet jointly to discuss the issue(s) and seek resolution thereof first consult with the Board of Directors of the Synod and/or the Synod's legal counsel. If agreement cannot be reached on whether the matter is governed by the laws of the State of Missouri, that question shall be presented to a five-member panel consisting of three hearing facilitators (Bylaw 1.10.12) chosen by blind draw by the Executive Director of Internal Audit of the Synod from the pool of hearing facilitators; one person appointed by the Commission on Constitutional Matters; and one person appointed by the Board of Directors. At least one of the hearing facilitators shall be an attorney, and the appointees of the commission and board shall not be members of the groups that appointed them. The decision of the panel in support of the position of the Commission on Constitutional Matters or the Board of Directors shall be binding on the issue(s) unless and until it is overruled by a convention of the Synod.

Appendix A

To Amend Synodical Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Regarding Officer and Board Responsibilities

RESOLUTION 7-02A

Report LR1-8 (TB, pp. 21–27); Overtures 7-06, 7-27, 7-80–84, 7-112–117 (CW, pp. 250–251, 260, 277–278, 287–289); L7-122 (TB, p. 37); L7-123 (TB, pp. 239–240)

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors and the Synod's legal counsel recognize that the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws of the Synod require amendments to clarify the roles of the officers, including the Board of Directors, and other boards and to reflect other changes since they were last amended in 1998; and

Whereas, President Kieschnick in his *Special Report to the Convention* (LR 1-8, TB, pp. 21–27) reported, "In accord with the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod it is my duty as President to report to the Synod that the Board of Directors of the LCMS (BOD/Board) has taken actions that 'may be in violation of the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod' (Bylaw 3.101 B 5)"; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors has repeatedly indicated its desire to restore peace and harmony in the Synod; and

WHEREAS, If some of the following changes to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws had been in place, the impasse between the Board of Directors and the bylaws that refer to the binding nature of the opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters [Bylaws 3.905 d and 3.183 D 2] would not have occurred; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Articles of Incorporation be amended to read as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

Article III Membership

Membership in the corporation is held and may be acquired by congregations, ministers of religion—ordained, and ministers of religion—commissioned, as defined by the Constitution and Bylaws, such as teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of Christian outreach, directors of parish music, deaconesses, parish assistants, and certified lay ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church who confess and accept the confessional basis of Article II of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The member congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall be the voting members of the corporation. Congregations shall exercise their voting power through clergy and lay delegates distributed among the member congregations in such number as may be determined from time to time by the Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Article V Officers

The corporation shall have a Board of Directors of such number and qualifications and who shall be elected in such manner and for such terms of office as shall be set forth in the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In addition, the corporation shall have other officers having such qualifications and who shall be elected or appointed in such manner and for such terms of office as provided for in the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The management authority and duties of the Board of Directors of the Synod shall be limited to the extent such authority and duties are delegated by the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to other officers and agencies of the Synod. The management authority and duties of the Board of Directors and such other officers and agencies shall be defined in the Constitution and Bylaws, and each of them shall be responsible to the Synod for the proper and prudent fulfillment of the authority and duties so delegated to them. In the case of any conflict or uncertainty in determining the authority and duties of the Board of Directors and such other officers and agencies, the opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters interpreting the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall be binding, unless and until overruled by a synodical convention.

and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 1.07 c, regarding the Board of Directors be amended to read as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

- c. The Board of Directors serves the Synod as its legal representative and as custodian of all property of the Synod, and upon it is incumbent the general management and supervision of the business affairs of the Synod, except to the extent management authority and duties have been delegated by the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws, or

resolutions of a synodical convention to other officers and agencies of the Synod or to separate corporate or trust entities. Each other board of directors, board of regents, and board of trustees also serves the Synod with respect to the property of the Synod, to the extent of its jurisdiction, as provided or authorized in these Bylaws. Upon each such board of the Synod is incumbent the general management and supervision of the business affairs of the Synod to the extent of its jurisdiction. Also, each board of directors, board of regents, and board of trustees shall, to the extent of its jurisdiction, between conventions and subject to advice or direction from any other appropriate board that has been given authority by these Bylaws or by convention resolution, (1) determine general operating policies, (2) approve program budgets, (3) allocate resources for such programs, (4) review program performance, and (5) coordinate the administration of convention resolutions. Each board of directors shall also be empowered to settle disputes within that corporate entity. Each board shall report its activities and recommendation to the respective convention.

and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.51 c be amended to read:

~~PRESENT/PROPOSED~~ WORDING

c. *Corporate Synod*: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Missouri nonprofit corporation, including the ~~program boards, commissions, and all other~~ departments operating under the supervision of the Board of Directors of the Synod and the program boards and commissions of the Synod. “Corporate Synod” is ~~a term to define that portion of the Synod for which the Synod’s Board of Directors has direct responsibility, and is~~ not an agency of the Synod. Worker Benefit Plans, while operating under the supervision of the Board of Directors, is a trust agency whose assets are not the property of corporate Synod. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in referencing the laws of the State of Missouri in these Bylaws and in the Synod’s Articles of Incorporation, intends to acknowledge its responsibility to be subject to civil authority. In all such references, however, the Synod intends to retain all authority and autonomy allowed a church under the laws and Constitution of the United States and the State of Missouri.

and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.183 d 2 regarding the Board of Directors be amended to read:

~~PRESENT/PROPOSED~~ WORDING

2. ~~It shall have the right to call up for review, criticism, modification, or revocation any action or policy of a program board, commission, or council, except opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. It shall have the right to call up for review and criticism, and to request modifica-~~

tion or revocation of, any action or policy of a program board, commission, or council, except opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters.

and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.905 d regarding the Commission on Constitutional Matters be amended to read:

~~PRESENT/PROPOSED~~ WORDING

d. interpret the Synod’s Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions upon the written request of a member (congregation, ordained or commissioned minister), official, board, commission, entity, or agency of the Synod. Such a request may be accompanied by a request for an appearance before the commission. An opinion rendered by the commission shall be binding on the question decided unless and until it is overruled by a synodical convention. When opinions pertain primarily to business, legal, finance, civil rights, contracts, or property matters, the commission shall first consult with the Board of Directors and/or the Synod’s legal counsel.

and be it further

Resolved, That the convention consider this action as resolving the current difficulty but directs the President and Board of Directors jointly to appoint a committee to address the matter and report to the 2007 convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the convention overrules the resolutions of the Board of Directors referenced in Appendix A of the President’s special report found on pages 24–26 of *Today’s Business* and declares that they are of no effect; and be it finally

Resolved, That the convention pray for peace and harmony in the Synod as it moves forward in mission and ministry.

Action: Adopted (6)

(The committee invoked Special Standing Rule 6 as it presented its resolution, noting changes to the second-last resolve in the printed version of the resolution replacing the word *thank* with *overrules the resolutions of*, deleting the words *for rescinding its resolutions*, and adding the words *and declares that they are of no effect*. Prior to the elapse of the time allowed for discussion, debate was ended and the resolution was adopted as presented [Yes: 654; No: 541]. A motion to allow the chairman of the Board of Directors 15 minutes to address the assembly failed. Upon request of the delegate responsible for the motion, permission was granted to allow delegates the opportunity to request in writing to have their votes on the motion recorded.)

Resolution 7-02A Committee
Walter Tesch, *Chairman*

LATE OVERTURES

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

The first of the following overtures (L1-19, L2-26, L3-106, L6-07, and L8-72) were originally submitted prior to the deadline for reports and overtures but were returned to the submitting entities for consideration of minor changes to address concerns regarding content. These overtures subsequently were returned with concerns addressed but too late for inclusion in the convention's *Workbook*. They are included here.

The remainder of these overtures (L1-18, L3-105, L4-38, L5-39, and L7-63) were submitted after the deadline for reports and overtures and are true late overtures, each judged according to Bylaw 3.1.6 (a) "to be a matter of overriding importance and urgency which is not adequately covered by documents already before the convention."

L1-19

To Support Chicago Racetrack Ministry

WHEREAS, The Reverend David Krueckeberg, better known to the people whom he serves as "Reverend Dave," is an ordained minister of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who has served with distinction as a minister for the workers of the thoroughbred horse racetracks in the Chicago area since 1969; and

WHEREAS, He was the first full-time racetrack minister in the United States and his ministry has served as a model for racetrack ministry for the Christian Church at large; and

WHEREAS, He has been licensed by the State of Illinois for 38 years to have access to the people who live and work in the stable areas of the racetracks; and

WHEREAS, He has conducted a unique, but thriving seven days a week ministry to those who care for the horses that could not be done easily by a parish pastor, since state law restricts access to the stable area to licensed personnel and since many of the grooms, hot-walkers, exercise riders, and other workers work long hours seven days a week that hinder their involvement in a typical congregation, and many lack transportation to leave the racetrack; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dave, in addition to preaching the Gospel, has tried to help racetrackers meet some of their most basic physical needs (including electricity, indoor plumbing, and water quality); and

WHEREAS, It is not good for any mortal to prevent a pastor from exercising his holy stewardship over Word and Sacrament; and

WHEREAS, One of the purposes for which The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was organized and exists is to support pastors from unjust removal from their ministry; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dave has been barred by the Hawthorne Race Course from ministering to racetrackers

in both the public and the nonpublic areas of the racetrack and by the Arlington Park Racetrack, which is owned by Churchill Downs, Inc., from ministering to racetrackers in the nonpublic areas of the racetrack; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dave had been allowed to conduct services within a two-hour period each week in the nonpublic stable area at the Hawthorne Race Course, but even that privilege was revoked on March 31, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dave has repeatedly not been allowed to do grief ministry to the families of deceased workers who live and work in the nonpublic stable areas of the racetracks immediately following the death of a loved one, even though he had a pastoral relationship with the families; and

WHEREAS, There has been a significant decrease in the number of Baptisms among racetrackers and their families since Reverend Dave has been denied full access to the stable areas of the racetrack; and

WHEREAS, There has been a 40 percent decline in the number of racetrack children enrolled at Grace Lutheran School since Reverend Dave has been denied full access to the stable areas of the racetracks, and it is anticipated that enrollment will continue to decline if he continues to be barred from his ministry; and

WHEREAS, The owners and managers of the Hawthorne Race Course and the Arlington Park Racetrack have rebuffed numerous requests for the reinstatement of the ministry of Reverend Dave; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dave's plight has been featured in the *English Channels*, the *Northern Light*, *Reporter*, *The Lutheran Witness*, and in the local secular press, including the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the *Daily Herald*, and the *Pioneer Press*, and Reverend Dave has been commended by our Synod President, Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, and by five district presidents whose districts include Hawthorne Race Course and all racetracks owned by Churchill Downs, Inc.; and

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention publicly commend Reverend Dave for his labors and publicly support his ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention in the names of our 2.4 million members find Hawthorne Race Course and Arlington Park Racetrack's actions unacceptable; and be it further

Resolved, That the 2007 LCMS convention formally request that the owners of Arlington Park and Hawthorne racetracks allow Reverend Dave the access he previously had to the racetrackers at those racetracks to continue his ministry among God's people.

Trinity, Villa Park, IL
Trinity, Chicago, IL
Markham, Markham, IL
New Life, Hugo, MN

L2-26

To Promote Sound Lutheran Worship Practices

WHEREAS, The first Synod Constitution was concerned about the Synod's congregations adopting the camp revivals of common American religion, saying,

1. "Especially is Synod to investigate whether its pastors have permitted themselves to be misled into applying the so-called 'New Measures' which have become prevalent here, or whether they care for their souls according to the sound Scriptural manner of the orthodox Church" (VI, A, 15), and
2. "Furthermore Synod deems it necessary for the purification of the Lutheran Church in America, that the emptiness and the poverty in the externals of the service be opposed, which, having been introduced here by the false spirit of the Reformed, is now rampant. All pastors and congregations that wish to be recognized as orthodox by Synod are prohibited from adopting or retaining any ceremony which might weaken the confession of the truth or condone or strengthen a heresy, especially if heretics insist upon the continuation or the abolishment of such ceremonies" (VI, A, 14b);

and

WHEREAS, The present Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Art. III, point 7 states one of the objectives of our Synod,

1. "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";
2. And point 1 states another objective of our Synod, "Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith...and provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy";
3. And 2004 Synod Bylaw 4.4.4 (b), directs the district president or his representative saying, "In his official visits he shall seek to bring about to the greatest possible degree the achievement of the Synod's objectives as expressed in Art. III of its Constitution"; and

WHEREAS, Art. VI of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod lists as one of the conditions for acquiring and holding membership in the Synod,

1. "Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda, hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school";
2. And Synod Bylaw 3.9.7.2 (c) (1) states, "All service books and hymnals 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."
3. Synod Bylaw 3.9.7.2 (c) lists as one of the functions and duties of the Commission on Worship, "Recommend worship material to the church and advise and warn against the use of worship materials that are unworthy of use in the corporate worship of the Lutheran Church," thereby implying that not all worship materials are helpful;

and

WHEREAS, In the not too distant past the Commission on Worship in its report "Reflections on Contemporary/Alternative Worship" (1998 *Workbook*) warns against too hastily departing from "the historic pattern of worship that has been handed down for nearly 2,000 years," stating, "Wor-

ship is closely related to other concerns, such as the unity of the church, formation in the faith, and faithfulness to the Word of God. A change in worship may indeed signal a change in doctrine. 'What is prayed is what is believed' is the ancient wisdom of the church. Our Synod founders provided in their constitutions that only 'purely Lutheran hymnals, agendas, and textbooks' could be used in the congregations of the Synod. Out of faithfulness to God, love for the lost, and concern for future generations, Christians must pay careful attention to what is confessed in the public worship of the church," and "Not every form of expression is compatible with the Gospel. Certain styles of music, for example, are less appropriate than others for the worship of God's people. For this reason it is essential that the music appropriately serve the text and not overpower it with other messages. Style, after all, is not neutral, but is intrinsically bound up with the substance that it proclaims"; and

Present Synodical Practice

WHEREAS, Our Synod President in his first report to the 2004 convention states, "In the past few decades, numerous congregations of the LCMS have introduced 'contemporary' worship forms and music in addition to and, in some instances, even in place of traditional liturgies and hymnody. The conditions of membership in the Synod require 'Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda, hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school (LCMS Constitution, Art. VI).' This presents a dilemma, since our Synod has not specifically stipulated what these "doctrinally pure" contemporary worship resources for use by our congregations and professional church workers must be...Whether traditional or contemporary, worship services in congregations of the LCMS must employ doctrinally pure resources for the basic elements of distinctively Lutheran Christian worship...The proper utilization of any form must always provide a proper setting for receiving the divine gifts of God and giving praise and glory to our triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit"; and

WHEREAS, 2004 Res. 2-04 directed the Commission on Worship to "initiate a process toward the development of diverse worship resources for use in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod"; and

WHEREAS, Our President is correct when he concludes, saying, "The proper utilization of any form must always provide a proper setting for receiving the divine gifts of God and giving praise and glory to our triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit"; and

WHEREAS, "Evangelical Protestant Revivalism" has the following characteristics where human measures are relied upon to do the work of Word and Sacrament:

- Sturdy doctrinal hymns are replaced with simplistic repetitive praise songs.
- Doctrinal sermons are replaced with chancel dramas or how-to sermons for Christian living.
- Creativity and variety are used to keep the experience relevant.
- Worship is made meaningful by meeting the felt needs of the worshiper.

- Sacramental emphasis is diminished, while sacrificial (prayer, praise, testimonial, etc.) is highlighted.
- Lay service leadership is increased and brought to the front.
- The Pastor's role is seen primarily as leading and equipping the laity.
- Entertainment practices and music appeal to and manipulate the emotions.
- Worship is seen as evangelism and therefore must be understandable and appealing to the non-Christian;

And thus "Evangelical Protestant Revivalism" (which most refer to as Contemporary Worship) is none other than the heterodox worship of modern generic Protestants and non-denominational churches. Those "Lutherans" who hold to the false tenets of the Church Growth movement fall into the same errors; AND

WHEREAS, This "Evangelical Protestant Revivalism"

- (1) is not centered in the doctrine of justification, but views worship primarily as something I do for God. It has good works (sanctification) as its goal, not the forgiveness of sins;
- (2) believes that the Word of God (substance) needs something else (style) in order to be effective. The correct application of Law and Gospel is replaced with an emphasis on approach (methods), and appeals to the felt needs and desires of people; and
- (3) justifies its changes on the practical grounds of evangelism and increased church attendance. By appealing to observable results, it does what "works." In order to reach people, it uses entertainment methods to move the emotions and it waters down the content of the Christian faith in order not to offend; and

Style and Substance (a false division)

WHEREAS, Lutherans put complete and utter trust in the Holy Spirit working through the Word of God (including the Word-instituted Sacraments) to accomplish God's purpose of creating and strengthening faith. Contemporary Worship likes to say that they are simply using Evangelical style but keeping Lutheran substance. Those who think that they can increase the effectiveness of God's Word by jazzing up the service, etc., are directing attention away from the Word alone to other causes. At no point is there ever another cause or reason for a person coming to faith. Neither is there ever anything besides the Holy Spirit working through the Word that keeps us in the true faith or strengthens our faith in Christ. AC, VIII: "The sacraments are efficacious even if the priests who administer them are wicked men, for as Christ himself indicated, 'The Pharisees sit on Moses' seat' (Matt. 23:2). Accordingly the Donatists and all others who hold contrary views are condemned." Ap, XIII, 13: "It is good to extol the ministry of the Word with every possible kind of praise in opposition to the fanatics who dream that the Holy Spirit does not come through the Word but because of their own preparations." John 6:63: "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." Also see 1 Cor. 3:1–7: "God gave the increase," and FC, SD, II, 48; and

Pre-Evangelism (Word + something)

WHEREAS, To think that our own words and actions could better prepare someone to hear the Word or make them more receptive to the Word is a denial of original sin. FC, SD, II, 5: "Against both of these parties {*one being the Enthusiasts*} the pure teachers of the Augsburg Confession have taught and argued that through the fall of our first parents man is so corrupted that in divine things, concerning our conversion and salvation, he is by nature blind and does not and cannot understand the Word of God when it is preached, but considers it foolishness; nor does he of himself approach God, but he is and remains an enemy of God until by the power of the Holy Spirit, through the Word which is preached and heard, purely out of grace and without any cooperation on his part, he is converted, becomes a believer, is regenerated and renewed." FC, Ep, II, 7, 19: "Likewise we reject and condemn the error of the Enthusiasts who imagine that God draws men to himself, enlightens them, justifies them, and saves them without means, without the hearing of God's Word and without the use of the holy sacraments.... Prior to man's conversion there are only two efficient causes, namely, the Holy Spirit and the Word of God as the Holy Spirit's instrument whereby he effects conversion. Man should hear this Word, though he cannot give it credence and accept it by his own powers but solely by the grace and operation of God the Holy Spirit." SC, III, VIII, 10: "Accordingly, we should and must constantly maintain that God will not deal with us except through his external Word and sacrament. Whatever is attributed to the Spirit apart from such Word and sacrament is of the devil."

1 Cor. 2:6–14: "We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him'— but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned" (NIV). Also see 2 Cor. 10:3–6 and Rom. 8:5–8; and

Doctrine of Justification (Central Article)

WHEREAS, The Doctrine of Justification is the main doctrine of Christianity by which the church stands or falls. Note the logical progression from these excerpts from Articles IV. Justification, V. Pastoral Office, and VI. Good

Works of the Augsburg Confession. Therefore, everything the church does either directs us to the forgiveness of sins or flows out of it. Therefore, scripturally faithful worship is concerned with giving out the faith-creating and faith-strengthening message of justification. The scriptural understanding of worship is one in which God serves us with His Word and Sacraments (Rom. 10:17; 1 Cor. 4:1), and we receive His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation with thanksgiving and praise. AC, IV: "We receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us." AC, V: "To obtain such faith God instituted the office of the ministry, 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. And the Gospel teaches that we have a gracious God, not by our own merits but by the merit of Christ, when we believe this." AC, VI: "It is also taught among us that such faith should produce good fruits and good works and that we must do all such good works as God has commanded, but we should do them for God's sake and not place our trust in them as if thereby to merit favor before God. 2 For we receive forgiveness of sin and righteousness through faith in Christ, as (tr-47) Christ himself says, 'So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, "We are unworthy servants"' (Luke 17:10)." 1 Cor. 3:8-11: "Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Rom. 1:16-17: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'" 2 Thess. 2:13-15: "But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle." AC, XIII: "It is taught among us that the sacraments were instituted not only to be signs by which people might be identified outwardly as Christians, but that they are signs and testimonies of God's will toward us for the purpose of awakening and strengthening our faith. For this reason they require faith, and they are rightly used when they are received in faith and for the purpose of strengthening faith." Ap, IV, 49: "It is easy to determine the difference between this faith and the righteousness of the law. Faith is that worship which receives God's offered blessing; the righteousness of the law is that worship which offers God our own merits. It is by faith that God wants to be wor-

shipped, namely, that we receive from him what he promises and offers." Col. 1:3-8: "We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, who also declared to us your love in the Spirit." 2 Peter 1:5-11: "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Also see Rom. 10:14-18, 21; and

Practical Appeal to Results

WHEREAS, The Scriptures and the Confessions seek real growth in faith and Christian knowledge: Ap, IV, 130: "Although it is somewhat possible to do civil works, that is, the outward works of the law, without Christ and the Holy Spirit, still the impulses of the heart toward God, belonging to the essence of the divine law, are impossible without the Holy Spirit; this is evident from what we have already said. 131 But our opponents are fine theologians! They look at the second table and political works; about the first table they care nothing, as though it were irrelevant, or at best they require only outward acts of worship. They utterly overlook that eternal law, far beyond the senses and understanding of all creatures: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart' (Deut. 6:5)." Ap, VII and VIII, 5: "The church is not merely an association of outward ties and rites like other civic governments, however, but it is mainly an association of faith and of the Holy Spirit in men's hearts. To make it recognizable, this association has outward marks, the pure teaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments in harmony with the Gospel of Christ. This church alone is called the body of Christ, which Christ renews, consecrates, and governs by his Spirit, as Paul testifies when he says (Eph. 1:22, 23), 'And he has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness,' that is, the whole congregation 'of him who fills all in all.' Thus those in whom Christ is not active are not members of Christ." Ap, VII and VIII, 12-15: "But when we come to define the church, we must define that which is the living body of Christ and is the church in fact as well as in name. We must understand what it is that chiefly makes us members, and living members, of the church. If we were to define the church as only

an outward organization embracing both the good and the wicked, then men would not understand that the kingdom of Christ is the righteousness of the heart and the gift of the Holy Spirit but would think of it as only the outward observance of certain devotions and rituals. Then, too, what difference will there be between the church and the Old Testament people? Yet Paul distinguishes the church from the Old Testament people by the fact that the church is a spiritual people, separated from the heathen not by civil rites but by being God's true people, reborn by the Holy Spirit. Among the Old Testament people, those born according to the flesh had promises about physical well-being, political affairs, etc. in addition to the promise about Christ. Because of these promises even the wicked among them were called the people of God inasmuch as God had separated these physical descendants from other nations by certain outward ordinances and promises. Nevertheless, these evil people did not please God. But the Gospel brings not the shadow of eternal things but the eternal blessings themselves, the Holy Spirit and the righteousness by which we are righteous before God." 1 Cor. 10:1–5: "Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness." Heb. 11:6: "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Gal. 3:1–5: "O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" Matt. 6:1–4: "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you"; and

Lutheran Confessions

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Confessions give many positive statements concerning their use of the historic pattern of worship, stating, "Falsely are our churches accused of abolishing the Mass {that is, *Service of Holy Communion*}; **for the Mass {Service of Holy Communion} is retained among us, and celebrated with the highest rever-**

ence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved, save that the parts sung in Latin are interspersed here and there with German hymns, which have been added to teach the people. **For ceremonies are needed to this end alone that the unlearned be taught [what they need to know of Christ].**.... It does not, therefore, appear that the Mass {*Service of Holy Communion*} is more devoutly celebrated among our adversaries than among us" (Augsburg Confession, XXIV, 1–4, 9), and "**And the usual public ceremonies are observed, the series of lessons, of prayers, vestments, and other like things**" (Apology, XXIV, 1), and "But they {*the holy Fathers*} observed human rites for the sake of bodily advantage, that the people might know at what time they should assemble; that, for the sake of example all things in the churches might be done in order and becomingly; lastly, that the common people might receive a sort of training. For the distinctions of times and the variety of rites are of service in admonishing the common people. The Fathers had these reasons for maintaining the rites, and for these reasons we also judge it to be right that traditions [good customs] be maintained....**But we cheerfully maintain the old traditions** [as, the three high festivals, the observance of Sunday, and the like] made in the Church for the sake of usefulness and tranquility; and we interpret them in a more moderate way, to the exclusion of the opinion which holds that they justify. **And our enemies falsely accuse us of abolishing good ordinances and church-discipline. For we can truly declare that the public form of the churches is more becoming with us than with the adversaries (that the true worship of God is observed in our churches in a more Christian, honorable way).** And if any one will consider it aright, we conform to the canons more truly than do the adversaries," (Apology, XV, 20–21, 38–39), and "Nevertheless, **very many traditions are kept on our part, which conduce to good order in the Church, as the Order of Lessons in the Mass {Service of Holy Communion} and the chief holy-days.** But, at the same time, men are warned that such observances do not justify before God, and that in such things it should not be made sin if they be omitted without offense. Such liberty in human rites was not unknown to the Fathers," (Augsburg Confession, XXVI, 40–42), and "Only those things have been recounted whereof we thought that it was necessary to speak, in order that it might be understood that **in doctrine and ceremonies nothing has been received on our part against Scripture or the Church Catholic.** For it is manifest that we have taken most diligent care that no new and ungodly doctrine should creep into our churches," (Augsburg Confession, Conclusion, 5); and

Concerning Adiaphora

WHEREAS, Although the Formula of Concord teaches "that the ceremonies or church usages which are neither commanded nor forbidden in the Word of God, but which have been introduced solely for the sake of good order and the general welfare, are in and for themselves no divine worship or even a part of it," the Formula goes on to explain that even in these areas of *adiaphora* (indifferent things,

neither commanded nor forbidden) there can be appropriate decisions concerning use. “We believe, teach, and confess that in time of persecution, when a clear-cut confession of faith is demanded of us, we dare not yield to the enemies in such indifferent things, as the apostle Paul writes, ‘For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery’ (Gal. 5:1)...In such a case it is no longer a question of indifferent things, but a matter which has to do with the truth of the Gospel, Christian liberty, and the sanctioning of public idolatry, as well as preventing offense to the weak in faith. In all these things we have no concessions to make, but we should witness an unequivocal confession and suffer in consequence what God sends us and what he lets the enemies inflict on us”; therefore be it

Resolved, That we remind one another of the promise we have made to use “doctrinally pure agenda, hymnbooks, and catechisms,” both to preserve the truth and for the sake of good order; and be it further

Resolved, That out of love for each other congregations of the LCMS be strongly urged to seek as much uniformity in ceremonies as possible; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be urged to adopt and use approved Synod hymnals; and be it further

Resolved, That 2004 Res. 2-04 not be understood to endorse the use of Evangelical Protestant Revival or neo-Evangelical worship forms or to encourage deviation from agreed-upon forms when it resolved that the Synod “affirm respect for diversity in worship practices as we build greater understanding of our theology of worship”; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the Synod, the Council of Presidents, the seminaries, the universities and colleges, and the Commission on Worship continue to find ways to foster discussion among groups with diverse viewpoints for the purpose of building greater understanding of our theology of worship and fostering further discussion of worship practices that are consistent with sound Lutheran theology and practice; and be it further

Resolved, That the Southern Illinois District (SID) in convention (2006) directs her district president to undertake a visitation with particular emphasis at looking at the worship offered at every SID congregation in order to “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” (LCMS Constitution, Art. III 7); and

1. “To seek to bring about to the greatest possible degree the achievement of the Synod’s objectives as expressed in Article III of its Constitution” (2004 Synod Bylaw 4.4.4b);
2. “To conserve and promote the unity of the true faith...and provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom 16:17), and heresy” (LCMS Constitution, Art. III 1); and
3. To determine whether there is an “Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda, hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school” (LCMS Constitution, Art. VI 4).

(Note: The district president always has the right to direct his vice-presidents and circuit counselors to assist him in the endeavor); and be it further

Resolved, That the Southern Illinois District (SID) in convention (2006) direct the district president to present a report to the 2009 SID convention concerning his findings and the actions he has taken; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Southern Illinois District in convention (2006) memorialize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention (2007) to clarify that 2004 Res. 2-04 is not to be understood to endorse the use of Evangelical Protestant Revival or neo-Evangelical worship forms or to encourage deviation from agreed-upon forms when it resolved that the Synod “affirm respect for diversity in worship practices as we build greater understanding of our theology of worship.”

Board of Directors
Southern Illinois

L3-106

To Recognize Greater Specificity re Functions of the Pastor Office

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and “every member of the Synod, accepts without reservation: 1. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice; 2. All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God, to wit: the three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Large Catechism of Luther, the Small Catechism of Luther, and the Formula of Concord” (LCMS Constitution, Article II); and

WHEREAS, On the basis of Holy Scripture, the LCMS has directed, as recently as its most recent convention (2004 Res. 3-08A), that service in the Office of the Holy Ministry (*i.e.*, as ordained pastors) be restricted to men, and that women not serve in this office, and

WHEREAS, The above specified resolution (2004 Res. 3-08A) goes so far as to state, “Therefore be it *Resolved*, that the Synod affirm that women on the basis of the clear teaching of Scripture may not serve in the office of pastor *nor exercise any of its distinctive functions*” (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, It is self-evident that “distinctive functions” of the pastoral office include far more than the minimalistic view of the pastor being simply present, vested, pronouncing the Absolution, preaching the sermon, and consecrating the elements for Holy Communion, but also leading the liturgy, offering the prayers, the distribution of Communion, and other duties involved with the role of the vested leader of worship; and

WHEREAS, Loose definitions of pastoral functions, particularly concerning roles in public worship, often result in the “minimalistic view” described in the previous WHEREAS, and, subsequently, may also open the door for women to appear vested (even without the pastoral stole specifically) in vestments specifically for liturgical leaders of worship (as opposed to choir robes) to carry out such “distinctive functions”; and

WHEREAS, 2004 Res. 3-08A does not simply expand privileges granted to women but also restricts how they may function in the above regard (in other words, the resolution is to function “both ways” as necessary, being more restrictive when necessary and not just allowing for increased privilege); therefore be it

Resolved, That Synod in convention reaffirm that the Office of the Holy Ministry, that is, the office of pastor, is to be exercised only by men; and be it further

Resolved, That Synod in convention also reaffirm 2004 Res. 3-08A’s statement that “women on the basis of the clear teaching of Scripture may not serve in the office of pastor *nor exercise any of its distinctive functions*” (emphasis added); and be it further

Resolved, That Synod in convention recognize that the “distinctive functions” of the pastoral office include far more than the minimalistic view of the pastor being simply present, vested, pronouncing the Absolution, preaching the sermon, and consecrating the elements for Holy Communion, but also leading the liturgy, offering the prayers, the distribution of Communion, and other duties involved with the role of the vested leader or leaders of worship (as per the fourth WHEREAS); and be it further

Resolved, That Synod in convention also recognize that, in respect to vestments, an obvious difference exists between vestments meant for the liturgical leaders of worship and vestments for members of the choir, junior confirmands, etc., and acknowledge that women should not be seen in the former (even without a pastor’s stole specifically) but that, insofar as a woman is participating in the choir, as musician, etc., that to appear in the latter is fine and good, even edifying and beneficial; and be it finally

Resolved, That, in every case where women currently serve in such a way as to carry out functions of the pastoral office as described in this overture/resolution, this practice be brought to an immediate end, to be enforced by the authorities of the LCMS district(s) in which these practices occur.

Trinity, Clinton, MA

L6-07

To Develop Abuse Education Materials and Programs

WHEREAS, Domestic violence in this country has reached epidemic proportions, with 31 percent of women experiencing physical assault from a partner¹, and 40 percent of teenage girls age 14–17 reporting knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend²; and

WHEREAS, In 1992, Synod President Dr. Alvin Barry recognized the gravity of this issue and convened the President’s Commission on Women to look into the problem of sexual misconduct in the church; and

WHEREAS, Although, in 2001, this commission produced and distributed to pastors two booklets entitled *Never Will I Leave You: A Pastor’s Handbook on Domestic Violence* and *Has God Abandoned Me?: A Christian Woman’s Guide to Domestic Violence*, these booklets are no longer in print; and

WHEREAS, Child abuse in this country has also reached epidemic proportions, with 2.5 million cases of child abuse reported each year³ and the actual incidence estimated at

three times that amount⁴, with one in three girls and one in seven boys sexually abused prior to the age of 18⁵; and

Whereas, Due to advances in technology via the Internet, pornography is more readily available than ever before and pedophilia attempts are escalating at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, Clergy sexual misconduct constitutes a portion of the abuse problem, and each congregation has a responsibility to monitor these situations and to protect parishioners from this type of misconduct; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is primarily perpetrated against females (95 percent of assaults are committed by men⁶), child abuse affects both males and females equally, so that in all cases, churches needs to equip themselves to deal with both female and male victims and perpetrators; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod appoint a committee, at the Synod President’s discretion, to examine these issues and provide materials and trained individuals to assist districts, congregations, and schools in addressing abuse and ministering to the spiritual needs of those struggling with the effects of abuse; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod make these same materials and training available to seminary students; and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) examine these issues and comment specifically on the topics of forgiveness, repentance, and reconciliation in the context of abuse situations.

Notes

1. The Commonwealth Fund, *Health Concerns across a Woman’s Lifespan: 1998 Survey of Women’s Health*, May 1999.
2. Children Now/Kaiser Permanente poll, December 1995.
3. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, “Child Maltreatment 2001” (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2003). Online summary of findings: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cm01/outcover.htm>.
4. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. “Third National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect: Final Report (NIS-3)” (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, September 1996).
5. From the Faith Trust Institute Web site: http://www.faithtrustinstitute.org/indcx.php?p=Q_%26_A&s=49.
6. Bureau of Justice Statistics Selected Findings: *Violence between Intimates* (NCJ-149259), November 1994, and “A Report of the Violence against Women Research Strategic Planning Workshop” sponsored by the National Institute of Justice in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1995.

Holy Cross, Mahwah, NJ
Bethlehem, Ridgewood, NJ
Redeemer, Westfield, NJ

L8-72

To Condemn Lawsuits and Encourage Repentance and Use of Dispute Resolution Process

Whereas, God has clearly stated in 1 Cor. 6 His intent that brothers in the faith not enter into lawsuits against one another: “If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church! I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? But instead, one brother goes to law against another—and this in front of unbelievers! The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brother” (1 Cor. 6:1–8); and,

WHEREAS, Some members of our Synod initiated a lawsuit against our church and our elected leaders, commonly named the Anderson lawsuit, suggesting in it that not only our President and First Vice-President “for their own personal gain embarked upon a scheme to perpetuate themselves in office by evading and avoiding the official Missouri Bylaws of the LCMS” (see point 7 of the Anderson lawsuit), but also members of the Council of Presidents and district boards of directors, insofar as they complied with “sham requests” for exceptions solicited by our President and First Vice-President (see point 11 of the Anderson lawsuit); and

WHEREAS, This lawsuit is groundless and seeks to overturn elections and resolutions voted on by a convention delegate majority in the 2004 convention; and

WHEREAS, This is not only an unscriptural action for Christians but also a waste of over \$480,000 of Synod’s mission money and personnel; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 2007 convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod condemn this lawsuit against our church; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage these pastors and congregations to repent of their error and truly “build the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:12) by living as Christians in word and deed; and be it finally

Resolved, That these fellow Christians be encouraged to work within our dispute resolution process to resolve any disagreements they have with the decisions the majority of our delegates made in the 2004 convention.

Trinity
Roselle, IL

L1-18

To End Joint Campus Ministry with ELCA

WHEREAS, Synod in convention (2001) declared that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) can no

longer be considered an orthodox Lutheran church body (Res. 3-21A); and

WHEREAS, There remain many areas where significant changes have occurred in the doctrine and practice of the ELCA where our Synod in all its entities has yet to respond, and where decades-old agreements with the ELCA’s predecessor bodies remain in effect as if these changes never took place; and

WHEREAS, It is an insufficient response merely to express disappointment or declare the ELCA to no longer be an orthodox Lutheran church body, while continuing to maintain joint ministries that bear witness that there are no differences between our two church bodies; and

WHEREAS, As long as joint campus ministry arrangements exist between the ELCA and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), our LCMS college students will be subject to heterodox doctrine and pastoral care; and

WHEREAS, Given the nature of the fellowship agreements that the ELCA has entered into, ELCA college students can now receive pastoral care from various other denominational campus ministries, making agreements no longer a necessity; and

WHEREAS, The retreat from traditional, confessional Lutheranism has been unfolding in the ELCA and its predecessor bodies for decades, with the ELCA showing no signs of returning to doctrinal orthodoxy by their joint participation with the LCMS; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Wyoming District commend our faithful LCMS campus pastors and other workers serving in campus ministries for maintaining confessional integrity in providing genuine Lutheran Word and Sacrament ministry to those college students under their spiritual care; and be it further

Resolved, That the Wyoming District memorialize the 2007 convention of the LCMS to declare that our Synod will no longer engage in joint campus ministry of any description with the ELCA; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Wyoming District memorialize the 2007 convention of the LCMS to mandate that the President and Vice-Presidents of Synod oversee and supervise all districts, and any corresponding boards, commissions, or associations of Synod in detaching themselves from every vestige of joint campus ministry with the ELCA where joint work is being conducted on any level in the Synod no later than Dec. 31, 2009.

Wyoming District

L3-105

To End Practice of Licensing Lay Deacons for Word and Sacrament Ministry

Rationale

Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession states, “Concerning church government it is taught that no one should publicly teach, preach, or administer the sacraments without a proper [public] call” (Kolb/Wengert, p. 46).

Despite the clear language of AC XIV, the 1989 Synod convention 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 (Res. 3-05B).

The 1995 Synod convention resolved to put an end to this practice by requiring such licensed laymen to apply for admission into the pastoral ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod within a grace period of no longer than two years or to allow their licenses to lapse (Res. 3-07A).

At the 2001 Synod convention, Res. 3-08 sought to end entirely the practice of licensing laymen for Word and Sacrament ministry by rescinding 1989 convention Res. 3-05B and 1995 convention Res. 3-07A by offering no new or renewal licenses and by instructing its districts to terminate any programs for the training of men for Word and Sacrament ministry. A substitute resolution (3-08B), however, was introduced and adopted that rescinded 1995 convention Res. 3-07A and authorized “districts to continue training lay deacons as directed by the spirit of 1989 Wichita Res. 3-05B in which trained lay ministers serve under the supervision of an ordained pastor.”

WHEREAS, The Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions teach that the preaching of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments require a pastor with a regular call (Jer. 23:21; Rom. 10:15; Heb. 5:4; AC XIV); and

WHEREAS, A regular call requires training and examination in the sense of 1 Tim. 3:1–7 and Titus 1:5–9; and

WHEREAS, St. Paul cautions against placing anyone into the Office of the Public Ministry hastily (1 Tim. 5:22); therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod rescind 1989 convention Res. 3-05B (establishment of licensed lay deacons to provide pastoral services) and 2001 convention Res. 3-08B (authorizing districts to continue the practice of training lay deacons); and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod instruct its districts to terminate any programs for the training of men for Word and Sacrament ministry; and be it finally

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod offer no new or renewed licenses to serve as a lay deacon, and to revoke the licenses of those men who are publicly preaching, teaching, or administering the Sacraments without a proper [public] call, in violation of AC XIV.

Waseca Circuit Forum
Minnesota South District

L4-38

To Authorize Exception to 2004 Res. 4-11 re Property Reversionary Provisions

WHEREAS, The Concordia College—New York Board of Regents, on February 2, 2007, authorized *CONCORDIA ON THE MOVE*, a plan for redeployment of assets to strengthen the college; and

WHEREAS, On February 15, 2007, the Board for University Education approved the *CONCORDIA ON THE MOVE*

program, contingent upon completion of a reversionary interest agreement between the college and the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Certain restrictive covenants between The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Concordia College—New York are no longer enforceable because of a New York statute of limitations; and

WHEREAS, Concordia College—New York has been advised by its attorneys that it cannot execute new restrictive covenants with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod unless it receives fair market value consideration; and

WHEREAS, The board of regents has taken action to amend the bylaws of Concordia College—New York by adding a bylaw that can only be amended with the prior consent of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the bylaw providing that all net assets will be distributed to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod upon the dissolution or liquidation of the school; and

WHEREAS, Res. 4-11 of the 2004 convention of the Synod specifically required that such property reversionary provisions be included in the Articles of Incorporation of corporate agencies of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention authorize the bylaw solution provided by Concordia College—New York in lieu of the requirement of 2004 Res. 4-11 that such provisions be included in the Articles of Incorporation.

Commission on Constitutional Matters

L5-39

To Amend Bylaws re DCE Colloquy Admission and Curriculum

WHEREAS, The 2004 Synod *Handbook* states that “colloquy does not provide basic preparation for the field of service” (3.8.3.5 b); and,

WHEREAS, Director of Christian Education (DCE) programs throughout the Concordia University System have a fairly standardized program of study consisting of up to 56 semester hours of DCE-specific course content (not including internship and standardized theology coursework); and

WHEREAS, Initial teacher colloquy programs were designed to provide theology coursework for individuals who had received a teaching certificate from a non-LCMS institution so that they could enter the commissioned ministry of the LCMS and were not intended to provide an alternate route for acquiring a teaching certificate; and

WHEREAS, Very few non-LCMS alternate DCE preparation programs are available; and

WHEREAS, Almost every DCE colloquy candidate would be entering the colloquy program with a significant deficiency in DCE-specific coursework; and

WHEREAS, Several of the commissioned minister colloquy programs, notably teacher colloquy and deaconess colloquy, apply applicant criteria beyond that required of DCE colloquy applicants; and

WHEREAS, Formal, standardized expectations are indicative of established professions, rather than relying on subjective criteria that may vary with the perspectives of the individuals given the responsibility for oversight at any given time (e.g., “Additional admission requirements may

be established by the Board for University Education in consultation with the [Synod] Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry and campus program directors”—from Bylaw 3.8.3.5.5; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.8.3.5.5 be amended to state: “Before submitting an application to the Director of Christian Education Colloquy Program, each prospective applicant shall have been a communicant member in good standing of a congregation of the Synod for at least the past two years and shall possess a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution.

- (a) Each applicant shall have already received training to do the work of a director of christian education and shall have served at least three years in a recognized ministry of their previous church body.
- (b) Applicants who do not meet these requirements are to be directed to a Synod institution that offers a Director of Christian Education Program for enrollment in an undergraduate or alternate-route program.
- (c) Additional admission requirements may be established by the Board for University Education in consultation with the (Synod) Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry and campus program directors.”

Board of Directors
Pacific Southwest District

L7-63

To Equalize Terms of Office

Rationale

Bylaw 3.2.4.2 speaks of successive terms of office for members of boards and commissions of the Synod. It establishes limitations of two successive terms for offices with six-year terms and three successive terms for offices with three-year terms “unless otherwise provided in the Bylaws.”

Res. 1-01 of the 2002 LCMS Black Ministry Family Convocation, “To Equalize the Tenures of the Board for Black Ministry Services,” petitioned the Commission on Structure to advocate increasing the term limitation for appointed members of the Board for Black Ministry Services from three three-year terms to four three-year terms, thereby equalizing the potential length of service of elected and appointed members of the board.

Noting the provision of Bylaw 3.2.4.2 (then Bylaw 3.61 b), which allows exceptions to its requirements when “oth-

erwise provided by the Bylaws,” the Commission on Structure recommended to the 2004 convention an amendment to Bylaw 3.8.4.1.1 (then Bylaw 3.801) to accommodate the request of the Black Ministry Family Convocation but also an amendment to Bylaw 3.2.4.2 to make this change general to all board and commission positions.

This proposed action from the commission (Overture 7-24, 2004 *Workbook*, p. 259) was proposed by Floor Committee 7 as Res. 7-10 but was not acted upon. The current Commission on Structure therefore again proposes this action to the 2007 convention.

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.8.4.1.1 be amended as follows:

PROPOSED WORDING

3.8.4.1.1 The President shall appoint from a list of at least three candidates for each vacant seat on the board.

- (a) These candidates will have been reviewed, evaluated, and approved by the representatives of the black congregations, meeting on convocation.
- (b) Vacancies on the board shall be filled by appointment by the President of the Synod from the remaining nominees on the same slate of candidates.
- (c) Elected members of the board shall be eligible to serve for two six-year terms, and appointed members shall be eligible to serve for four three-year terms.

and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.2.4.2 be amended as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

3.2.4.2 All members of all boards and commissions of the Synod shall be ineligible for reelection or reappointment to the same board or commission after serving ~~a total of two successive six year elected terms or three successive appointed or elected three year terms~~ twelve successive years, unless otherwise provided in the Bylaws.

- (a) Such persons may become eligible again for election or appointment to the same office, board, or commission after an interval of three or more years.
- (b) One-half or more of a term shall be regarded as a full term under limited tenure rules.
- (c) Any member of a board or commission who is ineligible for reelection or reappointment may be elected or appointed to another position.

Commission on Structure

**REPORTS AND OVERTURES
CORRELATED WITH RESOLUTIONS**

Rep. or Ov.	Res.	Rep. or Ov.	Res.	Rep. or Ov.	Res.
R1-8	1-10, 1-11	2-13	2-04A	3-34	3-11
	3-02, 3-11	2-14	2-04A	3-35	3-11
R1-8-01		2-15	2-04A	3-36	3-11
R1-8-02	4-01A, 4-02	2-16	Res. A	3-37	3-11
	4-03	2-17	2-08	3-38	3-09
R1-8-03	Res. D	2-18	2-09	3-39	3-09
R1-8-04		2-19	2-05	3-40	3-09
R1-01	1-01A, 1-04	2-20	2-05	3-41	3-09
	1-05S, 1-06, 1-10, 1-13	2-21	2-05	3-42	3-13
R1-02	1-07	2-22	2-05	3-43	3-13
R1-03	1-08	2-23		3-44	3-09
1-01	Res. A	2-24	3-03	3-45	3-09
1-02		2-25		3-46	3-13
1-03	1-01A	L2-26	2-01	3-47	3-13
1-04	Res. A			3-48	3-09
1-05	Res. A	R3-01	3-03, 3-08	3-49	Res. B
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	2-03A	3-17	3-05	3-67	3-07
R2-03		3-18	3-04A	3-68	3-07
R2-04		3-19	3-04A	3-69	3-07
R2-05		3-20	3-04A	3-70	3-07
R2-06		3-21	3-04A	3-71	3-07
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2-02	2-01	3-23	3-04A	3-73	3-07
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