

2. District and Congregational Services

To Foster Greater Understanding of Worship through Theological Conferences

RESOLUTION 2-01

Report 2-02 (CW, pp. 52–54); Overtures 2-01–03, L2-26 (CW, pp. 139–140; TB, pp. 40–46)

WHEREAS, We recognize that worship is an integral part of the Christian life, as St. Paul writes: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (Col. 3:16); and

WHEREAS, St. Paul prayed for the Christians in Rome that God would “give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 15:5–6); and

WHEREAS, The LCMS lists as one of its objectives to “[e]ncourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, but also to develop an appreciation of a variety of responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of faith” (Constitution Art. III 7); and

WHEREAS, While previous conventions of the Synod have addressed the diverse viewpoints in our church body concerning worship (1998 Res. 2-10; 2001 Res. 2-05A; 2004 Res. 2-04), yet tension remains in our walk together; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Commission on Worship and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations organize a model theological conference, including representation of pastors and laity from each district as well as representation from each of our schools of higher learning, in order to “build greater understanding of our theology of worship and foster further discussion of worship practices that are consistent with that theology” (Res. 2-04, 2004 *Proceedings*, p. 124); and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage the districts of our Synod to organize similar conferences to further discussion and understanding; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Commission on Worship, in consultation with the Council of Presidents and the faculties of our seminaries, universities, and colleges, prepare studies on this topic for use in circuits and congregations.

Action: Adopted (6)

(During discussion, a motion to amend the final resolve by deleting the words “the Council of Presidents and” and “universities, and colleges” failed. The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 838; No: 260].)

**To Provide Guidance and Direction for Use
of Diverse/Contemporary Worship Resources**

RESOLUTION 2-02A

Report 2-02 (CW, pp. 52–54); Overtures 2-07–11 (CW, pp. 141–142)

WHEREAS, Many LCMS congregations are regularly making use of contemporary worship songs to the glory of God and the edification of His people; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for contemporary worship songs that reflect Lutheran theological and liturgical emphases, including justification by grace through faith in Christ, Holy Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the church year; and

WHEREAS, There are LCMS pastors, teachers, directors of Christian education, and musicians who are composing contemporary worship songs that reflect Lutheran theology and address the theological and liturgical emphases of Lutheran worship; and

WHEREAS, There exists in the LCMS no means of gathering, reviewing, and disseminating songs and resources that might be shared with the church-at-large and so enhance the worship life of congregations throughout the LCMS that make use of contemporary worship songs; and

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

Resolved, That the Commission on Worship implement the recommendations included in its report to the convention (CW, p. 54), as follows:

Recommendation #1

Develop a publication or Web distribution of a quarterly "magazine" or resource package which would include articles dealing with worship planning, modeling, review of new songs, utilization of new media and technology, teaching new music, etc.

Recommendation #2

Offer worship arts and music seminars/conferences to inform and educate the church which consider and build on the diversity of worship styles extant across the Synod.

Recommendation #3

Develop regularly updated Web-based lists of appropriate and accessible resources that are easily and readily available to pastors and music leaders. Include an exchange listing of available worship leadership positions as well as names of musicians and others skilled in worship arts who are interested in such positions.

Recommendation #4

Collaborate with the seminaries of the Synod in developing curriculum and experiences that train and mentor future pastors in diverse worship practices, modeling these diverse worship practices in the worship life of the campus.

Recommendation #5

Assist the Board for University Education in encouraging the establishment of at least one of the schools in the Concordia University System as a site for a worship arts degree program. This course of studies would include music instruction and worship direction in a full range of styles, use of media in worship, dramatic and theatre arts, extensive training in contemporary as well as traditional music, etc. Completion of this program by a student would lead to a music degree with a contemporary emphasis leading to rostered status as a director of parish music.

Recommendation #6

Develop a Lutheran Composers Group to network those Lutheran composers who wish to exchange and make available to others materials which may be suitable for worship. This network would be a place where Lutheran composers could put their materials on the Web for sharing, for critique, and for support.

Action: Adopted (6)

(During discussion, a substitute motion advocating that this resolution be tabled until the 2010 convention was ruled not in order because a convention cannot postpone an action from one convention to another. A motion to amend the resolution by deleting “to the glory of God and the edification of His people” failed, but a motion to amend the main motion by including at the end of the resolution the referenced text from the *Convention Workbook* was agreed to by the committee. The resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 856; No: 310].)

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

RESOLUTION 2-03A

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

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

WHEREAS, The Commission on Worship has also developed and made available companion resources to the hymnal, including the *Agenda*, the *Altar Book*, the *Hymnal Accompaniment*, the *Liturgy Accompaniment*, the various *Lectionaries*, the *Pastoral Care Companion*, and other resources for use in the church; and

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

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

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

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

Resolved, That the Synod in convention offer its heartfelt thanks to the executive director of the Commission on Worship, the Rev. Dr. Paul Grime, for his more than ten years of leadership in the development of *Lutheran Service Book* as he leaves his current call to continue to serve the church at the Fort Wayne seminary; and be it finally

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

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

Action: Adopted (6)

(During discussion, the committee agreed to amending the resolution by adding the following resolve prior to the final resolve: “*Resolved*, That the Synod in convention offer its heartfelt thanks to the executive director of the Commission on Worship, the Rev. Dr. Paul Grime, for his more than ten years of leadership in the development of *Lutheran Service Book* as he leaves his current call to continue to serve the church at the Fort Wayne seminary; and be it finally.” The committee also agreed to add the words “continue to” prior to the word “purchase” in the second resolve, change the word “*Pastor’s*” to “*Pastoral Care*” in the second whereas, and delete the letter “s” from the word “gives” in the first resolve. The resolution was adopted as amended [Yes: 1,081; No: 49].)

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

RESOLUTION 2-04A

Overtures 2-13–15 (CW, pp. 142–143)

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

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

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

Resolved, That the Synod in convention authorize the President of the Synod, working with the Board for Mission Services and the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Hispanic Ministry and in consultation with the National Hispanic Lutheran Convention, to appoint a Director for Strategic Development of Hispanic Ministries as soon as funding is available; and be it further

Resolved, That the most appropriate organizational location for this position in the area of domestic cross-cultural ministry be determined by the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance (BRTFSSG).

Action: Adopted (7)

(After discussion, the resolution was adopted as presented by the committee after correcting “Board of Missions” to read “Board for Mission Services” in the first resolve [Yes: 875; No: 112].)

To Support Synod National Youth Gatherings

RESOLUTION 2-05

Overtures 2-19–22 (*CW*, pp. 144–145)

WHEREAS, The purpose statement for the National LCMS Youth Gathering states that “Through the development of Synod youth gatherings, the LCMS Youth Ministry Office shall: (1) Provide opportunities for youth and adults to boldly come together in the name of Jesus Christ to proclaim, celebrate, and witness their salvation through Him, rejoice in the fellowship of their church, and be affirmed and nurtured in their lives as God’s people through Word and Sacraments; and (2) Provide an arena to raise the visibility of youth ministry in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod”; and

WHEREAS, 2007 marks the tenth National LCMS Youth Gathering and 30 years of God’s blessings on Gathering planning; and

WHEREAS, More than 200,000 people have been blessed by God at National LCMS Youth Gatherings and impacted by these events, and thousands more have been touched through the stories and experiences that these participants have shared with their congregations “back home”; and

WHEREAS, National LCMS Youth Gathering, endorsed by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,

- fully and publicly supports the mission and vision of the LCMS;
- submits its publications and resources to doctrinal review;
- submits its worship services and liturgies for review to the LCMS Commission on Worship; and
- submits its speaker list for review to the LCMS President’s Office, a process the Gathering initiated in 1982;

and

WHEREAS, The National LCMS Youth Gathering has been historically self-supporting and, in fact, has provided for the financial viability of the entire youth ministry program in the LCMS; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS give thanks to God for His blessings on the National LCMS Youth Gathering and for the literally thousands of persons who have participated in these events and worked on behalf of these events; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS express its continued support for these significant events in the lives of young people, their congregations, and in the Synod as a whole; and be it finally

Resolved, That we express our appreciation and support to the LCMS Board for District and Congregational Services and the National LCMS Youth Gathering Executive Team (Steering Committee) for their faithfulness in providing opportunities for our youth through the National LCMS Youth Gathering.

Action: Adopted (7)

(The resolution was adopted as presented by the committee without discussion [Yes: 724; No: 130].)

**To Encourage Christian Forgiveness
and Greater Use of Individual Confession and Absolution**

RESOLUTION 2-07A

Overture 2-12 (CW, p. 142)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolved, That the seminaries be encouraged to provide additional guidance through articles in the seminary journals and in presentations to pastors' conferences; and be it finally

Resolved, That both laity and pastors be encouraged to make greater use of individual confession and absolution.

Action: Adopted (10)

(The resolution as presented by the committee was adopted after discussion [Yes: 690; No: 31].)

To Celebrate Significant Synod Anniversaries

RESOLUTION 2-08

Overture 2-17 (CW, p.144)

WHEREAS, Significant anniversaries for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will occur in the next triennium; and

WHEREAS, These include the 200th birthday of Wilhelm Loehe in 2008 and the 200th birthday of Friedrich Wyneken in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Planning for the 200th birthday of C. F. W. Walther in 2011 would need to be made in the next triennium; and

WHEREAS, These three men were highly significant individuals for the foundation of our Synod in 1847, and in order to remember these men and give thanks to God for their service and example; therefore be it

Resolved, That the North American congregations served by Walther, Wyneken, and the 100 pastors sent by Loehe are encouraged to remember these three founding fathers through appropriate celebrations in the upcoming triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That Concordia Historical Institute, in consultation with the President's Office, work to prepare a short monograph by late 2007 describing the history of Walther, Wyneken, and Loehe, prepared especially for educational institutions throughout the Synod (elementary, high school, colleges, universities, seminaries), including suggestions to teachers and professors for incorporating teaching about the significance of these three men in their coursework or classes; and be it further

Resolved, That Concordia Publishing House be requested by the Synod to consider the production of an electronic (e-book) anniversary edition of Walther's works, to be published with computer CD-ROM technology, using all available English translations as well as German printed texts and manuscripts for materials not available in English; and be it finally

Resolved, That Concordia Historical Institute, in cooperation with the President of the Synod, shall be encouraged to prepare and administer a national conference to analyze the impact and relevance of Walther, Wyneken, and Loehe for Lutheranism in the United States today and that this conference be coordinated with the opening of the new museum at the Synod's International Center, if at all possible.

Action: Adopted (7)

(During discussion, a motion to amend the final resolve with the addition of "be encouraged to" prior to the word "prepare" was agreed to by the committee. A motion to amend the resolution by striking all references to Wilhelm Loehe failed. The resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 1,041; No: 88].)

**To Initiate Planning for the
500th Anniversary of the Reformation**

RESOLUTION 2-09

Overture 2-18 (CW, p. 144)

WHEREAS, The entire Christian Church was blessed by God through the sixteenth-century Lutheran Reformation centered in Wittenberg, influenced by Martin Luther; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS receives this gift from God with thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, The beginning of the Lutheran Reformation is normally observed in the LCMS in commemoration of the posting of the Ninety-five Theses by Martin Luther in 1517; and

WHEREAS, The *Ablaze!* Mission Statement is: “Praying to the Lord of the Harvest, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod World Mission, in collaboration with its worldwide partners, will share the Good News of Jesus with 100 million unchurched or uncommitted people by the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017”; and

WHEREAS, Our LCMS partner churches and church bodies in the International Lutheran Council are already engaged in and supporting the *Ablaze!* effort; therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its partner churches throughout the world be urged to support and strive for the success of the *Ablaze!* effort; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod, under the auspices of the Office of the President, organize a celebration—an observance of this historic anniversary—inviting and involving to the greatest extent possible the participation of other worldwide confessional Lutheran churches.

Action: Adopted (10)

(The resolution as presented by the committee was adopted without discussion [Yes: 627; No: 85].)