

## 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 reinstating 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.

#### 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 pre-ordination curriculum and a post-ordination curriculum. The pre-ordination 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 pre-ordination 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*, *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: Pre-Ordination 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 pre-ordination 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 matters 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” or 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**

~~2.13.3~~

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:**

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 committee. 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 ~~S~~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 non-convention 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 coordination 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 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, place of meetings, and granting corporate entities the privilege of selecting delegates to represent their respective 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].)