



Today's Business

Issue 2

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Morning Session

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- 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 Greetings
- 11:40 Honor Retired Missionaries
- 11:48 Report on *Ablaze!*
- 12:00 Missions (#1)
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- 1:55 Call to Gather – Music
- 2:00 Devotion – Dr. Robert Roegner
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- 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-President (1st Ballot)
- 3:45 Report and Recognition
- 3:50 Balloting for Second through Fifth Vice-Presidents (2nd Ballot)
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- 4:10 Nominations (#10)
- 4:15 Balloting for Second through Fifth Vice-Presidents (Complete Balloting)
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- 4:45 Omnibus Resolutions
- 5:05 Planning and Administration (#7)
- 5:45 District and Congregational Services (#2)
- 6:30 Closing Prayer
- 6:35 Exhibitor Reception for Delegates

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63rd Regular Convention

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Houston, TX • July 14 – 19, 2007

Daily Prayer

SUNDAY

Almighty God, with our church families at home from the Epistle Reading for this day, together we ask you to fill us “with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.” (Colossians 1:9-10, ESV)


We praise you for your precious gift of the One Message of Christ’s love. May we be a church in mission, passionately reaching out to 100 million people who don’t know you as Lord with that message of the love of Jesus.

We seek your wisdom and direction today, Father, as we elect President and Praesidium to serve you and lead us in the coming three years. Give those elected the guidance and wisdom only you can give. May your kingdom come and your will be done among us. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Hymn: “Lamb of God” (LSB 550)



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have
2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have



sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a
brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and




sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.
fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod, And to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



O wash me in His pre-cious blood, My Je-sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

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Letters of Greeting

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD



1387 Haven Drive
Oviedo, FL 32765
407/366-2775

President Emeritus
The Reverend Dr. Robert T. Kuhn

July, 2007

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Assembled in Convention in Houston, Texas

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Grace, mercy, and peace to you because of Jesus Christ our Savior!

The theme for this convention is: “One Message: Christ.” That really says it all! Christ gave His life as “the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” He saw us hopelessly caught in the grasp of sin and trapped in the jaws of death. We could not escape. Only He could help us, and He did not hesitate to come to our rescue. He set His face steadfastly to go to Jerusalem. He had one focus.

As God’s people we also have only one focus, and that is Jesus Christ. As His people here on earth we serve Him in all that we do and strive to not do it selfishly for ourselves. In eternity we will be gathered around the throne giving honor, praise, and thanksgiving to the same Christ. In Him we live and move and have our being. May He truly be the focus of this convention as we gather in His name and work to His glory.

During these days as you work through resolutions and decisions pertaining to the work of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod you will be confronted with opportunities and challenges, major choice decisions, direction setting, attempts to look to the next three years and beyond. As you meet those challenges and make those decisions may the Holy Spirit guide you to do what is best for the Kingdom of God. What is done during these convention days may not be long remembered, but may it be long felt by many as plans are made to rescue the perishing.

It is my prayer that the people who make up the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod would be the most biblically literate, doctrinally sound, and actively engaged believers in the world ... to extend the Kingdom of God to the ends of the earth.

God bless!

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr. Robert T. Kuhn

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD



12836 Stump Road,
Des Peres, MO 63131
(314) 821-7781

Ralph A. Bohlmann, PhD, DD
President Emeritus

President Kieschnick, Delegates, and Guests
The 63rd Regular Convention (2007)
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Houston, Texas

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

When the Apostle Paul thought about his fellow-Christians in Philippi, he exclaimed: “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now” (Phil. 1:3-5).

I pray that our 2007 LCMS convention will encourage all of us to feel that same joyful gratitude about our fellow-Christians in the LCMS, and for the same reason, namely, our “partnership in the gospel” of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our LCMS “partnership in the gospel” embraces both the fellowship we enjoy with each other because of our common faith in Christ, and the work we do together in the Synod on behalf of His Gospel. I pray that God will richly bless this convention so that it serves to deepen and strengthen both the Gospel partnership we **have** with each other, and the Gospel partnership we **carry out** together on behalf of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May each of us, like the Apostle Paul, carry out our various Gospel partnership responsibilities at this convention and beyond it, “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” (Phil. 1:6).

Sincerely in Christ,

Ralph A. Bohlmann
LCMS President Emeritus



Lema: "Fieles

Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Argentina

FICHERO DE CULTOS N° 566

Ing. Silveyra 1639/55, 1607 Villa Adelina, Buenos Aires, Tel/Fax (011) 4766-7948
lelapresidente@arnet.com.ar

S
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N
7/15

Villa Adelina, April 12, 2007.

Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.



Dear President Kieschnick.

Peace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On behalf of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina, and in the mine own, I want to thank the constant support granted by The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in these 100 years of life.

The Lutheran Church of Argentina has been able to extend her preaching to more places thanks to the economic support granted and to all you're prayers for our missional work.

We pray to God that he will raise in more hearts the desire to work for the mission that he has commissioned us, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" Mt 28:19.

Our Lord and Father bless this Convention.

Our God, bless and support in his love each participant.

Firm and Advance in the Service.

Edgardo Eleser, President
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina.



**Lutheran Church
of Australia**

ABN 36 763 133 867

12th April 2007

Dr Gerald B Kieschnick
President
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
International Center
1333 S. Kirkwood Road
ST LOUIS, MO 63122-7295

Dear Dr Kieschnick

As your convention theme highlights “His Love Is Here For You” this is also for you as you lead the Synod in Convention.

The Lord be with you and the people of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

On behalf of the Lutheran Church of Australia from “Down Under”

With Christian Blessings

Rev'd Michael P Semmler
President
Lutheran Church of Australia

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti

Delmas 75, Rue Beauvais, Imp. A. Hall #10

Tel : (509) 401-6198, 457-5137

April 16, 2007

Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod:

Dear Doctor-President,

Grace and peace to you from our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I am pleased to write you this praying that it will find you well in the Lord's Vine. The purpose of this is to thank you in a special way for your letter of invitation concerning your convention which will be held on the 14 to 19 of July 2007, in Houston, TX. I also want to send my words of greetings and those of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti to all the saints up there and all those who will be attending that convention. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti is so excited to attend your convention and pray this latter will be a success for the LCMS and also for all the other churches that will be sending their members.

The Evangelical Lutheran church of Haiti will keep your convention in her prayers and takes the opportunity to extend her greetings to all the participants. The ELCH is thankful to you all for your constant prayers. As you know fairly well, the ELCH is working under heavy difficulties and facing different kinds of hardship, but no matter how things are, she is more than dedicated to preach the inspired Word of God to those who are still under the bondage of the evil one. Knowing that the unrest down here is till a dilemma, your prayers for Haiti will be very much appreciated.

I look forward to attending your convention and remain convinced that the Lord will shed upon you all His richest blessings.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Thomas Bernard
President of the ELCH

March 16, 2007

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
1333 S. Kirkwood Road
St. Louis Mo 63122-7295

RE: CONVENTION GREETINGS

TO: Our Brethren at the LCMS

Warm greetings to you on the occasion of your Triennial Convention from your brothers and sisters in the Lutheran Church in the Philippines!

We regard it a great privilege to have been your mission field and now partner and companion in God's mission. We have been greatly enriched by our close links to your church and her members by mutual visits, shared concerns and joint projects.

I am looking forward to a deeper and more meaningful exchange with the leadership and members of the LCMS. On your forthcoming convention, It is my fervent prayer that the LCMS and the brethren in the Lutheran Church in the Philippines would continue our fruitful partnership in proclaiming one message- CHRIST, for many years to come both locally and globally.

May the Lord keep on blessing you and our mutual partnership. Again for and on behalf of the members of the Lutheran Church in the Philippines accept my congratulations! I am

Your Brother In Christ,

Rev. James D. Cerdenola, President
Lutheran Church in the Philippines
March 16, 2007

FREE EVANGELICAL - LUTHERAN SYNOD IN SOUTH AFRICA
FREIE EVANGELISCH-LUTHERISCHE SYNODE IN SÜDAFRIKA
VRYE EVANGELIES - LUTHERSE SINODE IN SUID-AFRIKA
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FELSISA

Office of the President

13 April 2007

Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick
President
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
and the Delegates to the
63rd Regular Convention of the
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
George R. Brown Convention Center
Houston, TX
U.S.A.

Dear President Kieschnick, dear Delegates,

In accordance with the theme of your convention "One Message: Christ," I greet you cordially on behalf of the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa and its Synodical Council with a word from the prophet Isaiah (61.10):

**I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness.**

The one message of Christ can only be proclaimed when it is done out of our great delight in the Lord and the joy of his salvation. And this joy comes when we open our eyes and our hearts for the redemption God has given us through his Son Jesus Christ.

May the Lord our God fill you with the joy of his salvation and bless and encourage you in all your convention proceedings, so that they and your resolutions may all support the "**One Message: Christ**".

Cordially yours in the Lord

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter H F Ahlers'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter H F Ahlers
President
Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod
in South Africa



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June 11, 2007

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!

Psalm 133:1

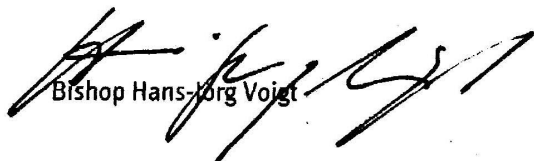
Esteemed Synod, honoured and beloved brothers and sisters,
my cordial greeting to your Synod this year. As the new bishop of the Independent Evangelic – Lutheran Church, I had the opportunity to meet the president of your Synod, Dr. Kieschnick and the brothers and sisters at the International-Center in St. Louis during a first official visit. These meetings made me aware of the great treasure we share in our faith.

It is really “good and pleasant” to meet. The living together in untiy, the Psalm tells us about may furthered be the distance – I would wish that flights were shorter. But in our common believe in the love of Christ, in the message of the justification of the sinner through grace alone, in the praxis of the sacraments, we stand together in brotherly unity. To see and to experience this meant a real strengthening to my faith – just as I wrote: it was “good and pleasant”.

Together with your Board of Mission and Lutheran World Relive we are working on the big project of a Welcome- and Missioncenter in Wittenberg, thus contributing to the Anniversary of the Reformation on 2017. A work, I am very grateful for, because it furthers our untiy.

For your Synod and for all consultations and decisions I wish, that the Power of the Holy Spirit shall guide you. May your synode feel the joy, that is captured in the word from Psalm 133: “How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!

Sincerely, in Christian love,



Bishop Hans-Jörg Voigt



기독교 한국 루터회

140-190 서울지 용산구 후암동 446-11
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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod,

Greetings in the peace of Jesus from the Lutheran Church in Korea. As you gather in Huston for your convention we want you to know that we are praying for God's abundant blessing upon your time together. May our Lord bless your meetings and decisions so that His name is glorified and so that through your efforts many more will hear the Gospel and be brought into God's family of faith.

The Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) appreciates the good theological and practical partnership that we have enjoyed with the LCMS for the past 49 years. The LCK wants to continue and develop this good relationship between our two churches. We would like to convey our appreciation to the LCMS for sending a new missionary to work with the LCK. His presence is very helpful as we seek to develop new projects for reaching people here in Northeast Asia.

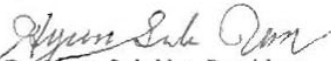
In 1958 the LCMS sent missionaries to Korea. It was the beginning of what is now the Lutheran Church in Korea. So, in 2008 we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Lutheran work in Korea. Please pray for the LCK as we celebrate this Jubilee, join us in thanking God for the past and asking for His blessing as we move into the future. One success story is the Korean Bethel Bible Institute which has impacted almost half a million people with solid, Lutheran, Biblical training. We are thankful to be part of sharing the truth of God's Word with those around us. Without the help of the LCMS, this anniversary would not be happening. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

The LCK held its 36th annual meeting in 2006 with the theme verse from Jeremiah 29:11 where the Lord declares that He will give us hope and a future. Indeed the Lord has done this and will continue to do this. It is the vision of the LCK that by the time of our centennial in 2058 we will have grown from 40 congregations to 500 congregations.

The LCK is *Ablaze!* On March 14, 2007 the Executive Committee of the LCK approved our church body's official participation in the *Ablaze!* mission movement. We are excited about the vision of sharing the Gospel with 100 million people around the world by 2017. We are beginning to plan how we can more effectively connect with those who do not know Jesus. Many to the north of us are living without the joy of Jesus and are in great physical need. We pray that the Lord will open doors and use us to help meet the spiritual and physical needs of our Korean brother and sisters to the north.

Again, we rejoice with you as you meet in convention to celebrate all that the Lord has enabled you to do and as you seek to move into the future, remaining faithful to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions. I look forward to joining you in person in Huston to share in your fellowship.

In the precious name of Jesus,


Rev. Dr. Hyun Sub Um, President
Lutheran Church in Korea

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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF NIGERIA

P. O. Box 49, Obot Idim, Ibesikpo Asutan LGA, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, West Africa

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 12, 2007

Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
1333 S. Kirkwood Road
St. Louis, MO 63122
United States of America

Dear Partners In The Lord's Vine Yard!

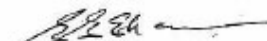
It is with great pleasure that I send greetings from the LCN President and wife, the Board of Trustees and Board of Directors of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria and the Synod Staff to you at the 63rd Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Houston, Texas and the *Ablaze!* International Summit.

In Isaiah 9:2 we read, "The People Walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." We know today that Jesus is the light Isaiah was talking about.

So many people are lost today - lost in sin, lost in the hopelessness and darkness of a life without Christ. Many search for truth, but find only lies; many seek hope, but find only despair. They need to discover the light that is Jesus Christ, and they need someone to point them to it. I believe that after the Summit and Convention many members will go out and share the light of Jesus with those who are lost.

I pray for a successful Summit and Convention.

God bless you!


Bishop E. E. Ekanem
LCN PRESIDENT

Bible Study 1

Theme: ONE Message—*Christ!*: A Message of Love For A Church In Mission

Leader: Dr. William R. Diekelman, First Vice President

Dr. William R. Diekelman, attended Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wis. (1967); Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Ind. (1969); and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (1973). Upon seminary graduation, Dr. Diekelman was placed at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Elko, Nev., where he served for eight years. From 1981 to 2004, Dr. Diekelman was pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Owasso, OK. After serving one term as circuit counselor and one term as first vice president of the Oklahoma District, Dr. Diekelman was elected to serve as district president in 1991. Dr. Diekelman was elected as first vice president of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod on July 11, 2004. He married the former Carol Schroeder May 30, 1970. Together, they have been blessed with six children and two granddaughters.

Outline

Scripture Focus: John 3:16-17

- I. God is eternal and has promised mankind eternal life with him

- II. God is a God of action, as demonstrated throughout Scripture and in the person of Christ. He demonstrated his love for mankind by offering Jesus as atonement for our sins.

- III. God calls us to action so that through us people in our communities can know of this great love God has for us in Jesus.

- IV. Discussion Questions
 1. How did you learn about the love God has for you?
 2. What is your congregation doing to make an impact in your community for the sake of Jesus Christ?
 3. What are you doing personally to make a difference in even one other person's life?

Convention Chaplains

Reverend Dr. Dale A. Meyer

Dr. Dale A. Meyer currently serves as the tenth President of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. He served as the Gregg H. Benidt Memorial Chair in Homiletics and Literature at Concordia from 2001-2005. From 1989 to 2001 Dr. Meyer was speaker on the radio program “The Lutheran Hour” and until 2003 he was the host of the television show “On Main Street.” He is a 1973 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, earning a Master of Divinity degree. He earned a M.A. (1974) and a Ph.D. (1986) in classical languages from Washington University in St. Louis. In 1993 Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

From 1984 to 1988, Dr. Meyer served as senior pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Collinsville, Illinois. He served on the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, from 1981 to 1984 as an assistant professor teaching classes in New Testament and homiletics and director of Resident Field Education. From 1974 to 1981 he served as pastor of St. Salvator Lutheran Church in Venedy, Illinois and St. Peter Lutheran Church in New Memphis, Illinois. He served as third vice-president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod from 1995 to 1998 and has served as first vice-president, second vice-president, and secretary of the Southern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Dr. Meyer has written numerous sermons and columns for Lutheran Hour Ministries, co-authored, in-depth Bible studies in the LifeLight series and authored “The Place of the Sermon in the Order of Service” in Concordia’s book Liturgical Preaching for Concordia Publishing House.

He is married to Diane and they are blessed with two grown daughters.

Reverend Dr. Dean O. Wenthe

Dean O. Wenthe currently serves as the fifteenth president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN. After attending Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he received the Bachelor of Arts With Distinction from Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Indiana. His seminary training was done at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri (M.Div. 1971), and Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey (Th.M., 1975). After returning to the seminary from the parish ministry in 1980, he earned advanced degrees (M.A., 1985; Ph.D., 1991) at the University of Notre Dame in the Hebrew Scriptures with minors in Judaica and Ethics.

Dr. Wenthe was called to Concordia Theological Seminary (Springfield, Illinois) as an instructor and then assistant professor of Old Testament (1971-1977). While in Springfield, he served as an Air Force Chaplain in the Reserves. In 1977 he accepted a call to Zion Lutheran Church, Atlantic, Iowa, and served as pastor for three years. He returned to the Seminary in 1980 as associate professor of Old Testament. While teaching at the seminary, he served vacancies at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Wayne Trace, Indiana; and Zion Lutheran Church, Garrett, Indiana. He also served as pastoral assistant at Emanuel Lutheran Church, New Haven, Indiana, 1989-1996.

Dr. Wenthe has delivered papers at numerous conferences and written articles for various theological journals. He was an associate editor of the Concordia Self-Study Bible. He presently serves as the general editor of the Concordia Commentary.

He is married to Linda and they are blessed with four sons.

Convention Music Leaders

Mr. Chris Bergmann

Chris Bergmann has worked full time in the Christian music industry since 1989. Through his company RFJ Music Production Ministries, his endeavors include worship leading and professionally producing, writing, arranging and recording Christian music. His extensive list of clients include many within or associated with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, such as the Commission on Worship, the Board for Black Ministry Services, Youth

Ministry, Concordia Publishing House, Lutheran Hour Ministries, Lutheran Women's Missionary League, AM 850 KFUE and Thrivent Financial (*The Comfort and Joy Christmas Concert Series*), Lutheran Bible Translators, The Wheat Ridge Ministries, Lutherans For Life, and Family Shield Ministries. Other notable clients include Creative Communications for the Parish, Augsburg Fortress, Parabolic Productions, Christian Board of Publication, Smith Lee Productions, and numerous St. Louis churches, artists and bands. His recording portfolio includes a variety of full production albums to custom music for dozens of videos including award-winning dramatic and children's material. His most recent contribution to the church is his *Lutheran Liturgy and Hymns* series, a collection of liturgical songs and hymns arranged for today's modern praise band.

Reverend Dr. Paul Grime

Dr. Paul Grime has served the LCMS Commission on Worship since 1996. In that capacity he was project director first for *Hymnal Supplement 98* and, more recently, for *Lutheran Service Book*, which was approved at the 2004 Synod convention and published in 2006. His degrees include both a B.Mus. and M.Mus. in organ performance and church music from Valparaiso University and the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. His theological degrees were undertaken at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (M.Div., S.T.M.) and Marquette University, Milwaukee (Ph.D.). He is married to Debra and they have two sons. While Dr. Grime is currently Executive Director of the Commission on Worship, he has recently accepted a call to the seminary in Fort Wayne, where he will serve as dean of the chapel and associate professor in the Pastoral Ministry and Missions department.

Afternoon Devotion

Devotion Leader: Reverend Dr. Robert M. Roegner

Rev. Dr. Robert M. Roegner serves as Executive Director of the Board for Mission Services, a position he has held since 2001. He is a graduate of Concordia Junior College, Ann Arbor, and Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Indiana. He received the Master of Divinity degree in 1981 from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., and an honorary Doctor of Laws (L.L.D.) degree from his alma mater, now Concordia University, Ann Arbor. Since his ordination in 1981, he has served as evangelistic missionary/church planter among the Kisi Nation in Liberia, West Africa (1981-1990); area secretary for Africa, Europe, and the Middle East with the Board for Mission Services of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (1990-1995); executive director of Lutheran Bible Translators, Aurora, Ill. (1995-1999); and senior pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Westwood, N.J. (1999-2001). He and his wife of 31 years, Kristi, have been blessed with four children.

Stand

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Psalm 67

P May God be gracious to us and bless us

C **and make his face to shine upon us,**

P that your way may be known on earth,

C **your saving power among all nations.**

P Let the peoples praise you, O God;

C **let all the peoples praise you!**

P Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

C **for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.**

P Let the peoples praise you, O God;

C **let all the peoples praise you!**

P The earth has yielded its increase;
C **God, our God, shall bless us.**

P God shall bless us;
C **let all the ends of the earth fear him!**

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Sit

Message: "God's Mission Is Our Mission"

Dr. Robert Roegner

Stand

Hymn: "Lift High the Cross" (*LSB* 837)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain*

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. *Refrain*

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

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Prayer

P 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.

C **Amen.**

P The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C **Amen.**

Closing Prayer

Stand

Petitions of intercession and thanksgiving are offered.

Hymn: “I Love Your Kingdom, Lord” (*LSB* 651)

I love Your kingdom, Lord,
The place of Your abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

I love Your Church, O God,
Your saints in ev’ry land,
Dear as the apple of Your eye
And graven on Your hand.

Sure as Your truth shall last,
To Zion shall be giv’n
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of heav’n

Blessing

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love and God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

Resolutions & Committee Reports

2007 Proposed Resolution Actions

		FLOOR COMMITTEE									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	
RESOLUTION NUMBER	1										
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		FLOOR COMMITTEE									

<u>Action Key</u>	<u>Action</u>
Declined:	Declined in session #
Pending:	Pending before assembly
Adopted #:	Approved as printed session #
Adopted AM #:	Adopted as amended

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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 who 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!*

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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.

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2. DISTRICT AND CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

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

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).

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

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

1 WHEREAS, The 2004 convention of the Synod directed the Commission on Worship “to initiate a process
2 leading toward the development of diverse worship resources” (Res. 2-04, 2004 *Proceedings*, p. 124); therefore be it
3

4 *Resolved*, That the Commission on Worship implement the recommendations included in its report to the
5 convention (*CW*, p. 54).
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10 **To Commend Commission
11 on Worship for *Lutheran Service Book***

12 **RESOLUTION 2-03A**

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14 Report 2-02 (*CW*, pp. 52–54); Overture 2-04 (*CW*, p. 140)
15

16 WHEREAS, The Commission on Worship has carefully gathered, tested, and developed a new hymnal,
17 *Lutheran Service Book*, which was given final approval for publication at the 2004 synodical convention; and
18

19 WHEREAS, The Commission on Worship has also developed and made available companion resources to
20 the hymnal, including the *Agenda*, the *Altar Book*, the *Hymnal Accompaniment*, the *Liturgy Accompaniment*, the
21 various *Lectionaries*, the *Pastor’s Companion*, and other resources for use in the church; and
22

23 WHEREAS, The Commission on Worship and Concordia Publishing House have developed a new electronic
24 resource, *Lutheran Service Builder*, which expands the use of the hymnal; therefore be it
25

26 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention gives thanks and praise to God for the work of the Commission on
27 Worship, Concordia Publishing House, and all others who were involved in preparing *Lutheran Service Book* and
28 the accompanying volumes; and be it further
29

30 *Resolved*, That congregations, schools, and families be encouraged to purchase and use *Lutheran Service*
31 *Book*; and be it further
32

33 *Resolved*, That congregations be encouraged to make use of *Lutheran Service Builder* as a worship
34 planning tool as well as future commentaries on *Lutheran Service Book* as they become available; and be it finally
35

36 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention stand and give all thanks and praise to God by singing “Voices
37 Raised to You We Offer (*LSB* p. 795):
38

39 Voices raised to You we offer; Tune them, God, for songs of praise.
40 Hearts and hands we bring in tribute For Your gifts through all our days.
41 Alleluia! Alleluia! Triune God to You we sing.
42
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44

45 **To Create Position of Director for Strategic Development
46 of Hispanic Ministries (DSDHM)**

47 **RESOLUTION 2-04A**

48
49
50 Overtures 2-13–15 (*CW*, pp. 142–143)
51

52 WHEREAS, A diverse Hispanic population in the United States continues to increase, now numbering 44.7
53 million or approximately 15 percent of the U.S. population; and
54

55 WHEREAS, This has been a population that the LCMS has been called to disciple through its ministries
56 (Matt 28:19); and

1
2 WHEREAS, The top recommendation from the National Hispanic Summit (see *CW*, pp. 32–35) for
3 invigorating and providing focus and direction to the LCMS efforts in Hispanic ministry and outreach was the
4 calling and placement of a Director for Strategic Development of Hispanic Ministry; therefore be it
5

6 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention authorizes the President of Synod, working with the Board of
7 Missions and the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Hispanic Ministry and in consultation with the National Hispanic
8 Lutheran Convention, to appoint a Director for Strategic Development of Hispanic Ministries as soon as funding is
9 available; and be it further
10

11 *Resolved*, That the most appropriate organizational location for this position in the area of domestic cross-
12 cultural ministry will be determined by the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synodical Structure and Governance
13 (BRTFSSG).
14
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17 **To Encourage Christian Forgiveness**
18 **and Greater Use of Individual Confession and Absolution**

19
20 **RESOLUTION 2-07A**
21

22 Overture 2-12 (*CW*, p. 142)
23

24 WHEREAS, Our Lord has granted to all Christians the joy and privilege of speaking the forgiveness of sins
25 to one another (Eph. 4:32 and Matt. 6:12); and
26

27 WHEREAS, Our Lord has also given to His church the gift of individual confession and absolution where the
28 pastor’s word of absolution is spoken to the penitent as by Christ Himself (John 20:19–23); and
29

30 WHEREAS, Individual confession and absolution is clearly set forth in our Lutheran Confessions as well as
31 the Synod’s explanation to the Small Catechism; and
32

33 WHEREAS, The opportunity to use individual confession and absolution was a practice cherished strongly
34 by Luther, Walther, Loehe, and other prominent Lutheran fathers; and
35

36 WHEREAS, *Lutheran Service Book* offers rites and resources for the use of individual confession and
37 absolution for pastoral care; and
38

39 WHEREAS, Individual confession and absolution is an important means of pastoral care; therefore be it
40

41 *Resolved*, That members of our congregations be encouraged to forgive those who sin against them and to
42 joyfully speak Christ’s word of forgiveness to one another; and be it further
43

44 *Resolved*, That pastors and congregations be encouraged to study the scriptural, confessional, and
45 historical witness to individual confession and absolution with a view toward recovering the regular availability of
46 its practice in our congregations; and be it further
47

48 *Resolved*, That the seminaries be encouraged to provide additional guidance through articles in the
49 seminary journals and in presentations to pastors’ conferences; and be it finally
50

51 *Resolved*, That both laity and pastors be encouraged to make greater use of individual confession and
52 absolution.
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1 **3. THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS**

2
3 **To Call for a Study of the Natural Knowledge of God**
4 **and Its Implications for Public Witness**

5
6 **RESOLUTION 3-04A**

7
8 Overtures 3-06–12, 3-18–28 (*CW*, pp. 149–156)

9
10 WHEREAS, We live in a society in which many are increasingly confused about the one true God and have
11 been led to believe falsely that all religions lead to salvation; and

12
13 WHEREAS, The Scriptures teach that all people have a natural knowledge of God but such knowledge is not
14 saving knowledge; and

15
16 WHEREAS, The Athanasian Creed clearly confesses, “The catholic faith is this, that we worship one God in
17 Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance,” and, “It is also necessary for
18 everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ”; and

19
20 WHEREAS, An understanding of the natural knowledge of God can assist the members of the congregations
21 of the LCMS in their witness; therefore be it

22
23 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention reaffirm its confession that there is no salvation apart from Jesus
24 Christ and that it is impossible to worship the one true God in spirit and truth (Jn 4:23ff) apart from saving faith in
25 Jesus Christ; and be it further

26
27 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention ask the CTCR, in consultation with the seminary faculties, to
28 prepare a study of the natural knowledge of God, and especially its implications for our public witness.

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32 **Convention Workbook Corrections**

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34 Trinity, Herrin, IL should be listed under Overture 3-17 (*Workbook*, p. 152) rather than Overture 3-20 (p. 154).
35 Trinity, Herrin, IL should be listed under Overture 3-35 (*Workbook*, pp. 159–165) in place of Faith, Inglewood, CA.

4. PROGRAM AND FINANCE

Subject: To report Operating and Capital Expenditures for implementing Resolutions proposed to the 2007 Houston Convention.								
Res. No.	Title	Board or Commission Affected	Funds included in budget and future plans			Potential operating budget increases for fiscal years		
			2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
1-03	To Prepare New Study and Increase Emphasis on Priesthood of All Believers	CTCR	\$0	\$ 20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2-01	To Foster Greater Understanding of Worship through Theological Conferences	Worship	0	0	0	0	0	160,000
2-02	To Provide Guidance and Direction for Use of Diverse/Contemporary Worship Resources	Worship	0	0	0	20,000	0	0
2-04	To Create Position of Director for Strategic Development of Hispanic Ministries	Mission	0	0	0	250,000	250,000	250,000
2-08	To Celebrate Significant Synod Anniversaries	CHI	0	0	0	3000	7000	0
2-09	To Initiate Planning for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation	President's Office	0	0	0	15,000	15,000	15,000
3-04	To Call for a Study of the Natural Knowledge of God and Its Implications for Public Witness	CTCR	0	20,000	0	0	0	0
3-06	To Assign CTCR to Address Environmental Issues	CTCR	0	0	20,000	0	0	0
3-10	To Encourage Publication of Theological Literature	President's Office and CPH	0	0	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
3-12& 5-02	To Address Licensed Lay Deacons	Pastoral Education	0	0	0	15600	15600	15600
4-01	To Plan Summit to Restore Harmony and Trust	COP/BOD	0	0	0	0	0	80000
4-03	To Develop Program to Emphasize Biblical Whole Life Stewardship	COP	0	0	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
4-14	To Affirm Fiscal Conferences	Treasurer	0	0	0	0	80,000	0
6-05	To Petition CTCR to Provide Guidance Re Immigration and Ministry to Immigrants	CTCR	0	0	20,000	0	0	0
6-06	To Develop Abuse Education Materials and Programs	Human Care	0	0	0	0	100,000	100,000
8-06	To Recommend Further Study of Composition of Hearing Panels in Bylaws 2.14, 2.15, and 2.17	Constitutional Matters	0	0	0	15,000	15,000	15,000
8-07	To Call Special Convention to Amend Synod Structure and Governance	Structure	0	0	0	0	0	2,258,000
L6-07	To Develop Abuse Education Materials and Programs	CTCR	0	0	0	See Res No. 6-06	0	0
5-03	To Strengthen Seminary Board of Regents	Pastoral Education	0	0	0	16,000	16,000	16,000
5-04	To Strengthen College and University Boards of Regents	University Education	0	0	0	80,000	80,000	80,000

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5. SEMINARY AND UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

To Establish Specific Ministry Pastor Program

RESOLUTION 5-01A

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.

- 1 a. All those who serve Christ and the church in the Office of the Holy Ministry exercise *de*
2 *iure divino* (by divine authority) the power to preach the Gospel, forgive sins, administer
3 the Sacraments, and exercise church discipline. There is no distinction within the one
4 office with respect to *this* power and authority.
- 5 b. Nevertheless, all ministers serve under supervision. In ancient times, the practice of
6 making certain distinctions within the one Office of the Holy Ministry *de iure humano* (by
7 human authority) was established so that those ministers with broader and deeper
8 theological understanding should be able to provide doctrinal supervision for less
9 experienced, or less well-prepared, ministers. These distinctions were made to ensure that
10 the Gospel was rightly preached and taught, and to preserve the unity of the church.
- 11 c. By the time of the Reformation, the common way of talking about such distinctions within
12 the Office of the Holy Ministry was to speak of the differentiation between the power (or
13 authority) associated with the Office of the Holy Ministry and the jurisdiction (or scope of
14 the administration) of the office.
- 15
- 16 3. The church may establish, by human authority, distinctions in jurisdiction and in categories of service
17 of its pastors so long as these distinctions do not compromise the authority of the office, undermine the
18 Gospel, or burden the consciences of Christians by confusing human regulations with divine
19 commands.
- 20
- 21 4. Ordination vows may be taken prior to the conclusion of a complete course of study provided that the
22 ordinand has received a preparation sufficient to preach and teach the Gospel rightly, administer the
23 Sacraments correctly, and take his vows with integrity.
- 24
- 25 5. The church should provide the opportunity for a pastor who has been certified and ordained to serve in
26 a specific kind of ministry subsequently to be prepared to serve the church more broadly through a
27 combination of further academic preparation, accumulated pastoral experience, and examination.
- 28

29 Overview of the “Specific Ministry Pastor” Program

30

31 The student will take a *core curriculum* so as to acquire a *foundational competency* in Lutheran theology
32 for pastoral ministry. This foundational core will be both contextualized and specialized within and for a specific
33 ministry. In addition to the original objective of the Distance Education Leading To Ordination (DELTO) Program
34 to provide pastoral ministry where full-time ministry cannot be maintained, such specific ministries will include
35 such categories as church planter, staff pastor, and others as needs arise.

36

37 The specific curriculum will be determined and developed by the seminary faculties, in collaboration with
38 those from the field who represent the specific ministerial contexts at district and congregation levels. It will be
39 based on the following principles:

- 40 1. Curricular goals based on outcome competencies appropriate to the stages of the program
- 41 2. The contextual nature of this educational model, which includes experiential learning within a mission
42 context
- 43 3. The engagement of supervisors/mentors by the seminary in consultation with the district president as a
44 critical element of the distance education model
- 45 4. A combination of distance education and residential components (likely through short-term seminars
46 and the option to take courses within the residential curriculum)
- 47 5. The potential applicability of coursework for academic credit towards an M.Div.
- 48 6. A time frame for completion of approximately 4–5 years
- 49

50 The Specific Ministry Pastor Program will be divided into a pre-ordination curriculum and a post-
51 ordination curriculum. The pre-ordination curriculum will equip the student in such a way that the church has
52 confidence that the student will preach the Gospel in its truth and purity and conduct his ministry in conformity with
53 Lutheran doctrine and practice. In order to do this, the pre-ordination curriculum will address such basic
54 competencies as *Catechism, interpretation of Scripture, God and Christ and the work of Christ, the Sacraments,*
55 *introduction to the Book of Concord, the conduct of worship, and preaching.*

1 The post-ordination curriculum will address these topics in greater depth and detail and will include such
2 topics as *OT content and theology, NT content and theology, gifts of Christ, body of Christ, Church history and the*
3 *history of Lutheranism, Christian education, pastoral theology, and theology of missions.*

4
5 In addition, the student will participate in several residential and field seminars aimed at cultivating the
6 requisite ministry skills for his specific ministry context (e.g., church planters, staff pastors, and evangelists).

- 7 • Possible residential seminars might include *pastoral formation, issues in pastoral ministry, team ministry,*
8 *urban ministry, spiritual formation.*
- 9 • Possible field seminars might include *basic mission planter training, edge gathering, and advanced*
10 *mission planter training.*

11
12 The Specific Ministry Pastor Program will utilize selected mentors in the preparation of a man for pastoral
13 ministry with an emphasis on the area of spiritual formation.

14 **Step 1: Preparation for and Admission to the Program**

15
16 The identification of an applicant will be carried out by the congregation and district through a
17 comprehensive screening process.

18
19 For entry into the program, a student will need to show that he possesses the requisite social skills and
20 passion for theology and mission, as well as demonstrating the specific skills and competence needed to be
21 successful in a distance-education program.

22
23 For entry into the program, a student will need to pass the Entry Level Competency Exams (ELCEs) in the
24 areas of OT, NT, and Catechism/Christian Doctrine. Preparation for the ELCEs may be accomplished by taking the
25 corresponding district-level courses or seminary-offered courses. In addition, other courses within a district's lay
26 training program may be helpful, such as courses on evangelizing and catechizing. All students will need to
27 demonstrate competency to engage the program in the English language and in public speaking.

28
29 Based upon completion of the above requirements and with recommendations from congregation and
30 district, the student's application will be presented to the admissions committee of the seminary for action. As part
31 of the application process, each student, sponsoring congregation, and district will sign a covenant of commitment to
32 complete the entire specific ministry pastor curriculum, including all coursework and seminars following
33 examination and ordination.

34 **Step 2: Pre-Ordination Curriculum**

35
36 Upon entrance into the Specific Ministry Pastor Program, the student will be assigned as a vicar in a
37 specific locality but normally will not be authorized to administer the Sacraments. He will preach sermons prepared
38 in collaboration with and approved by his supervisor. At this point, he will participate in the pre-ordination courses
39 and seminars designed to prepare him in the following areas:

- 40 • *Catechism, hermeneutical principles, God and Christ, work of Christ, the Sacraments, Worship, intro to*
41 *the Book of Concord, and preaching*
- 42 • *Possible residential seminars: intro to pastoral formation; issues in pastoral ministry*
- 43 • *Possible field seminars: basic mission planter training, etc.*

44 **Step 3: Certification/Call/Ordination**

45
46 After demonstrating competence in the pre-ordination areas, the student must apply for an examination
47 hearing by the seminary in order to be certified for call and ordination. Each student will be evaluated on a case-by-
48 case basis. The examination hearing shall include a review of the student's portfolio, vicarage reports, an interview
49 by the faculty, and recommendations by the district president and circuit counselor.

1 After call and ordination according to the usual order, the student is placed on the pastoral roster of the
2 Synod as a “specific ministry pastor.” He now may preach and administer the Sacraments under supervision in a
3 specific locality.

4 5 **Step 4: Post-Call and Ordination Curriculum**

6
7 Upon call and ordination, the student shall complete the remainder of the Specific Ministry Pastor Program.
8 The following areas are intended to continue development of the foundational competencies necessary for serving as
9 a specific ministry pastor:

- 10 • *OT content and theology, NT content and theology, gifts of Christ, Body of Christ, Church history and*
11 *the history of Lutheranism, Christian education, pastoral theology, and theology of missions*
12 • *Residential seminars, possibly including pastoral formation, issues in pastoral ministry, team ministry,*
13 *urban ministry, and spiritual formation*
14 • *Field seminars, possibly including basic mission planter training, edge gathering, and advanced mission*
15 *planter training*

16
17 Refusal to complete the Specific Ministry Pastor Program would result in the pastor’s removal from the
18 Synod roster, at which point he is not eligible for a call.

19 20 **Step 5: Completion of the Specific Ministry Pastor Program**

21
22 Upon completion of the program, the candidate is examined by a committee of faculty, laity, and district
23 representatives in order to be recognized as eligible for calls elsewhere within his rostered status. Apart from the
24 usual need for continuing education, he is not required to take any further prescribed course of studies (but see
25 below).

26
27 Specific ministry pastors are recognized as just that: pastors certified for calls into specific ministry
28 contexts, who serve under the supervision not only of the district president but also of a designated general ministry
29 pastor. As such, they are eligible for calls into a similar specific ministry context, where they continue under the
30 supervision of a general ministry pastor.

31
32 Because their theological education is formed within the context of their specific ministry and does not
33 represent the breadth and depth of theology and ecclesiology that forms a basis for pastoral oversight beyond the
34 local level, they may not be placed into ecclesiastical roles of exercising pastoral oversight outside the location of
35 their specific call (i.e., in the church-at-large), such as

- 36
37 a. holding elected or appointed office at the district or Synod level that is assigned by the Bylaws to “a
38 pastor” (though they will serve in all other capacities, especially representing the ministerial contexts in
39 which they serve);
40 b. serving as circuit counselors;
41 c. serving as a voting delegate to a national Synod convention (but they may serve as an advisory delegate
42 at national conventions and as a pastoral delegate at district conventions); and
43 d. supervising vicars.

44 45 **Step 6: Continued Service and Status**

46
47 Students who have completed the Specific Ministry Pastor Program may decide to remain in their rostered
48 status as “specific ministry pastor” for the remainder of their ministry or they may choose to pursue a growth path
49 that leads to a change in roster status to “general ministry pastor.” It is envisioned that most students will pursue the
50 second path, either through an M.Div. route or nondegree certification. Thus, they have three options:

- 51
52 1. They may remain rostered as a specific ministry pastor.
53 2. They may enroll in an M.Div. program. It is anticipated that coursework done for the Specific Ministry
54 Pastor Program may become applicable to an M.Div., determined by equivalencies.

- 1 3. They may continue their theological education and pastoral formation, reaching a level appropriate to
2 general ministry pastor without a full M.Div. (cf. current “alternate route”) and then complete an
3 interview with an examining board in order to have their rostered status changed to “general ministry
4 pastor.”
5

6 **Resolution**

7
8 WHEREAS, The DELTO Oversight Committee was formed by the 2001 convention and given the task “to
9 revise DELTO”; and

10
11 WHEREAS, This oversight committee concluded that original assignment, and a revised DELTO Program
12 was deployed by the two seminaries in the fall of 2004; and

13
14 WHEREAS, The original and ongoing intent of DELTO was to “provide ordained pastoral service to
15 congregations that cannot support a full-time pastor, ordained pastoral service to contexts where English is not
16 spoken, ordained missionary personnel where finances and/or conditions do not permit calling a full-time
17 missionary” (BHE document, “What Is DELTO?” Sept. 2000); and

18
19 WHEREAS, The needs for providing pastoral ministry in specific and specialized situations where a
20 traditionally prepared seminary candidate or pastor is not available continue to multiply; and

21
22 WHEREAS, Our Synod needs to find a way to provide for an increase in pastoral ministry to meet such
23 needs of the church, especially in light of the mission challenges of today’s world; and

24
25 WHEREAS, Our Synod has resolved to plant 2,000 new congregations by 2017, for which a net gain of
26 2,000 pastors will be needed; and

27
28 WHEREAS, Any way of providing for pastoral ministry must be faithful to our Lutheran Confessions,
29 faithful to our historic commitment to a well-educated and well-formed ministerium, faithful to our historic
30 commitment to provide pastors in both academic and practical tracks, and faithful to our historic commitment to
31 provide pastoral ministry and leadership at the cutting edges of the mission fields, wherever they might be; and

32
33 WHEREAS, All those who regularly and publicly perform the functions of the Office of the Holy Ministry
34 should do so as those called to and placed into that office because “It is taught among us that nobody should publicly
35 teach or preach or administer the sacraments in the church without a regular call” (AC XIV); and

36
37 WHEREAS, A variety of programs and routes leading to pastoral service have arisen at both district and
38 seminary levels; and

39
40 WHEREAS, The DELTO Oversight Committee, after concluding its original assignment, was given the
41 further assignment by the President of Synod to “study the various routes leading to ordination currently available,
42 to study which routes leading to ordination would be most helpful to the Synod in producing a sufficient number of
43 able and effective pastors to provide leadership to Synod’s congregations in fulfilling the Great Commission”; and

44
45 WHEREAS, In carrying out this further task, it was apparent that

- 46
47 a. the existing focus of DELTO, even as it was redesigned and redeployed, would not be sufficient to meet
48 these needs;
49 b. the Synod would benefit from a more coherent and comprehensive approach to pastoral preparation and
50 certification for ministry in specialized and specific contexts;
51 c. the past years have provided the church, in general, and the seminaries, in particular, with substantial
52 experimentation and experience with distance-education models, including the evaluation of both the
53 advantages and disadvantages; and
54 d. the Synod is presented with an opportunity to build on such experience and to coordinate and
55 consolidate programs and curriculum into a more cohesive and comprehensive curriculum design that

1 engages the best practices of educational design and pedagogy, including much of the current course
2 materials already proven and in use; and
3

4 WHEREAS, The process of conversation and collaboration over the past six years has brought together
5 representatives of the needs of the field with the entities of the Synod to whom leadership for pastoral education and
6 certification is entrusted, and in so doing provided a helpful model for continuing such collaborative work; and
7

8 WHEREAS, Both seminaries have provided leadership in this process and worked together on written
9 documents affirming the need for a new category within the one office of the pastoral ministry and in affirming an
10 educational process that will lead to certification and ordination for such pastoral ministry, utilizing both traditional
11 residential components along with new distance education models; and
12

13 WHEREAS, The DELTO Oversight Committee in seeking to fulfill its further task has
14

- 15 a. worked closely with both seminaries in honing a proposal for a category of specific ministry pastor, and
16 an education and formation program that will lead to certification and ordination for such pastoral
17 ministry; and has
18 b. worked closely also with many other constituencies throughout the church in developing this proposal,
19 including the Board for Pastoral Education, the Council of Presidents, district and Synod mission
20 leaders, and pastors in the field;
21

22 and
23

24 WHEREAS, The great strengths of this proposal bring together several issues that have concerned our Synod
25 for many years as it seeks to
26

- 27 a. find a way to meet the existing and expanding needs for pastoral ministry, especially in the variety of
28 contexts of mission and ministry in today's church;
29 b. respect our commitment to the doctrine of church and ministry, especially in light of AC XIV;
30 c. honor our commitment to responsible theological education that provides the church with well-educated
31 pastors, who as missional leaders are faithful to Lutheran theology and practice;
32 d. retain our commitment to the importance, need, and great strengths of residential pastoral education at
33 both the certificate and M.Div. level, along with a commitment to the continuing education of all clergy;
34 e. restore our past creativity in recognizing the importance, need, and great strengths of alternative models
35 of pastoral education leading to ordination, including a commitment to continuing education;
36 f. utilize the advances in educational technology that allow for responsible pastoral education and
37 formation through distance-education models; and
38 g. develop a more coherent and comprehensive model for pastoral education by which various routes
39 leading to certification, call, and ordination are coordinated and potentially interrelated, so that, for
40 example, a student in a nonresidential certificate route might be able to engage also in a residential
41 degree program;
42

43 and
44

45 WHEREAS, The Specific Ministry Pastor Program has the support of the Board for Pastoral Education, the
46 faculties of both seminaries, and the Council of Presidents; and
47

48 WHEREAS, The Specific Ministry Pastor Program has been reviewed by the Commission on Theology and
49 Church Relations, and was found to be consistent with Scripture and the Confessions; and
50

51 WHEREAS, As the Commission on Constitutional Matters has issued opinions 07-2499 and 07-2500 that
52 no changes to Synod's Constitution are required should this resolution be adopted; therefore be it
53

54 *Resolved*, That the Specific Ministry Pastor Program be adopted in principle and the seminaries and others
55 responsible for the program be authorized to implement; and be it further
56

1 *Resolved*, That Bylaw sections 2.13 and 2.14 of the *Handbook* of the Synod be amended accordingly, as
2 follows:

3
4 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

5
6 (A) Change the title of Bylaw section 2.13 to read as follows:

7
8 ~~2.13 Restricting, Suspending, and Expelling~~
9 ~~Congregations or Individuals from Membership~~

10
11 Membership Status and Limitations

12
13 (B) Incorporate current Bylaws 2.13.1 and 2.13.2 into Bylaw 2.14.1 as follows:

- 14
15 • Current Bylaw 2.13.1 becomes Bylaw 2.14.1
16 • Current Bylaw 2.13.2 becomes Bylaw 2.14.1 (a)
17 • Current Bylaw 2.14.1 becomes Bylaw 2.14.1 (b)

18
19 The early paragraphs of Bylaw section 2.14 therefore read as follows:

20
21 **2.14 Expulsion of Congregations or Individuals**
22 **from Membership in the Synod**

23
24 *Preamble*

25
26 ~~2.13.1~~

27
28 2.14.1 Termination of membership in the Synod is a serious matter involving both the doctrine and life of
29 those to whom it has been granted. Such action should only be taken as a final step when it is clear that
30 those who are being terminated after previous futile admonition have acted contrary to the confession
31 laid down in Article II or the conditions of membership laid down in Article VI or have persisted in
32 offensive conduct (Constitution, Art. XIII 1). For this reason the Synod establishes procedures for such
33 action including the identification of those who are responsible for ecclesiastical supervision of its
34 members. Such supervision includes not only suspension or termination of membership but also
35 advice, counsel, encouragement, and, when necessary, admonition regarding teaching and/or practice.
36 Furthermore, the procedures that may lead to termination of membership also provide for the
37 protection of members by including provisions for challenging the decisions of ecclesiastical
38 supervisors in these matters as well as provisions for restoration of membership that has been
39 suspended or terminated.

40
41 *General*

42
43 ~~2.13.2~~ (a) Although the Constitution (see Art. VI 3 and Art. XII 7–8) deals with the “life” of ordained and
44 commissioned ministers of the Synod and provides for dealing with “ungodly life” or ordained and
45 commissioned ministers, this does not suggest that the Synod, including any district of the Synod, has
46 the duty or even an opportunity to observe the activities in the life of an individual member of the
47 Synod or has the means or authority to regulate, restrict, or control those activities. The only remedy
48 available to the Synod in response to improper activities in the life of such a member of the Synod is,
49 as is true with respect to violations of other conditions of membership or is otherwise appropriate
50 under the Constitution or these Bylaws, and following the procedures set forth in these Bylaws, to take
51 such action as may lead to termination of that membership and the attendant rights and privileges.

52
53 ~~2.14.1~~ (b) The action to commence expulsion of a congregation or individual from membership in the Synod
54 is the sole responsibility of the district president who has the responsibility for ecclesiastical
55 supervision of such member. This Bylaw section 2.14, among others, provides the procedures to carry
56 out Article XIII of the Constitution, “Expulsion from the Synod.” However, it does not provide the

1 procedure for the expulsion of the district presidents and the officers of the Synod (Bylaw section
2 2.15), the President of the Synod (Bylaw section 2.16), or individual members in cases involving
3 sexual misconduct or criminal behavior (Bylaw section 2.17).
4

5 **(C) Add a new section at the beginning of Bylaw section 2.13 to define a “specific ministry pastor” and the**
6 **limitations on membership privileges and responsibilities that pertain, as follows:**
7

8 **Specific Ministry Pastor Status and Limitations**
9

10 2.13.1 A “specific ministry pastor” is a minister of religion—ordained who has completed the requirements
11 for service as a specific ministry pastor and has been examined by one of the Synod’s seminaries, has
12 received a regular call and has been placed by the Council of Presidents into a specific Word and
13 Sacrament ministry context. He is eligible to serve only in that specific ministry context for which he
14 has been trained and may not be offered or accept a call for ministry for which he has not been
15 certified as determined by his district president. He shall serve under the supervision of his district
16 president and another pastor who is not a specific ministry pastor.

17 (a) Because he is under supervision of another pastor and because a specific ministry pastor’s
18 theological education has been formed in part by and for a specific ministry context, he may not be
19 placed or called into ecclesiastical roles that exercise pastoral oversight outside the location of his call.

20 (b) A specific ministry pastor is not eligible to
21 (1) serve as a voting delegate to a national convention of the Synod—but may serve as an advisory
22 delegate to national conventions and as a pastoral delegate to district conventions;
23 (2) hold any elected or appointed office on the district or national Synod level that is assigned by the
24 Bylaws of the Synod to “a pastor” (although specific ministry pastors may serve in all other capacities,
25 especially representing the ministerial contexts in which they serve);
26 (3) supervise vicars; or
27 (4) serve as a circuit counselor.

28 (c) The ministers of religion—ordained records maintained by district presidents as well as the official
29 membership roster of the Synod shall distinguish between specific ministry pastors and other pastors.
30

31 **(D) Change the titles and bylaw numbering of subsequent paragraphs of Bylaw section 2.13 to accommodate**
32 **the introduction of the “specific ministry pastor status and limitations” paragraphs, as follows:**
33

34 **Restricted Status and Limitations**

35 ~~2.13.3~~
36 2.13.2 An individual member of the Synod may be placed...
37

38 **Removal of Restricted Status and Limitations**

39 ~~2.13.4~~
40 2.13.3 An individual member of the Synod who is placed...
41

42 **Suspended Status and Limitations**

43 ~~2.13.5~~
44 2.13.4 When formal proceedings have been commenced...
45

46 **(E) Change Bylaw 3.1.3.1 to read:**
47

48 3.1.3.1 Each district shall select one advisory delegate for every 60 advisory ordained ministers and specific
49 ministry pastors, and one advisory delegate for every 60 commissioned ministers on the roster of the
50 Synod. Fractional groupings shall be disregarded except that each district shall be entitled to at least
51 one advisory delegate in each category;
52

53 and be it further
54

55 *Resolved*, That the DELTO Oversight Committee be renamed the Specific Ministry Pastor Committee; and
56 be it further

1
2 *Resolved*, That the Specific Ministry Pastor Committee be placed under the supervision of the Board for
3 Pastoral Education; and be it finally
4

5 *Resolved*, That the Specific Ministry Pastor Committee develop comprehensive guidelines that are
6 consistent with the theological foundations, educational expectations, rostering process, and membership limitations
7 intended for this Specific Ministry Pastor Program.
8
9

10
11 **To Strengthen Seminary Boards of Regents**

12
13 **RESOLUTION 5-03A**

14
15 Overtures 5-19–21, (*CW*, pp. 219–220)
16

17 WHEREAS, The boards of regents of Concordia Seminary and Concordia Theological Seminary are to be
18 commended for their fine work within the inherited configuration of seminary boards of regents; and
19

20 WHEREAS, The seminaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod find that new challenges and
21 opportunities are facing them as they seek to sustain their service to the Synod in an increasingly difficult
22 educational environment; and
23

24 WHEREAS, The local campus leaders and boards of regents must exercise an increasing level of governance
25 and leadership in response to the needs and opportunities presented by campus constituencies while remaining
26 faithful to the mission and needs of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and
27

28 WHEREAS, Effective boards of regents must include members with a specific set of skills, including
29 knowledge in the areas of finance, law, investments, human resources, facilities, fund development, administration
30 of complex organizations, and higher education administration; and
31

32 WHEREAS, The seminaries total over 1,500 students and faculty/staff personnel, resulting in legal and
33 human resource management challenges; and
34

35 WHEREAS, The seminaries manage operational budgets between \$12 million and \$20 million, requiring
36 strategic decision-making to maintain fiscal viability; and
37

38 WHEREAS, The seminaries insure facilities in excess of \$150 million, some of which is financed through
39 state and local bond issues, requiring management, maintenance, financing, and scheduling of multiple facilities to
40 minimize capital debt; and
41

42 WHEREAS, There must be sufficient board of regents members with commitment to the mission and purpose
43 of the respective institution, knowledge regarding the region in which the institution is located, and commitment to
44 allocating time, talent, and treasure to the institution and assisting with the identification and encouragement of
45 donors; and
46

47 WHEREAS, Effective governance of our seminaries requires competent leadership in all skills sets, and
48 boards of regents need authority to appoint additional regents to complement the skills of the existing regents; and
49

50 WHEREAS, Each board of regents is best able to assess its own unique needs, and identify and appoint
51 individuals who best meet those needs; and
52

53 WHEREAS, Currently all elected and appointed board of regents members hold membership in the LCMS,
54 and LCMS membership will continue to be required for all elected and appointed board of regents members; and
55

1 WHEREAS, The Board for Pastoral Education encourages the adoption of the following changes so that
2 seminary education can serve the Synod’s mission and ministry needs more effectively; therefore be it

3
4 *Resolved*, That Synod Bylaw 3.8.2.5.2 be amended to read as follows:

5
6 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

7
8 3.8.2.5.2 The board of regents of each theological seminary shall consist of ~~nine~~ no more than thirteen
9 voting members:

10 1. Three ordained ministers, one commissioned minister, and three laypersons shall be
11 elected by the convention of the Synod.

12 (a) Elected and appointed ~~S~~seminary boards of regents members may ~~be elected to~~ serve
13 a maximum of two consecutive six-year terms and must hold membership in a member
14 congregation of the Synod.

15 (b) Not more than two of the elected members shall be members of the same
16 congregation.

17 2. A vice-president of the Synod shall be designated by the President of the Synod.

18 3. A district president other than the geographical district president shall be appointed by
19 the Council of Presidents.

20 4. Four members may be appointed as voting members by the board of regents.

21 5. In order to achieve continuity, a plan of staggered terms for the appointed board
22 members will be adopted by each board of regents.

23
24
25
26 **To Change CUS Membership Structure**

27
28 **RESOLUTION 5-07A**

29
30 Overture 5-16 (*CW*, p. 218)

31
32 Rationale:

33
34 The initial organization of the Concordia University System identified named individuals to serve on the
35 Council of Members of the Concordia University System (convention action 1992). Under Missouri corporate law
36 the Council of Members membership structure may be revised to a corporate membership of the Board of Directors
37 of the Synod, the Council of Presidents of the Synod, and the boards of regents of the colleges and universities of the
38 Synod rather than named individuals selected by these entities. This approach will give the Concordia University
39 System greater flexibility in setting meeting dates, place of meetings, and granting corporate entities the privilege of
40 selecting delegates to represent their respective corporate entities the privilege of selecting delegates to represent
41 their respective corporate entities at the membership meetings.

42
43 In order to accomplish this membership structure revision of the Council of Members of the Concordia
44 University System, Bylaw 3.6.6.2 should be revised.

45
46 *Resolved*, That Concordia University System changes its Council of Membership structure from an
47 individual member structure to a corporate member structure; and be it further

48
49 *Resolved*, That Synod Bylaw 3.6.6.2 be amended to read as follows:

50
51 PRESENT PROPOSED WORDING

52
53 3.6.6.2 The members of Concordia University System shall consist of ~~two groups, one group consisting of~~
54 ~~individuals appointed~~ the Synod and the colleges and universities of the Synod. The Board of
55 Directors of the Synod and the Council of Presidents of the Synod each shall elect delegates
56 representing the Synod. The boards of regents of the colleges and universities of the Synod shall elect

1 delegates representing the colleges and universities. The numbers of delegates elected by the Board of
2 Directors of the Synod, and the Council of Presidents, and the ~~other group consisting~~ boards of
3 individuals representing the colleges and universities, as regents shall be established by the
4 corporation's bylaws. Articles of Incorporation and/or Bylaws of Concordia University System.
5

6 and be it finally
7

8 *Resolved*, That item four (4) under the heading "Voting Members" in Bylaw 3.8.3.2 be amended to read as
9 follows:
10

11 ~~PRESENT~~ PROPOSED WORDING
12

13 4. Three laypersons appointed by the delegates of the members of Concordia University System
14 ~~Council of Members~~

1
2
3
4
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8
9

6. HUMAN CARE

To Care for Foster and Adoptive Children in a Pure and Unfiled Way re Not Placing Children in Morally Ambiguous Contexts

RESOLUTION 6-03A

Overture 6-04 (*CW*, p. 228)

10 WHEREAS, Even though the Scriptures do not directly address social and political questions concerning the
11 adoption (or foster care) of children, they do call for Christians to care for orphans in a pure and unfiled way; and
12

13 WHEREAS, All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and no sin is intrinsically more sinful than
14 another, yet the Bible does clearly teach that sexual relations outside of marriage, including homosexual practice are
15 intrinsically sinful (see 1973 Res. 2-04); and
16

17 WHEREAS, The God-given union of husband and wife in marriage “is the only proper context for human
18 procreation” (1983 Res. 3-14) and therefore the divinely intended context for raising children; and
19

20 WHEREAS, The CTCR has stated, “On the basis of the clear teaching of Scripture regarding homosexual
21 behavior and about God’s will and design for marriage and the family as foundational units for society as a whole, it
22 is the opinion of the CTCR that a policy of placing adopted or foster children into homosexual contexts would stand
23 in opposition to the official doctrinal position of the LCMS” (May 2, 2006); and
24

25 WHEREAS, Christ died for the sins of all people and forgives repentant people and calls for them to live
26 sanctified lives in accord with His natural law; therefore be it
27

28 *Resolved*, That the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod commit themselves to pray for
29 wisdom and guidance for those charged with placing adopted or foster children in light of the challenging
30 circumstances presented to us by a fallen society; and be it further
31

32 *Resolved*, That LCMS World Relief and Human Care be commended for its faithful witness and be
33 encouraged to continue dealing evangelically with this delicate issue; and be it further
34

35 *Resolved*, That the Synod expresses its deepest appreciation for the faithful service of its RSOs in this area;
36 and be it further
37

38 *Resolved*, That LCMS World Relief and Human Care, in consultation with the CTCR, be directed to have
39 ongoing conversation with LCMS recognized service organizations as they continue faithfully to care for children in
40 these difficult situations; and be it finally
41

42 *Resolved*, That LCMS organizations and LCMS RSOs may not knowingly place adopted or foster children
43 into any intrinsically sinful situations where individuals and families are not living in accordance with the Lord’s
44 natural law (Bylaw 6.2.1).
45
46

To Encourage and Assist Congregations to Respond to the Ministry Needs of the Immigrants in their Midst

RESOLUTION 6-04A

51 Overture 6-02 (*CW*, p. 227)

52 WHEREAS, The President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, and the
53 Executive Director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care, Rev. Matthew Harrison, have issued a joint statement
54
55

1 (June 2, 2006) urging compassionate mercy on undocumented immigrants living in our communities, according to
2 our scriptural conviction to love one another as God, in Jesus Christ, loves us (1 John 4:22); and
3

4 WHEREAS, An increasing number of our LCMS congregations are being set *Ablaze!* by the power of the
5 Holy Spirit to reach out to documented and undocumented immigrant souls living in their respective geographical
6 areas in the clear and powerful name of Jesus Christ; and
7

8 WHEREAS, Our LCMS congregations, compelled by vibrant faith in the reconciling love of Christ for all
9 sinners (Eph. 2:8–9, 13–17; 2 Cor. 5:18–20) have included in their outreach ministries a concern for both body and
10 soul, assisting documented and undocumented immigrants with legal and counseling services, helping them to
11 identify and realize God-pleasing goals; and
12

13 WHEREAS, It is important for congregations to compassionately address the sinfulness of illegal activity
14 through the application of Law and Gospel, and
15

16 WHEREAS, Our LCMS pastors and congregations, as a matter of conscience and conviction, take seriously
17 the scriptural mandate to welcome the stranger in our midst:
18

19 Deut. 10:18–19: “He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving
20 him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are alien, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt.”
21

22 Lev. 19:33–34: “When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living
23 with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I
24 am the Lord your God.”
25

26 Heb. 13:2: “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained
27 angels without knowing it.”
28

29 Matt. 25:40: “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of
30 these brothers of mine, you did it for me.’” and
31

32 WHEREAS, The United States of America is a country governed by law; and
33

34 WHEREAS, Immigration reform may open opportunities for our LCMS congregations, in partnership with
35 Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services Affiliate agencies, to assist undocumented immigrants to become
36 residents and citizens; and
37

38 WHEREAS, Legal documentation will open opportunities for immigrants and their families now living in our
39 communities to enhance their God-given dignity and self-respect, becoming increasingly productive and vital
40 participants in our American society and LCMS congregations; therefore be it
41

42 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention:
43

- 44 1. Thank President Gerald Kieschnick and Rev. Matthew Harrison for their joint statement urging the
45 church’s compassionate mercy on documented and undocumented immigrants.
46
- 47 2. Encourage our LCMS members to pray for the resolution of this issue facing our nation and local
48 congregations, and as conscience and faith conviction leads them, to contact their congressmen and
49 senators encouraging them to address this issue with compassionate mercy.
50
- 51 3. Assist congregations in providing legal and counseling services to undocumented immigrants
52 responding to legislation enabling them to become residents and citizens.
53
54
55
56

1 **To Support the Church's Plan**

2 **RESOLUTION 6-10A**

3
4
5 Report 6-02 (*CW*, pp. 97–101)

6
7 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, through Concordia Plan Services, has created a new
8 package of benefits effective January 1, 2006, called “The Church’s Plan”; and
9

10 WHEREAS, “The Church’s Plan” provides an enhanced package of retirement, disability, life, and health
11 benefits for our workers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and
12

13 WHEREAS, “The Church’s Plan” is designed specifically to meet the needs of church workers during their
14 ministry years and in retirement, and provides a new benefit to help pay healthcare costs in retirement and a new
15 retirement savings plan to which workers can contribute on a pre-tax basis and receive a matching contribution
16 funded through employer contributions to the Concordia Plans; and
17

18 WHEREAS, “The Church’s Plan” automatically includes the Concordia Health Plan which in 2007
19 introduced a major health and wellness program to improve the financial, mental and physical health of our church
20 workers through education, support and incentive plans; and
21

22 WHEREAS, Our congregations and schools have elected to “walk together” by being part of The Lutheran
23 Church—Missouri Synod and should likewise “walk together” in support of our Synod’s benefit programs; and
24

25 WHEREAS, Our church workers deserve the highest level of compensation and benefits that are possible for
26 each congregation or school to provide; therefore be it
27

28 *Resolved*, That the 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod announces its
29 support of “The Church’s Plan” and encourages congregations, schools, and other employers of our Synod to adopt
30 this new package of benefits for their workers before Jan. 1, 2008, so that their workers receive past service credits;
31 and be it further
32

33 *Resolved*, That the 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod also encourages its
34 congregations, schools, and other employers that have adopted “The Church’s Plan” to encourage their workers to
35 contribute to the Concordia Retirement Savings Plan at least to the level sufficient to obtain the matching
36 contribution paid by the Plan; and be it further
37

38 *Resolved*, That Concordia Plan Services be directed to address the needs of congregations that cannot in
39 good conscience afford “The Church’s Plan,” and be it finally
40

41 *Resolved*, That the 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod also encourages its
42 congregations, schools, and other employers to continue their prayerful support of their workers.
43
44

1 **7. PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION**

2 **To Standardize Candidate Information**

3 **RESOLUTION 7-01A**

4
5
6
7 Overtures 7-31–34 (*CW*, pp. 247–248)

8
9 WHEREAS, Informed electors strengthen the integrity of the voting process; and

10
11 WHEREAS, The Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod allow for additional biographical information of
12 nominees of other offices (Bylaw 3.12.3.6 [c]); and

13
14 WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.12.3.6 [c] should be expanded to provide uniformity in content of candidate statements
15 and to summarize their service throughout the Synod; therefore be it

16
17 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 3.12.1.2 be amended to read as follows:

18
19 **PRESENT/PROPOSED**

20
21 3.12.1.2 The Secretary of the Synod shall publish in the *Convention Workbook* brief biographies of the five
22 candidates for President, the five candidates for First Vice-President, and the 20 candidates for vice-
23 presidents two through five. This report shall contain such pertinent information as ~~age~~, residence,
24 number of years in the Synod, present position, offices previously held in a district or the Synod, year
25 of ordination, former pastorates, involvement in community, government, or interchurch affairs, ~~and~~
26 any other specific experience and qualification for the office; and if the candidate so desires, also a brief
27 personal statement;

28
29 and be it finally

30
31 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 3.12.3.6 [c] be amended to read as follows:

32
33 [c] The committee’s report shall list the qualifications of various positions used in the solicitation of
34 candidates and contain pertinent information concerning each candidate, such as occupation or profession,
35 district affiliation, residence, specific experience, number of years as a member of an LCMS congregation,
36 present position, offices previously held in a congregation, district or the Synod, and qualifications for the
37 office in question, and if the candidate so desires, also a brief personal statement.

38
39
40
41 **To Amend Bylaw 3.2.5**

42 **RESOLUTION 7-03A**

43
44
45 Overtures 7-39–40 (*CW*, pp. 249–250)

46
47 WHEREAS, Confusion has become apparent regarding bylaw requirements for determining the slate to be
48 considered for filling vacancies on elected boards and commissions by the appointing authority; and

49
50 WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.2.5 (a) currently allows for broad input in gathering a list of nominees, including the
51 board or commission where the vacancy occurs, the President of the Synod, the district boards of directors, and the
52 slate of candidates from the previous convention of the Synod; and

53
54 WHEREAS, The Commission on Structure has recommended clarification of Bylaw 3.2.5; therefore be it

55
56 *Resolved*, That the convention amend Bylaw 3.2.5 to add the following:

1
2 PRESENT/PROPOSED
3

4 (d) The appointing board may not amend the list of candidates.
5
6

7
8 **To Amend Bylaw 2.11.2.1 re Emeritus Members**
9

10 **RESOLUTION 7-04A**

11
12 Overture 7-03 (*CW*, p. 237)
13

14 **Introduction**

15
16 This proposal for amending Bylaw 2.11.2.1 was approved by the LCMS Council of Presidents at its
17 February 11, 2007 meeting. Because the Council cannot submit business to a convention of the Synod, it asked the
18 Secretary of the Synod to forward the proposed overture to the Commission on Structure with the request that the
19 Commission submit it to the Synod’s 2007 convention.
20

21 WHEREAS, Emeritus members of the Synod are, like candidate and non-candidate members, “inactive
22 members” of the Synod (Bylaw 2.11.2.1); and
23

24 WHEREAS, Candidate and non-candidate members are required to file an annual report with their district
25 presidents; and
26

27 WHEREAS, There is an increasing mobility on the part of our emeritus members; and
28

29 WHEREAS, These veterans of the church often continue to serve the church in various locations; and
30

31 WHEREAS, District presidents are responsible for the ecclesiastical supervision of these veteran servants of
32 the church; and
33

34 WHEREAS, It is important, as with candidate and non-candidate members, to maintain contact with emeritus
35 members; and
36

37 WHEREAS, The Commission on Structure has studied this issue and recommends the following change;
38 therefore be it
39

40 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 2.11.2.1 be amended with the addition of the following paragraphs:
41

42 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING
43

44 (a) The emeritus member shall, by January 31, make an annual report to the member’s district
45 president.

46 (b) This report shall include current contact information and address the criteria for remaining an
47 inactive member of the Synod.
48
49
50

1 **To Promote Transparency in Governance**
2 **of Synod and Its Institutions**

3
4 **RESOLUTION 7-05A**

5
6 Overture 7-41 (CW, p. 250)

7
8 WHEREAS, The Synod has established a number of program boards and commissions in order to carry out
9 its business between conventions; and

10
11 WHEREAS, From time to time the Synod establishes special boards or commissions to accomplish specific
12 goals or address specific concerns; and

13
14 WHEREAS, These program boards and commissions are responsible to the Synod and its members as to the
15 conduct of their duties; and

16
17 WHEREAS, Openness and transparency of operation by these program boards and commissions builds trust
18 and confidence in the members of the Synod that the Synod is being governed correctly and competently; and

19
20 WHEREAS, Minutes of these program boards and commissions provide a historic record of proceedings; and

21
22 WHEREAS, There exists no secular legal requirement to publish such minutes; and

23
24 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors and various program boards and commissions currently publish minutes
25 or proceedings; and

26
27 WHEREAS, Allowing members of the Synod the ability to obtain copies of official minutes of program
28 boards or commissions promotes transparency; therefore be it

29
30 *Resolved*, That all agencies of the Synod announce their upcoming meetings; and be it further

31
32 *Resolved*, That any member of the Synod may request a copy of any official minutes of program boards or
33 commissions by submitting a written request to the Secretary of Synod; and be it further

34
35 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Synod provide such minutes according to the policy of the Board of
36 Directors; and be it further

37
38 *Resolved*, That the Commission on Constitutional Matters incorporate this resolution into the appropriate
39 place in the Bylaws; and be it finally

40
41 *Resolved*, That other organizations, such as boards of regents, be encouraged to develop policies and
42 procedures for making available official minutes of their meetings.

43
44
45
46 **To Amend Bylaws 3.9.2.2.4 and 3.3.5.3**

47
48 **RESOLUTION 7-06A**

49
50 Overture 7-55 (CW, p. 255)

51
52 WHEREAS, There is confusion regarding the respective roles of the Commission on Constitutional Matters
53 (CCM) and the Board of Directors regarding the review of program boards' and commissions' policy manuals; and

54
55 WHEREAS, Both groups have responsibility for certain different aspects of these policies related to their
56 spheres of responsibility; and

1
2 WHEREAS, The CCM is given the responsibility in the *Handbook* to examine the documents of these
3 agencies of Synod “to ascertain whether they are in harmony with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the
4 Synod”; and
5

6 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors is given the responsibility in the *Handbook* for the “coordination of the
7 policies and directives of the Synod”; therefore be it
8

9 *Resolved*, That Bylaws 3.9.2.2.4 and 3.3.5.3 be amended to read as follows:
10

11 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING
12

13 3.9.2.2.4 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall examine in advance the articles of incorporation and
14 the bylaws or ~~regulations~~ governing instruments of every agency of the Synod and all proposed
15 amendments of such documents to ascertain whether they are in harmony with the Constitution,
16 Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.

17 (a) An agency of the Synod shall make such amendments to or changes in these documents as may be
18 necessary to conform.

19 (b) The commission shall maintain a file of the articles of incorporation, ~~and~~ bylaws, ~~and~~ ~~regulations~~
20 governing instruments of all agencies of the Synod.
21

22 3.3.5.3 The Board of Directors shall provide for the review and coordination of the policies and directives of
23 the Synod authorized by the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod, evaluating plans and
24 policies and communicating to the appropriate boards and commissions suggestions for improvement
25 and, in the case of program boards and commissions, require changes for compliance with Board of
26 Directors’ policies within the sphere of its responsibility.
27
28
29

30 **To Revise Bylaw Section 1.5 and to Add Definitions to *Handbook***

31 **RESOLUTION 7-07A**
32

33
34 Overtures 7-01–02 (*CW*, pp. 233–237)
35

36 **Rationale**
37

38 After the 2004 convention, the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) was requested to give an
39 opinion regarding the term “agency” in Bylaw 1.5.9, specifically, whether every agency of the Synod is required to
40 follow the human resources policies of the Synod. Prior to the 2004 revision of the *Handbook*, the term “agency”
41 was not used in the comparable bylaw but was substituted for the phrase “every board, commission, and synodwide
42 corporate entity” (2001 *Handbook* Bylaw 3.69 [e]). With the introduction of the broader term “agency” into Bylaw
43 1.5.9, the application of the bylaw appeared to have been expanded to include all agencies as defined in Bylaw 1.2.1
44 (a), *i.e.*, not only boards, commissions, and synodwide corporate entities, but also districts, colleges, and seminaries,
45 which had never before been required to follow the human resource policies of the national office of the Synod. In
46 its Opinion 05-2426 (*CW*, p. 324) the CCM referred the use of the term “agency” in Bylaw 1.5.9 to the Commission
47 on Structure (COS).
48

49 As the COS began its work, it quickly became apparent that terminology in the Bylaws and especially
50 Bylaw section 1.5 was not used clearly and consistently (terms such as “officer,” “executive,” “chief executive,”
51 “chief executive officer,” “executive director,” “chief administrator,” and others). The COS addressed this issue by
52 proposing definitions for the terms “officer,” “executive director,” and “chief executive” to be included in the
53 definitions of terms provided by Bylaw 1.2.1 in the *Handbook*.
54

55 To provide clarification of Bylaw 1.5.9 regarding the human resources policies of the Synod, it was
56 necessary for the COS to consider Bylaw section 1.5 in its entirety. The commission concluded that it would be

1 helpful to rearrange the material in the section to make clear when the regulations of the bylaw section are
2 applicable to corporate Synod and when they are applicable to the Synod in the broader sense.

3
4 In order to deal with these issues; therefore be it

5
6 *Resolved*, That Bylaw section 1.2 be amended as follows, the existing paragraph lettering to be adjusted to
7 provide for the inclusion of three new terms:

8
9 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

10
11 **1.2 Definition of Terms**

12
13 1.2.1 The following definitions apply to the entire Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod:...

14 ... (b) **Chief Executive**: The top staff administrator of an agency of the Synod, who may be referred to
15 as President, other than a program board or commission...

16 ... (h) **Executive Director**: The top staff administrator of a program board or commission of corporate
17 Synod...

18 ... (l) **Officer**: Those positions identified in Constitution Art. X A or Art. XII 3 or Bylaw 3.4 unless
19 qualified by a modifier....

20 and be it further

21
22 *Resolved*, That Bylaw section 1.5 be revised as follows:

23
24 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING [2004 BYLAW REFERENCES IN BRACKETS]

25
26 **1.5 Regulations for Corporate Synod and Agencies of the Synod**

27
28 ***General***

29
30 1.5.1 Board and commission members Members of all agencies shall be members of member congregations of the
31 Synod. [1.5.1]

32
33 1.5.1.1 Unless otherwise specified or permitted by the Bylaws, chief executives and executive directors,
34 faculty, and all staff on either the national or district level shall not be members of the board of the
35 agency under which they serve, nor shall any such executives or staff be members of the board of any
36 other agency of the Synod. [1.5.4]

37
38 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
39 one elective office; or hold more than two offices, although one or both be appointive; or ever hold
40 two offices of which one is directly responsible for the work done by the other. [1.5.5]

41 (a) An office shall be regarded as elective only if it is an office filled through election by a national or
42 a district convention, even though a vacancy in such an office may be filled by appointment. [1.5.5
43 (a)]

44 (b) Doubtful cases shall be decided by the President of the Synod. [1.5.5 (b)]

45
46 1.5.1.3 ~~Members of Every boards and or commissions and member officers, and all executive staff of the~~
47 corporate Synod and its agencies every agency of the Synod shall be sensitive in their activities to
48 taking or giving offense, giving the appearance of impropriety, causing confusion in the Synod, or
49 creating potential liability. [1.5.6 (a)]

50
51 ***Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest***

52
53 1.5.2 Every board, or commission member, officer, and all staff member of the corporate Synod and every
54 agency of the Synod shall avoid conflicts of interest as described in this bylaw. [1.5.12]

55 (a) Each governing board—Every agency shall maintain and monitor a implement the synodwide
56 conflict-of-interest policy, which and that policy shall be applicable to them and all the boards,

1 ~~commissions, officers, and executive staff operating under them, respective agency. Each~~ This policy
2 shall include the following provisions: [1.5.12.1]

3 (1) ~~Each~~ Every board or commission member shall disclose to the chairman of the agency and
4 ~~each all staff person~~ shall disclose to the chief executive or executive officer director of the agency
5 any potential conflicts of interest. Each chairman or chief executive or executive officer director
6 shall disclose personal potential conflicts of interest to the governing appropriate boards or
7 commission. [1.5.12.1 (a)]

8 (2) Such disclosures shall include board membership on, a substantial interest in, or employment
9 of the individual or a relative by any organization doing business with ~~the corporate~~ Synod or any
10 of ~~its the~~ agencies of the Synod. [1.5.12.1 (a) (1)]

11 (3) ~~Board members or staff persons~~ Every board or commission member, officer, and all staff of
12 corporate Synod and every agency of the Synod who receives honoraria or payments for any sales
13 or services rendered to ~~the corporate~~ Synod or ~~its any of the~~ agencies of the Synod shall disclose
14 such information. [1.5.12.1 (a) (2)]

15 (4) All such disclosures shall be reported to the respective board or commission or, in the case of
16 officers, to the President of the Synod to its designated representative(s), who shall determine
17 whether an inappropriate interest exists. [1.5.12.1 (a) (3)]

18 (b) Responsibilities shall be ~~conducted~~ carried out in a manner reflecting the highest degree of
19 integrity and honesty consistent with the Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, the Handbook
20 Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod, ~~board the~~ policies of corporate Synod and the
21 agencies of the Synod, and civil laws. [1.5.12.1 (b)]

22 (1) Activities shall not be entered into which may be detrimental to the interests of the Synod ~~and~~
23 ~~its agencies.~~ (5) Any inappropriate activity shall cease or the position will be vacated. [1.5.12.1 (b)

24 (1), (5)]
25 (2) Information acquired in the course of carrying out duties of the Synod shall not knowingly be
26 used in any way that would be detrimental to the welfare of the Synod ~~and its agencies~~. [1.5.12.1
27 (b) (2)]

28 (3) ~~No board or commission member and/or staff or executive officer of the Synod or its agencies~~
29 No one shall vote on any transaction in which the individual ~~shall~~ might receive a direct or indirect
30 financial gain. [1.5.12.1 (b) (3)]

31 (4) ~~Gifts,~~ The Board of Directors shall establish policy regarding the acceptance of gifts,
32 entertainment, or favors in excess of \$100 per person per year from any individual or outside
33 concern which does or is seeking to do business with the corporate Synod or its the agencies of the
34 Synod shall not be accepted. [1.5.12.1 (b) (4)]

35 (c) Individuals, prior to accepting elected, ~~or appointed,~~ office or staff positions, shall initially and
36 annually thereafter sign statements stating that they have received, understand, and agree to abide by
37 this bylaw and the Synod's conflict of interest policy of ~~the respective corporation~~. Each shall also sign
38 annually a "Statement of Compliance" with the bylaw and policy. [1.5.12.2]

39
40 **Removal from Board or Commission Membership**

41 [Note: A new Bylaw 1.5.3 is being submitted under Resolution 7-08]

42
43 **Organization**

44
45 1.5.4 Every agency of the Synod shall meet at least quarterly unless otherwise stipulated in the Bylaws.
46 Exceptions require the approval at least annually of the President of the Synod. [1.5.8]

47
48 1.5.4.1 ~~All agencies~~ At the initial meeting after election or appointment, all program boards, commissions, and
49 governing boards shall organize themselves as to ~~officers~~ chair, vice-chair, secretary, and
50 ~~subcommittees at the initial meeting after election or appointment~~ other committees and positions as
51 necessary or mandated by these Bylaws and shall conduct business in accordance with accepted
52 parliamentary rules. [1.5.2]

53
54 1.5.4.2 ~~All agencies may employ~~ program boards, commissions, and governing boards may make use of
55 executive committees to act in times of emergency between plenary meetings and to act on delegated
56 assignments. [1.5.3]

1 (a) Executive committees may not perform acts specifically required by statute or by legislation or the
2 Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod to be performed by the agency, nor may they
3 overturn actions of the agency. [1.5.3 (a)]

4 (b) All executive committee actions shall be reported to plenary sessions of the agency. [1.5.3 (b)]
5

6 1.5.4.3 ~~The agencies~~ All program boards, commissions, and governing boards may also delegate a specific
7 assignment for a limited time to a committee composed of its own members. [1.5.3 (c)]
8

9 1.5.4.4 ~~Boards and commissions~~ All program boards, commissions, and governing boards may appoint
10 standing committees of specialists to provide professional or technical assistance to the board or
11 commission and may delegate certain responsibilities to such committees while retaining supervision.
12 Standing committees may be made up of or include non-board or commission members. The creation
13 of standing committees shall be reported to the President and the Board of Directors of the Synod.
14 [1.5.11]
15

16 1.5.4.5 All ~~agencies~~ program boards, commissions, and governing boards shall maintain and make available
17 upon request and at a reasonable price a verbatim copy of the minutes of their meetings except for
18 executive sessions. [1.5.7]
19

20 **Full Financial Disclosure**

21
22 1.5.5 The Synod and each of its agencies shall fully disclose their financial books and records to any
23 member congregation of the Synod. [1.5.13]

24 (a) Full disclosure includes all information (including, but not limited to, information required to be
25 made available under state law) recorded in any fashion, except the following:

26 (1) Information that would violate the expected confidentiality of donors.

27 (2) Personnel files or other information that would violate the expected confidentiality of ~~officers~~
28 ~~and~~ employees.

29 (3) Information that relates to in-process negotiations of financial matters.

30 (4) Information the disclosure of which would breach a legal obligation of the Synod or its
31 agencies or affect pending litigation or claims against the Synod or its agencies.

32 (5) Information that is preliminary in nature or otherwise has not been finalized in its form and
33 content. [1.5.13 (a)]

34 (b) Salaries of elected officers of the Synod, as identified in Constitution Art. X A, shall be published
35 annually in an official periodical. [1.5.13 (b)]

36 (c) The accounting department of the Synod shall publish annually in an official periodical an
37 invitation to request full, audited financial statements and summary operating budgets of the Synod or
38 its agencies. [1.5.13.1]

39 (d) The Synod and its agencies shall share, upon request, the quarterly financial statements as reported
40 to the respective governing boards. [1.5.13.1 (a)]

41 (e) All information produced for normal publication or distribution shall be provided free of charge.
42 [1.5.13.1 (b)]

43 (f) Requests for detailed financial information or the inspection of financial records shall be made in
44 writing to the respective corporate boards by a member congregation and shall state the records desired
45 and the time period to be covered. [1.5.13.2]

46 (1) All responses to requests for information involving research or compilation shall be billed to
47 the member on the basis of actual costs.

48 (2) Any inspection of financial records shall be done by (a) member(s) of the congregation or its
49 stated authorized agent at a mutually agreeable time and place.

50 (3) The board may decline to provide the information requested if the board can demonstrate by
51 clear and convincing evidence that the member's congregation's request is with the specific intent
52 to cause harm to the Synod or one of its agencies or with the sole intent of deliberately and
53 significantly disrupting the operations and affairs of the Synod or one of its agencies.

54 (4) Any declination to provide information or decision to limit inspection shall be explained in
55 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 an ~~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]

1
2 and be it finally
3

4 *Resolved*, That Bylaw section 1.5 as amended and revised read as follows:
5

6 **1.5 Regulations for Corporate Synod and Agencies of the Synod**

7

8 ***General***

9

10 1.5.1 Board and commission members of all agencies shall be members of member congregations of the
11 Synod.

12
13 1.5.1.1 Unless otherwise specified or permitted by the Bylaws, chief executives and executive directors,
14 faculty, and all staff on either the national or district level shall not be members of the board of the
15 agency under which they serve, nor shall any such executives or staff be members of the board of any
16 other agency of the Synod.
17

18 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
19 elective office; or hold more than two offices, although one or both be appointive; or ever hold two
20 offices of which one is directly responsible for the work done by the other.

21 (a) An office shall be regarded as elective only if it is an office filled through election by a national or
22 a district convention, even though a vacancy in such an office may be filled by appointment.

23 (b) Doubtful cases shall be decided by the President of the Synod.
24

25 1.5.1.3 Every board or commission member, officers, and all staff of corporate Synod and every agency of the
26 Synod shall be sensitive in their activities to taking or giving offense, giving the appearance of
27 impropriety, causing confusion in the Synod, or creating potential liability.
28

29 ***Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest***

30

31 1.5.2 Every board, or commission member, officer, and all staff of corporate Synod and every agency of the
32 Synod shall avoid conflicts of interest as described in this bylaw.

33 (a) Every agency shall implement the synodwide conflict-of-interest policy, and that policy shall be
34 applicable to them and all staff operating under them. This policy shall include the following
35 provisions:

36 (1) Every board or commission member shall disclose to the chairman of the agency and all staff
37 shall disclose to the chief executive or executive director of the agency any potential conflicts of
38 interest. Each chairman or chief executive or executive director shall disclose personal potential
39 conflicts of interest to the appropriate boards or commission.

40 (2) Such disclosures shall include board membership on, a substantial interest in, or employment
41 of the individual or a relative by any organization doing business with corporate Synod or any of
42 the agencies of the Synod.

43 (3) Every board or commission member, officer, and all staff of corporate Synod and every agency
44 of the Synod who receives honoraria or payments for any sales or services rendered to corporate
45 Synod or any of the agencies of the Synod shall disclose such information.

46 (4) All such disclosures shall be reported to the respective board or commission or, in the case of
47 officers, to the President of the Synod to determine whether an inappropriate interest exists.

48 (b) Responsibilities shall be carried out in a manner reflecting the highest degree of integrity and
49 honesty consistent with the Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, the Constitution, Bylaws, and
50 resolutions of the Synod, the policies of corporate Synod and the agencies of the Synod, and civil laws.

51 (1) Activities shall not be entered into which may be detrimental to the interests of the Synod.
52 Any inappropriate activity shall cease or the position will be vacated.

53 (2) Information acquired in the course of carrying out duties of the Synod shall not knowingly be
54 used in any way that would be detrimental to the welfare of the Synod.

55 (3) No one shall vote on any transaction in which the individual might receive a direct or indirect
56 financial gain.

1 (4) The Board of Directors shall establish policy regarding the acceptance of gifts, entertainment,
2 or favors from any individual or outside concern which does or is seeking to do business with
3 corporate Synod or the agencies of the Synod.

4 (c) Individuals, prior to accepting elected, appointed, or staff positions, shall initially and annually
5 thereafter sign statements stating that they have received, understand, and agree to abide by this
6 bylaw and the Synod's conflict of interest policy.
7

8 ***Removal of Individual Members from Board or Commission Membership***

9 *[Note: A new Bylaw 1.5.3 is being submitted under Resolution 7-08]*

10 ***Organization***

11
12
13 1.5.4 Every agency of the Synod shall meet at least quarterly unless otherwise stipulated in the Bylaws.
14 Exceptions require the approval at least annually of the President of the Synod.

15
16 1.5.4.1 At the initial meeting after election or appointment, all program boards, commissions, and governing
17 boards shall organize themselves as to chair, vice-chair, secretary, and other committees and positions
18 as necessary or mandated by these Bylaws and shall conduct business in accordance with accepted
19 parliamentary rules.
20

21 1.5.4.2 All program boards, commissions, and governing boards may make use of executive committees to act
22 in times of emergency between plenary meetings and to act on delegated assignments.

23 (a) Executive committees may not perform acts specifically required by statute or by legislation or the
24 Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod to be performed by the agency, nor may they
25 overturn actions of the agency.

26 (b) All executive committee actions shall be reported to plenary sessions of the agency.
27

28 1.5.4.3 All program boards, commissions, and governing boards may also delegate a specific assignment for a
29 limited time to a committee composed of its own members.
30

31 1.5.4.4 All program boards, commissions, and governing boards may appoint standing committees of
32 specialists to provide professional or technical assistance to the board or commission and may delegate
33 certain responsibilities to such committees while retaining supervision. Standing committees may be
34 made up of or include non-board or commission members. The creation of standing committees shall
35 be reported to the President and the Board of Directors of the Synod.
36

37 1.5.4.5 All program boards, commissions, and governing boards shall maintain and make available upon
38 request and at a reasonable price a verbatim copy of the minutes of their meetings except for executive
39 sessions.
40

41 ***Full Financial Disclosure***

42
43 1.5.5 The Synod and each of its agencies shall fully disclose their financial books and records to any
44 member congregation of the Synod.

45 (a) Full disclosure includes all information (including, but not limited to, information required to be
46 made available under state law) recorded in any fashion, except the following:

47 (1) Information that would violate the expected confidentiality of donors.

48 (2) Personnel files or other information that would violate the expected confidentiality of
49 employees.

50 (3) Information that relates to in-process negotiations of financial matters.

51 (4) Information the disclosure of which would breach a legal obligation of the Synod or its
52 agencies or affect pending litigation or claims against the Synod or its agencies.

53 (5) Information that is preliminary in nature or otherwise has not been finalized in its form and
54 content.

55 (b) Salaries of elected officers of the Synod, as identified in Constitution Art. X A, shall be published
56 annually in an official periodical.

1 (c) The accounting department of the Synod shall publish annually in an official periodical an
2 invitation to request full, audited financial statements and summary operating budgets of the Synod or
3 its agencies.

4 (d) The Synod and its agencies shall share, upon request, the quarterly financial statements as reported
5 to the respective governing boards.

6 (e) All information produced for normal publication or distribution shall be provided free of charge.

7 (f) Requests for detailed financial information or the inspection of financial records shall be made in
8 writing to the respective corporate boards by a member congregation and shall state the records desired
9 and the time period to be covered.

10 (1) All responses to requests for information involving research or compilation shall be billed to
11 the member on the basis of actual costs.

12 (2) Any inspection of financial records shall be done by (a) member(s) of the congregation or its
13 stated authorized agent at a mutually agreeable time and place.

14 (3) The board may decline to provide the information requested if the board can demonstrate by
15 clear and convincing evidence that the member congregation's request is with the specific intent to
16 cause harm to the Synod or one of its agencies or with the sole intent of deliberately and
17 significantly disrupting the operations and affairs of the Synod or one of its agencies.

18 (4) Any declination to provide information or decision to limit inspection shall be explained in
19 writing.

20 (5) Challenges to any board decisions declining to provide information or to limit inspection may
21 be reviewed under the Synod's dispute resolution process.

22 23 *Agency Operations*

24
25 1.5.6 Every agency of corporate Synod and every synodwide corporate entity shall operate under the general
26 human resources policies of the Synod as provided by the Board of Directors of the Synod, in
27 accordance with Bylaw 3.3.5.3. Specific policies under these general policies may be adopted by each
28 synodwide corporate entity in order to accommodate the unique character of its operations.

29
30 1.5.6.1 Every agency of corporate Synod and every synodwide corporate entity may create chief executive
31 (who may be designated as an officer of the corporation) or executive director positions, pursuant to
32 Bylaw 1.2.1, and fill them in accordance with the Bylaws of the Synod, and the human resources
33 policies adopted pursuant to Bylaw 1.5.6.

34 (a) The chief executive or executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the board or commission.

35 (1) The slate of candidates for the initial appointment of the chief executive or executive director
36 shall be selected by the board or commission in consultation with and with the mutual concurrence
37 of the President of the Synod.

38 (2) In the event of a vacancy, the appropriate board or commission and the President of the Synod
39 shall act expeditiously to fill the vacancy. This board or commission shall present its list of
40 candidates to the President.

41 (3) The board or commission shall conduct an annual review of the chief executive or executive
42 director and, before the expiration of five years, conduct a comprehensive review.

43 (4) At the conclusion of each five-year period, the appointment shall terminate unless the board or
44 commission takes specific action to continue the person in the office.

45 (b) Any interim appointments of a chief executive or executive director shall follow a process similar
46 to the initial appointment of a chief executive or executive director.

47 (1) Such interim appointees must be approved by the President of the Synod, and may not serve
48 more than 18 months without the concurrence of the President of the Synod.

49 (2) Such interim appointees shall be ineligible to serve on a permanent basis without the
50 concurrence of the President of the Synod.

51 (c) The chief executives and executive directors shall normally attend all meetings of their agencies
52 except when their own positions are being considered.

53
54 1.5.6.2 Every agency of corporate Synod and every synodwide corporate entity may create and fill other staff
55 positions in accordance with the human resources policies adopted pursuant to by Bylaw 1.5.6. Such
56 staff may attend meetings of their agencies upon request of the agency. [1.5.9 (a) and (h)]

1
2 1.5.6.3 All agencies shall develop policies regarding their relations with staffs.
3

4 ***Agency Conflict Resolution***
5

6 1.5.7 Dissent to decisions made by an agency shall ordinarily be expressed within the structure of that
7 agency.
8

9 1.5.7.1 Administrative and programmatic conflicts between agencies of corporate Synod, between such
10 agencies and the synodwide corporate entities, and between synodwide corporate entities shall be
11 dealt with by the parties concerned in a Christian manner with the assistance of the President of the
12 Synod.
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8. SYNOD STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

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 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. 6:17) urge Christians to settle their differences by laying them before the “members of brotherhood.” Therefore, the Synod, in the spirit of 1 Cor. 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, 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 November 28–29, 2005, meeting of the Commission states:

- “The 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

1 and upholding the resolutions of the Synod. While a lawsuit may be an appropriate process in which to
2 resolve a dispute in the secular world, members of the Synod are governed by Bylaw section 1.8 as the
3 required, exclusive, and agreed-to avenue of dissent and Bylaw section 1.10 as the required, exclusive, and
4 agreed-to method of dispute resolution.
5

- 6 • In the agreement to live and work together, a member of the Synod is required to rely exclusively and fully
7 on the Synod’s system of reconciliation and conflict resolution. Unless the dispute is one concerning
8 property rights or contract arrangements under Bylaw 1.10.3 (a) or (b), such suit would be a gross violation
9 of the process of Bylaw section 1.10 and the covenants which bind members together in the Synod. The use
10 of the Synod’s conflict resolution procedures is the exclusive and final remedy for those who are in dispute
11 (Bylaw section 1.10)”; and
12

13 WHEREAS, Our witness to the world is affected by the way we conduct ourselves when we have a
14 disagreement with a brother or sister in Christ; therefore be it
15

16 *Resolved*, That the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod honor their commitment to utilize
17 Synod’s dispute resolution process as the exclusive and final remedy to resolve any disputes, conflicts,
18 disagreements or offenses within the Synod; and be it further
19

20 *Resolved*, That we commend to the members of Synod the April, 1991 CTCR document, “1 Cor. 6:1–11,
21 An Exegetical Study” for study and guidance.
22
23
24

25 **To Encourage Study of "Congregation-Synod-Church," a Study of Basic Theological Principles**
26 **Underlying LCMS Structure and Governance, April 2007**

27
28 **RESOLUTION 8-03A**

29
30 Report R1-8-03 (*CW*, p. 29)
31

32 WHEREAS, The Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synodical Structure and Governance has prepared
33 “Congregation-Synod-Church,” a study document on the Basic Theological Principles Underlying LCMS Structure
34 and Governance for study in the Church; and
35

36 WHEREAS, This document is intended for study and response from “congregations, pastors and teachers
37 conferences, Synod boards and commissions, District Boards of Directors, the Council of Presidents, the Synod’s
38 Board of Directors, seminary and university faculties, circuit conferences, Synod entities, individual professional
39 church workers, laypersons and others”; and
40

41 WHEREAS, Such study is vital in preparation for the renewing of our “walking together” as a Synod and for
42 our thorough “study, reflection, discussion and response”; therefore be it
43

44 *Resolved*, That the congregations of the Synod be strongly encouraged to study and respond to this
45 document prior to September 1, 2008; and be it further
46

47 *Resolved*, That pastors and teachers conferences, Synod boards and commissions, District Boards of
48 Directors, the Council of Presidents, the Synod’s Board of Directors, seminary and university faculties, circuit
49 conferences and Synod entities be directed to study and respond to this document prior to September 1, 2008.
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52

53 **To Call Special Convention to Amend Synod Structure and Governance**

54
55 **RESOLUTION 8-07A**

1
2 Overture 8-67 (CW, p. 283)
3

4 WHEREAS, The Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod allows for the calling of a special
5 session of the Synod (Article VIII.B) at an appropriate time; and
6

7 WHEREAS, The Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance has interviewed district and
8 national leaders to determine ways in which all entities of the LCMS can improve their work together to accomplish
9 the mission “vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and
10 the world” (Mission Statement, LCMS); and
11

12 WHEREAS, Such interviews and the report of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Funding the Mission have
13 identified areas of overlap and duplication of responsibilities, declining resources from unrestricted funding,
14 inequitable representation on elected Boards and Commissions and other substantive issues; and
15

16 WHEREAS, The Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance stated in their report, “Having
17 heard from the Council of Presidents and other leaders in the Synod, the Task Force recommends action be taken for
18 the calling of a special convention of the Synod for the purpose of considering proposed structural and governance
19 improvements prior to the 2010 64th Regular Convention of the Synod”; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the Council of Presidents and other national leaders have given their support for the calling of a
22 special session for this primary purpose; and
23

24 WHEREAS, Several overtures concerning structure and governance have been presented to the 63rd Regular
25 Convention; and
26

27 WHEREAS, Such efforts toward restructuring the Synod, with respect to its structure and governance will
28 require substantial time and effort and merit the attention of a special session; and
29

30 WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of the Synod to consider restructuring prior to the 2010 64th Regular
31 Convention of the Synod, especially as it would impact the election of officers and the budget; therefore be it
32

33 *Resolved*, That under the provisions of Article VIII of the Synod’s Constitution, the Synod in convention
34 calls for a special session of the Synod for the purpose of restructuring the Synod, with respect to its structure and
35 governance, leading to the renewal of and recommitment to the mission by the people of the Synod; and be it further
36

37 *Resolved*, That this convention may be scheduled at such time following the district conventions in 2009 as
38 determined by the President of the Synod; and be it finally
39

40 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 3.1 be amended with the following additions:
41

42 PROPOSED WORDING

43 3.1.11 The business of any special session of the Synod (Article VIII B) is limited to the specific stated purpose(s)
44 for the calling of the special session
45

46 3.1.11.1 The President of the Synod, in consultation with the Council of Presidents and the Board of Directors of the
47 Synod, shall establish the specific provisions for any special session of the Synod such as “Reports and Overtures,”
48 “Convention Committees,” “Pre-convention Publications,” “Convention Order” and “Convention Communications”
49 including any required implementation timeframes.
50
51

10. NOMINATIONS

The following changes/updates have been made since the publication of the Biographical Synopses book.

Board of Directors, LCMS—Laypersons

(**Jeffrey C. Coyne** has requested that his personal statement be reprinted as changed due to editing done to his original statement, p. 31 of Report of the Committee for Convention Nominations.)

The pure light of Jesus Christ should not be hidden under a bushel of financial or structural concerns (Matt. 5:16). As a confessional church, we are called to proclaim the inspired Word of God; witness to the light of the world, Jesus Christ; and care for “the least of these” in our world (John 13:35). As an attorney and businessman, I have nurtured many companies to financial health. I have had success in building teams and eliminating conflict. My professional experiences include teaching at Duke University School of Law; partnership in a large international law firm; and service on the boards of directors of several public corporations. My family originated and maintains a charitable mission that imports and treats sick children from portions of Belarus impacted by Chernobyl’s radiation leak. This mission strives to show Christ’s love to those least able to help themselves; orphans living with poverty, illness and a communist government. I love the Church and believe I can positively impact its mission and ministry.

(Omitted biographical information for Gloria Edwards, lay candidate for the LCMS Board of Directors, is added below to the original paragraph, p. 31 of Report of the Committee for Convention Nominations.)

Gloria S. Edwards, 66, *Portula Valley, CA; Bethany, Menlo Park (CNH); Vol. Exec. S. BRTFFM 2; Trustee, Found. 4; BFMS 5. D. Chm., Miss. Action Coun. 4; Dist. Nom. Com. 4; Partner Min. Com. 5; Dist. Pres., LWML 5; Deleg. Dist. Conv. 2; C. Pres./Chm., Church Coun. BOD 7; Fac., Women’s Min. 7. O. Vice-Chm./Found. Dir., BOR Conc.@ Portland 4; Bd. Mem., LWR 2; Vice Chm./Secy., LIRS 7; FTSOTC 9; Pres., Natl. LWML 5; many LWML offices.*

Board for District and Congregational Services

Jonathan E. Shaw is ineligible to be an ordained minister candidate for this board because Bylaw 3.8.6.1 requires a parish pastor to be elected. This ineligibility is due to a change of status of the other ordained minister whose term expires in 2010.

CPH Board of Directors—Laypersons

(Tom Hurley withdrew his name as a candidate for the Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors, p. 47 of Report of the Committee for Convention Nominations. The following alternate has been added to this ballot.)

Walter Brantz, 76, *Cody, WY; Christ the King, (WY); Ret. Exec. Officer/Businessman. S. Conv. Deleg.; Fl. Com.; Found. Planned Giving; LCEF Ldrshp. Conf. Annual Mtgs.; Mem., Hoppman Soc. LLL. D. Dist. BOD 15; Dist. Treas./Chm./Stewp. 15; Served Various TF & Com. 15; Planned Giving Couns. 15. C. Congr. Pres. 1. O. Pres., Northwest Water Dist; Mem. & Past Pres., Rotary Club; Mem., Adv. Bd. to Coll. of Business @ Univ. of WY; Little League Coach, Baseball.*

It is certainly an honor and a blessing to be asked to permit my nomination for election to serve on the Board of Directors of Concordia Publishing House. While I am willing to serve our beloved Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in its effort to bring the Gospel to all people, my education and business background would dictate that I could best serve the church in an administrative or business position such as Concordia Publishing House. May the Lord guide and bless us in the decisions made at our convention so that our efforts bring about unity, harmony, and accord in the work we must do as a Synod.

1 Concordia University Wisconsin at Mequon, WI

2
3 (Due to a possible conflict of interest, Paul Devantier removed his name as an ordained minister candidate for the
4 Board of Regents of Concordia University Wisconsin at Mequon, WI. The committee replaced him with the
5 following candidate.)

6
7 **John Struve**, 60, Wawatosa, WI; Mt. Olive, Milwaukee (SW); Pastor. **S.** LCEF Deleg. 3; Conv. Deleg. 6; **D.** NID
8 Cir. Couns.; SW 1st VP 9; 2nd VP 3; Chm., BOD 9; Adjudication, Missions, Stewp., Evang., Education. **C.** Parish
9 Pastor ; **O.** Pres., Greater Milw. Federation of LCMS 10; Chap., Fire & Police; BOD, A Place of Refuge, Milw.

10
11 The Missouri Synod has been my church home all my life. It is the basis of relationships with classmates and other
12 members. These are my church family. In any family disagreements appear. They also appear in our Synod. Many
13 of these disagreements are adiaphora (no clear word from God). Others are theological. Political maneuvers will
14 never bring us together. True families love each other and patiently, spiritually discuss differences. We must
15 always stand for God's Truth—for the purpose of winning our brother or sister, not stealing his/her job and power.
16 Christians will all be in heaven together. It's time we love each other here so that others will see our good works
17 and glorify our Father which is in heaven.

18
19 Concordia University at Portland OR

20
21 Timothy Gordish, ordained minister candidate, has withdrawn because he is being called back into active duty as a
22 Navy Chaplain.

23
24 Concordia University Chicago at River Forest IL

25
26 Gary Smith, lay candidate, has withdrawn because of health issues.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

**To Continue Assessing LCMS Campus Ministry
And its Association with the ELCA**

AMENDMENT FOR RESOLUTION 1-11

Amend by inserting between paragraphs 4 and 5 as follows:

Resolved, That our Synod will no longer engage in joint campus ministry of any description with the ELCA after December 31, 2009; and be it further

Submitted by:
Rev. Arlo W. Pullmann
Pastoral Delegate, Montana District

**To Commend Commission
on Worship for *Lutheran Service Book***

Amendment for Resolution 2-03

Amend Resolution 2-03 by substituting for paragraphs 4 through 8:

Resolved, That district presidents routinely encourage congregations and schools under their ecclesiastical supervision to purchase and use *Lutheran Service Book*; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations encourage and assist their families in purchasing and using *Lutheran Service Book*; and be it further

Resolved, That district presidents routinely encourage congregations to make use of *Lutheran Service Builder* as a worship planning tool; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention give all thanks and praise to God for the work of the Commission on Worship, Concordia Publishing, and all others who were involved in preparing *Lutheran Service Book* and the accompanying volumes by singing “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.”*

Submitted by:
Rev. Arlo W. Pullmann
Pastoral Delegate, Montana District

To Promote Relational Vitality In Congregations

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 2-06

Amend by adding resolves between paragraphs 5 and 6 (*TB*, p. 64) as follows:

Resolved, That the COP, leading by example, work to resolve the conflicts of doctrine and relationships that exist in its midst; and be it further

1
2 *Resolved*, That the district presidents also show exemplary leadership in conflict resolution as they work to
3 resolve conflicts of doctrine and relationships that exist between themselves and the Synod members under their
4 ecclesiastical supervision; and be it further
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Submitted by:
Rev. Arlo W. Pullmann
Pastoral Delegate, Montana District

**To Declare Altar and Pulpit Fellowship
with the American Association of Lutheran Churches**

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 3-01

Amend by substituting for paragraphs 19 through 21(*TB*, pp. 69–70) 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 in the extraordinary situations and circumstances of having a nearby AALC congregation that allows membership in secret societies such as lodges or that publicly worship with heterodox congregations; 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 be it finally

Submitted by:
Rev. Arlo W. Pullmann
Pastoral Delegate, Montana District

**To Adopt Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation
and Bylaws re Resolution 7-02A**

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 8-01A

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 CCM 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:

1
2 *Resolved*, That upon hearing and reviewing the report of the Resolution 7-02A Committee, the
3 Board of Directors commends the committee for its hard work and the results of its prayerful efforts,
4 heartily endorses the committee’s recommendations, and prays that the convention will look upon the
5 recommendations positively and adopt them;

6
7 therefore be it

8
9 *Resolved*, That we give thanks to the Resolution 7-02A Committee for its diligent and excellent work; and
10 be it further

11
12 *Resolved*, That the following amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws recommended by the
13 Resolution 7-02A Committee be adopted.

14
15 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

16
17 **Article V Officers**

18
19 The corporation shall have a board of directors of such number and qualifications and who shall be
20 elected in such manner and for such terms of office as shall be set forth in the Constitution or Bylaws of
21 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In addition, the corporation shall have officers having such
22 qualifications and who shall be elected or appointed in such manner and for such terms of office as
23 provided for in the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

24
25 The management authority and duties of the Board of Directors of the Synod shall be limited to the
26 extent such authority and duties are delegated by the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—
27 Missouri Synod to other officers and agencies of the Synod. The management authority and duties of the
28 Board of Directors and such other officers and agencies shall be defined in the Constitution and Bylaws,
29 and each of them shall be responsible to the Synod for the proper and prudent fulfillment of the authority
30 and duties so designated to them. In case of any conflict or uncertainty in determining the authority and
31 duties of the Board of Directors and such other officers and agencies, the opinions of the Commission on
32 Constitutional Matters interpreting the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
33 Synod shall be binding, unless and until overruled by a ~~synodical~~ synodical convention of the Synod. In case of any
34 conflict or uncertainty relative to the applicability of the laws of the State of Missouri, such issues shall be
35 resolved in accord with the provisions in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

36
37 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

38
39 1.4.4 The Board of Directors serves the Synod as its legal representative and as custodian of all
40 property of the Synod, and upon it is incumbent the general management and supervision of the
41 business affairs of the Synod, except to the extent that management authority and duties have
42 been delegated by the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws, or resolutions of a
43 synodical convention to other officers and agencies of the Synod or to separate corporate or trust
44 entities. Each other board of directors, board of regents, and board of trustees also serves the
45 Synod with respect to the property of the Synod, to the extent of its jurisdiction, as provided or
46 authorized in these Bylaws. Upon each such board of the Synod is incumbent the general
47 management and supervision of the business affairs of the Synod to the extent of its jurisdiction.
48 In recognition of the full array of rights and authorities granted in the preservation of religious
49 freedom under the constitutions of the United States of America and the State of Missouri any
50 issues relative to the applicability of the laws of the State of Missouri shall be resolved in accord
51 with the provisions in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

52
53 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

54
55 3.3.5.4 The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the general management of the business and
56 legal affairs of the Synod. It shall receive copies of all legal opinions or written counsel received

1 by program boards, commissions, and councils of the Synod. ~~It and~~ shall be authorized to take
2 on behalf of the Synod any action related to such business and legal affairs which has not been
3 expressly delegated by the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod to other officers or
4 agencies of the Synod, and as to those shall have general oversight responsibility.
5

6 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING
7

8 3.3.5.5 The Board of Directors shall allocate available funds to the program boards, commissions,
9 councils, and departments of corporate Synod and hold them responsible therefore.

10 (a) To the extent of its responsibilities relative to the general management and supervision of the
11 business and legal affairs of the Synod:

12 (1) It shall receive such reports as it requests on the operations and policies of the program
13 boards, commissions, and councils.

14 (2) It shall have the right to ~~call up for request~~ review ~~and criticism, and request~~
15 ~~modification or revocation of,~~ of any action or policy of a program board, commission, or
16 council which primarily relates to business, property, and/or legal matters and, after
17 consultation with the agency involved and when deemed necessary, require modification or
18 revocation thereof, except opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters.
19

20 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING
21

22 3.9.2.1 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall consist of

23 1. five voting members ~~appointed by the President of the Synod,~~ whose terms shall be for
24 six years renewable once, three of whom shall be ordained ministers and two shall be
25 lawyers;

26 2. the Secretary of the Synod, who shall serve as a nonvoting member of the commission
27 and its secretary.
28

29 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING
30

31 3.9.2.1.1 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall be appointed in the following manner:

32 (a) Candidates shall be nominated only by the district boards of directors and shall be presented
33 to the Council of Presidents through the office of the Secretary.

34 (b) The Council of Presidents shall select five candidates for each vacant position and present
35 them through the office of the Secretary of the Synod to the President of the Synod.

36 (c) The President of the Synod, in consultation with the vice-presidents of the Synod, shall
37 appoint the members of the commission from the list presented by the Council of Presidents.

38 (d) Thereafter the appointments shall become effective upon ratification by a majority vote of the
39 members of the Council of Presidents.

40 (e) Vacancies in appointed positions shall be filled by following the procedure set forth above.
41

42 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING
43

44 3.9.2.2 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall interpret the Synod's Constitution, Bylaws, and
45 resolutions upon the written request of a member (congregation, ordained or commissioned
46 minister), official, board, commission, or agency of the Synod.

47 (a) A request for an opinion may be accompanied by a request for an appearance before the
48 commission.

49 (b) The commission shall notify an officer or agency of the Synod if a request for an opinion
50 involves an activity of that officer or agency and shall allow that officer or agency to submit in
51 writing information regarding the matter(s) at issue.

52 (c) An opinion rendered by the commission shall be binding on the question decided unless and
53 until it is overruled by a convention of the Synod. Overtures to a convention that seek to overrule
54 an opinion of the commission shall support the proposed action with substantive rationale from
55 the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod. All such overtures shall be considered by

1 the floor committee to which they have been assigned and shall be included in a specific report
2 to the convention with recommendations for appropriate action.

3 (d) When an opinions pertains primarily to business, legal, finance, civil rights, contracts, or
4 property matters, and the Board of Directors of the Synod concludes that such opinion of the
5 commission is contrary to the laws of the State of Missouri, the board and the commission, or
6 their respective representatives, shall meet jointly to discuss the issue(s) and seek resolution
7 thereof first consult with the Board of Directors of the Synod and/or the Synod's legal counsel. If
8 agreement cannot be reached on whether the matter is governed by the laws of the state of
9 Missouri, that question shall be presented to a five-member panel consisting of three hearing
10 facilitators (Bylaw 1.10.12) chosen by blind draw by the Executive Director of Internal Audit of
11 the Synod from the pool of hearing facilitators; one person appointed by the Commission on
12 Constitutional Matters; and one person appointed by the Board of Directors. At least one of the
13 hearing facilitators shall be an attorney, and the appointees of the commission and board shall
14 not be members of the groups that appointed them. The decision of the panel in support of the
15 position of the Commission on Constitutional Matters or the Board of Directors shall be binding
16 on the issue(s) unless and until it is overruled by a convention of the Synod.
17
18

19 Submitted by:
20 Jean M. Heise
21 Lay Delegate, NID
22
23
24

25 **Amendment to Special Standing Rule #14**

26
27 Amend Special Standing Rule #14 by striking from the last line “prior to its” and inserting “immediately upon.”
28
29

30 Submitted by:
31 Rev. Arlo W. Pullmann
32 Pastoral Delegate, Montana District
33

Notices

ATTENTION: Any materials for inclusion in Today's Business should be submitted by 3:30 p.m. on the day before the item should appear in print. The doors to the Today's Business Office (Room 370A) will close daily at 5:30 p.m.

Today's Business publications for non-voting delegates are available each day at the Main Entrance to the Convention Hall.

Please do not leave anything in the convention hall. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Ablaze! AMBASSADORS ... at your service! Welcome to the 36 *Ablaze!* Ambassadors who are now serving as spokespersons and advocates for the *Ablaze!* Movement. These are former district presidents, executives, and other leaders from various ministry areas who are anxious to share with you their excitement about *Ablaze!* Some of them are present throughout the week. Watch for them ... and say HI!

DISTRICT DELEGATION PHOTOS – As at past Synod conventions, district delegation group photographs will be taken. Please gather *promptly* at the appropriate time and place listed below to limit your delegation's time away from the convention floor. You will see that two district delegations are scheduled during each 10-minute time slot. There also will be a brief make-up photo shoot (if needed) between the Wednesday afternoon and evening sessions. All photos will be taken in Room 350E on Level 3 of the convention center. 8x10 color prints will be available for purchase at the time of your photo shoot for \$12 per print. Please have your payment (cash, check, or credit card) ready at the time you order. You may pick up your photos in Room 350E on Wednesday, July 18th or Thursday, July 19th. You may also choose to have them mailed to you for an additional \$2.

Monday, July 16

Atlantic	1:45 p.m.
Cal-Nev-Hi	1:45 p.m.
Central Illinois	1:55 p.m.
Eastern	1:55 p.m.
English	2:05 p.m.
Florida-Georgia	2:05 p.m.
Indiana	2:15 p.m.
Iowa-East	2:15 p.m.
Iowa-West	2:25 p.m.
Kansas	2:25 p.m.
Michigan	2:35 p.m.
Mid-South	2:35 p.m.
Minnesota-North	2:45 p.m.
Minnesota-South	2:45 p.m.
Montana	2:55 p.m.
Nebraska	2:55 p.m.
New Jersey	3:05 p.m.
Missouri	3:05 p.m.

Tuesday, July 17

New England	8:45 a.m.
North Dakota	8:45 a.m.
North Wisconsin	8:55 a.m.
Northern Illinois	8:55 a.m.
Northwest	9:05 a.m.
Ohio	9:05 a.m.
Oklahoma	9:15 a.m.
Pacific Southwest	9:15 a.m.
Rocky Mountain	9:25 a.m.
SELC	9:25 a.m.
South Dakota	9:35 a.m.
South Wisconsin	9:35 a.m.
Southeastern	9:45 a.m.
Southern	9:45 a.m.
Southern Illinois	9:55 a.m.
Texas	9:55 a.m.
Wyoming	10:05 a.m.

Wednesday, July 18, 6-7 p.m.

Make-up delegation photos

Prayers for individuals in need will be included in the closing devotion each day. Requests may be submitted at the small table near the entrance to the hall.

POBLO International is in booth 112 in the Convention exhibit hall. An earlier publication did not include the full name of the organization. POBLO is People Of the Book Lutheran Outreach, and works to evangelize Muslims, Hindus, and other ethnic groups in North America to raise up spiritual leaders among them, and to establish Christ-worshipping communities within them.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod would like to thank Lutheran Trust for their generous support of the 63rd Regular Convention through their underwriting of the T-shirts given to Convention volunteers and pages. Be sure to visit them in booth 310 in the Exhibit Hall.



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Ablaze! AMBASSADORS are around the convention this week to talk with you, share our faith together, and encourage you in the *Ablaze!* Movement. Have you found one yet? ... They probably have their red *Ablaze!* shirt on ... Ask them something about *Ablaze!* ... or at least about their shirt!

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis invites all alumni and friends to a dessert reception Monday, 7:00-10:00 p.m., at the Hilton-Americas, second level, Ballroom E.

Winner of the relaxation “Be Well Basket” from Concordia Plan Services: Rev. Jeff Schrank of Phoenix, Arizona. Second and third place winners of a 20” stuffed Snoopy: Cindy Douglas of Crystal City, Missouri and Pat List of St. Louis, Missouri.

Sunday, July 15th, representatives from MetLife and CareAllies will be at the Concordia Plan Services booth to answer your questions.

THERE’S STILL TIME to sign-up for one of the “Lunch ‘n Learn Sessions” that Concordia Plan Services is hosting, Monday through Wednesday.

The Brass Company in Concert ... A special concert will be held tonight at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Downtown Houston (800 Houston Avenue) featuring a spectacular brass quintet entitled The Brass Company. This ensemble will feature a diverse musical selection to satisfy every musical taste. Formed in October 1993, The Brass Company has included musicians from all over the nation. For many years this ensemble has pursued residencies, concert tours, master classics, clinics, and has competed successfully in national and international competitions. In 1996, The Brass Company was directly involved with the National Endowment for the Arts' subsidiary: Chamber Music America and a result performed hundreds of educational performances in the eastern portion of Kentucky. Be sure to join us for this delightfully entertaining event! Complimentary tickets are available at the door. The Trinity Lutheran school bus will provide shuttle service (5 min. ride) beginning at 6:00 p.m. between the George R. Brown Convention Center and Trinity Lutheran Church.

Prayers for individuals in need will be included in the closing devotion each day. Requests may be submitted at the small table near the entrance to the hall.

Lutheran Marriage Encounter drawing WINNERS for \$45 weekend registration. Please come to booth 325 to claim your prize:

- Ed Schultz Rochester, MN
 - Laura Meyer Crosby, TX
 - Ken & Sue Howes Oak Lawn, IL
 - Joy Axelson Scottsdale, AZ
 - Robert Rahn Sterling Heights, MI
 -
-

Latin lovers and users ... Sign-up for the Chemnitz Magnus Opus volume to be given away at Lutheran Heritage Foundation Booth #121. Convention special on this volume is \$45.00

The WINNER of Saturday's Native American necklace at the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. booth is Bud Koehlinger. The necklace can be picked up at the booth during Sunday's exhibit hours.
