

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

### **2018 INDIANA DISTRICT CONVENTION AND PRIVILEGE TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE**

**The twenty-second Convention of The Indiana District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will meet June 14-15, 2018, at the Grand Wayne Convention Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana.**

#### Convention Business

The business of the convention will include the election of officers, Board of Directors, Councils, and Committees and the consideration of reports and overtures.<sup>i</sup>

#### Voting Representatives

Each voting congregation of the District is entitled to have one pastor delegate and one lay delegate.<sup>ii</sup> Changes to Const. Art. V and XII at the 2016 Synod Convention, now ratified, remove *assistant* pastors from the “advisory only” list. They can therefore now be designated by their congregations to represent them at district conventions, and can be elected as voting delegates to the Synod convention. For these purposes, they are effectively treated as *associate* pastors have been.

#### Lay Delegate Deadline: March 1, 2018

*The March 1, 2018 deadline enables lay delegate information to be included in the Convention Workbook and facilitates the consideration of lay delegates for Floor Committee assignments. We encourage early registration of the lay delegate so that materials can be included in the bulk mailing. Late registrations cost the district about three times as much to mail first class. Please note that lay delegates of District Conventions serve a three-year commitment, including the election of the President of the Synod.<sup>iii</sup>*

#### Nomination and Election of Officers, B.O.D., Councils and Committees<sup>iv,v</sup>

The following officers will be elected from the Minister of Religion – Ordained roster of the District or Synod:

*District President* (from the Minister of Religion – Ordained roster of the Synod)

*Four Regional Vice Presidents* (one from each region from the District’s roster of Ministers of Religion - Ordained)

*Circuit Visitors* (ratification of Circuit Forum selections)

*District Secretary* (from the Minister of Religion – Ordained roster of the District)

A layman shall be elected to serve as the *Treasurer*.

The following board, councils and committees will have one Minister of Religion – Ordained, one Minister of Religion – Commissioned, and one lay person, from each of the four regions, to be elected at the convention:

*Board of Directors*

*Council for Congregational Outreach*

*Council for Congregational Services*

*Council for Congregational Resources*

*Committee on Worship and Spiritual Care*

*Committee for Convention Nominations*

The *Committee on Constitutional Matters* will have two Ministers of Religion-Ordained, two Ministers of Religion-Commissioned, and two lay members, all at large, to be elected at the convention. At least one lay member of the committee must be a lawyer.

Individuals may be nominated for these positions according to the IN District Bylaws and as noted on the nomination forms. Briefly, congregations may nominate two persons from the Minister of Religion – Ordained roster of the Synod for the office of President. Congregations may also nominate two persons for the office of Vice-President from the District’s roster of Ministers of Religion – Ordained from their region. Per Synod *Handbook*, 5.2.2, Circuit Visitors are selected by the Circuit Forums and ratified by the district convention.<sup>vi</sup> Nominations for Secretary, Treasurer, Board of Directors, councils and committees may be made by any member of a congregation of the Indiana District or an Indiana District congregation. Additional nomination forms for these offices may be printed from the IN District website.

Nominations should be sent to the District Secretary addressed to **1145 S. Barr Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 as early as possible**. The Bylaws indicate a **deadline of 60 days prior to the convention or April 13, 2018**.

## **General Information Regarding Nominations**

Nominees are to be members of voting congregations of The Indiana District, LCMS. Ministers of Religion—Ordained and Ministers of Religion—Commissioned (Teachers, Directors of Christian Education, Directors of Youth and Family Life, Deaconesses, etc.) are to be from among those listed on the roster of the Synod/District.

All members of the B.O.D., councils and committees shall be elected for three-year terms of office. The District President may be reelected without limitation to the number of terms. Regional Vice-Presidents, Circuit Visitors and all elected members of the Board of Directors (with the exception of the District President), councils and committees shall be limited to three successive three-year terms of office. Appointment to fill one-half or more of a term shall be regarded as a full term under limited tenure rules. (*Handbook*, 4.7.4 and 4.7.5; IN District Bylaws, 2.61 and 2.67).

Unless otherwise indicated, one Minister of Religion—Ordained, one Minister of Religion—Commissioned, and one lay person are to represent each region on each elected council and committee of the District. Vice Presidents serve as the Minister of Religion—Ordained representatives for their respective regions on the Board of Directors. No more than one person from one congregation may serve on the B.O.D. or any one council at the same time. (IN District Bylaws, 2.45)

No one, either in the Synod or in the District, or between the Synod and the District, may hold more than one elective office; or hold more than two offices, although one or both be appointive; or ever hold two offices of which one is directly responsible for the work done by the other. This rule, however, does not apply to persons elected to serve on the Committee for Convention Nominations for the District or for the Synod. (*Handbook*, 1.5.1.2, 3.12.3; IN District Bylaws, 7.45a, c)

Incumbents who are eligible for re-election are not automatically re-nominated. They must be nominated for re-election with all appropriate forms being filed with the Nominating Committee.

References are needed for all elected positions of the District. The Committee shall prepare and present a proposed slate of candidates from among the names of persons properly recommended. The only exceptions are the offices of District President, Regional Vice Presidents, and Circuit Visitors.

## **Reports and Overtures**

In addition to the election of officers, the principal business of a convention of the District is the consideration of reports and overtures. Overtures are recommendations in the form of proposed resolutions requesting action on the part of the convention, and they may be submitted by the following:

*Congregations*

*Circuit Forums*

*Board of Directors*

*District Conferences of Ordained and/or Commissioned Ministers*

*Faculty of an Education Institution of Synod*

*A Council or Committee of the District*

*A committee established by a prior convention*

Overtures must be submitted in **triplicate** to the District President not later than **February 9, 2018**. **They must be signed by two officers of the entity submitting them.** Any action that would amend the District's articles or bylaws must receive prior approval of the Synod CCM, per Synod *Handbook*, 3.9.2.2.3. Such submissions should be made well in advance of the district convention to allow adequate time for the commission's review and response, which may involve requirements for additional changes that may, in turn, require further review. Subparagraph [b] of 3.9.2.2.3 allows for those prior-approved amendments to be modified during a convention and then adopted, subject to subsequent approval of the CCM. Should the CCM not approve the amendments as adopted, the district board of directors is empowered, after the convention and by its two-thirds vote, to modify the amendments to the satisfaction of the CCM and to adopt them. The new procedure, while it does not eliminate the requirement that the CCM give prior approval to proposed district bylaw and article changes, does provide an orderly mechanism for accommodating any changes to those proposals that might occur during the convention.

**A SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC CRITERIA AND QUALIFICATIONS  
FOR OFFICERS, BOARD, COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
AND CURRENT MEMBERS SERVING**

O = Ordained

C = Commissioned

L = Lay

\*Ineligible – Term Limits

Secretary – Ordained: The Secretary of the District serves as the secretary of the Board of Directors, maintaining minutes and records of the District Convention and the Board of Directors. The secretary, along with the President of the District, prepares and signs official papers and documents of the District as may be required by government entities or corporations with which the District conducts business. He also serves as an ex-officio member of the Nominating Committee and the Committee on Constitutional Matters.

*Rev. Peter Brock (O)*

Treasurer – Lay: The District Treasurer is the trust officer of the District, aware of the financial condition of the District and one who provides recommendations to the B.O.D., of which he is a member, to safeguard the assets of the District. The Treasurer also assists the President as requested in the annual performance review of the Executive for Finance and is an advisory member of the Council for Congregational Resources.

*Thomas Steinmetz (L)*

Board of Directors – The B.O.D. represents the District and has the power to conduct and transact all business necessary to carry out the purpose of the District. The B.O.D. defines the general sphere of duties for each council or committee. The B.O.D. ordinarily meets five to six times per year. Because the B.O.D. is the legal representative of the District and the custodian of the District's property, this board is responsible for the management and supervision of the District's business affairs and the budget of the District and has charge of all matters that deal with District finances. The B.O.D. assists in coordinating the work of the councils and staff, establishes policy, and is responsible to the District Convention for implementing the District's resolutions and program.

*Kenneth Eichinger (NW-C)*

*John Weber (NE-C)*

*Mark Borcharding (CE-C)*

*Todd Behmlander (SO-C)*

*Allen Kent (NW-L)*

*Michael Hawk (NE-L)*

*Don Scifres (CE-L)*

*Roy Stuckwisch (SO-L)*

Council for Congregational Outreach – The purpose of the Council for Congregational Outreach is to advise and assist the District Staff in implementing programs and activities throughout the District that encourage and assist congregations in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ within and, on occasion, beyond the confines of the District. This council meets a minimum of three times a year. Members should have a good understanding of church planting, evangelism, ethnic ministry, deaf and campus ministry and other outreach ministries.

*\*Rev. Erich Fickel (NW-O)*

*Rev. Jeffrey Alexander (CE-O)*

*Paul Wendt (NW-C)*

*Mark Muehl (NE-C)*

*Evelyn Benning (CE-C)*

*Vacant (SO-C)*

*Rev. Timothy Sims (NE-O)*

*Rev. Patrick Galligar (SO-O)*

*Dave Smith (NW-L)*

*Claire Fickenscher (NE-L)*

*Wayne Meyer (CE-L)*

*Matthew Helwig (SO-L)*

*Council for Congregational Services* – The purpose of the Council for Congregational Services is to advise and assist the District Staff in implementing programs and activities throughout the District that encourage and assist the congregations in the areas of social ministry, Christian education, youth, Worship, and Spiritual Care. This council meets a minimum of three times a year. Members should be well acquainted with educational agencies and programs and have a good understanding of Social Ministry, Christian Education, Youth Ministry, and Worship and Spiritual Care.

<i>Rev. Michael Barnes (NW-O)</i>	<i>Rev. Lesley Joe Fichtner(NE-O)</i>
<i>Rev. Seth Mierow (CE-O)</i>	<i>Rev. Steven Ensley (SO-O)</i>
<i>James Hayes (NW-C)</i>	<i>Roger Potratz (NW-L)</i>
<i>Dcs. Joyce Ostermann (NE-C)</i>	<i>Michele Kausch (NE-L)</i>
<i>Dcs. Shaina Mitchell (CE-C)</i>	<i>Don Leach (CE-L)</i>
<i>* Scott Schumacher (SO-C)</i>	<i>Frank Wolka (SO-L)</i>

*Council for Congregational Resources* – The purpose of the Council for Congregational Resources is to advise and assist the District Staff in implementing programs and activities that encourage and assist the congregations in the management of resources God has provided to the congregations of the District. This council meets a minimum of three times a year. Members should have an understanding and interest in Stewardship Education, Financial Planning, LCEF, Gift Planning Services, Financial Aid, and others as deemed appropriate by the Council.

<i>Rev. Roger Rohde (NW-O)</i>	<i>Rev. Paul Shoemaker (NE-O)</i>
<i>Rev. Philip Sievers (CE-O)</i>	<i>Rev. Eric Edwards (SO-O)</i>
<i>*Sara Cunningham (NW-C)</i>	<i>Jim Hensley (NW-L)</i>
<i>Ken Schilf (NE-C)</i>	<i>Gary Lybarger (NE-L)</i>
<i>Carl Schulenburg (CE-C)</i>	<i>*Gerald Clow (SO-L)</i>
<i>Jonathan Baumgartel (SO-C)</i>	

*Committee on Constitutional Matters* – The Committee on Constitutional Matters provides guidance and direction to the District and to the congregations regarding their organization, constitution, and bylaws. It assures the District that all new and revised constitutions and bylaws are in agreement with the Scriptures and with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod. The Committee updates the Bylaws of the District following each District Convention. It proposes additions and corrections to the Bylaws as mandated by the Synod in convention. It is responsible for interpreting the Bylaws of the District when this is necessary. The CCM also examines and reviews all new and revised constitutions and bylaws of congregations and reports its approval of such constitutions and bylaws to the District President who in turn takes the approved documents to the B.O.D. for approval. The CCM meets five to six times a year. Members should have a good understanding of the Synod *Handbook* and the IN District Bylaws. At least one layman shall be a lawyer.

<i>Rev. Dr. Richard Nuffer</i>	<i>Rev. Bryan Borger</i>
<i>Fred Willig</i>	<i>Richard Schwantz, Jr.</i>
<i>*Mark Franke</i>	<i>Norman Hedges</i>

*Committee on Worship and Spiritual Care* – The Committee on Worship and Spiritual Care promotes and encourages meaningful worship in all congregations of the District and provides leadership for worship services at major gatherings within the District, for example, the District Convention. The Committee develops principles and guidelines for congregational use, develops material resource centers, conducts workshops and institutes for worship leaders of the congregations, such as pastors, organists and choir directors. The Committee also conducts workshops for congregational leaders, such as pastors, elders, and others who are involved in spiritual care, conservation, and involvement of members in the mission of the Church and Christian fellowship. The committee meets a minimum of three times a year.

<i>Rev. Christopher Gillespie (NW-O)</i>	<i>Rev. Martin Moehring (NE-O)</i>
<i>Rev. Jacob Sutton (CE-O)</i>	<i>Rev. Nathan Rastl (SO-O)</i>
<i>Dcs. Sandra Rhein (NW-C)</i>	<i>John Niemann (NW-L)</i>
<i>Matthew Machemer (NE-C)</i>	<i>Michael Hollman (NE-L)</i>
<i>Vacant (CE-C)</i>	<i>Joyce Zimmerman (CE-L)</i>
<i>Henry Wischmeier (SO-C)</i>	<i>Terence Kensell (SO-L)</i>

*Committee for Convention Nominations* – The Committee for Convention Nominations solicits names and prepares a slate of well qualified candidates for each position to be filled at the District Convention, in accordance with the District and Synod Bylaws. The Committee meets nine months before the District Convention for organization and orientation purposes and thereafter meets as necessary in preparation for the District Convention.

<i>Rev. Eric Ahlemeyer (NW-O)</i>	<i>Rev. Timothy Sims (NE-O)</i>
<i>Rev. David Mueller (CE-O)</i>	<i>Rev. Martin Keller (SO-O)</i>
<i>* Paul Wendt (NW-C)</i>	<i>Roger Potratz (NW-L)</i>
<i>Mark Muehl (NE-C)</i>	<i>David Hawk (NE-L)</i>
<i>Paul Johnson (CE-C)</i>	<i>Robert Ferguson (CE-L)</i>
<i>George Denholm (SO-C)</i>	<i>James Claybourn (SO-L)</i>

## Notes

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### <sup>i</sup> 2016 *Handbook*      ***District Conventions***

4.2.1 Conventions of the districts shall afford opportunities for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information. They are the principal legislative assemblies, which amend the district's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, consider and take action on reports and overtures, and handle appropriate appeals.

(a) The conventions of the districts shall be governed by the bylaws adopted by the Synod for its conventions, insofar as these may be applicable.

(b) The district convention is the instrument to receive overtures (Bylaw 3.1.6.2), including overtures and recommendations for synodwide mission and ministry emphases submitted by member congregations and adopted by a circuit forum.

(c) Following in-depth study and discussion, the district convention shall act on the overtures and may, as determined by the convention, submit overtures to the national convention.

(d) The district convention shall, through delegate vote, forward to the national convention a list of two or three triennial mission and ministry emphases for consideration by the national convention.

(e) Each district may adopt other regulations, provided these are not contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

(f) The president of the district shall conduct the sessions according to accepted parliamentary rules and shall so arrange the schedule of business that the sessions do not extend beyond six business days.

(g) Districts may, at their own discretion, provide their convention workbooks and proceedings to each district congregation, delegate and alternate, officer, board, commission, and council member by a means of electronic communication, provided that any designated recipient shall be provided a printed copy of the workbook and proceedings upon request.

See also 3.1.6

### <sup>ii</sup> 2016 *Handbook*

XII.A The pastors of such congregations as hold voting membership in the Synod and the lay delegates elected and deputed by these congregations shall be voting representatives.

4.2.2 The delegates of a voting congregation to a district convention shall be accredited.

(a) To be entitled to vote, delegates shall return the proper credentials provided by the district secretary and signed by two of the congregation's officers, either by mailing them to the district office at a date determined by the district or by presenting them to the district secretary at the opening of the convention. [Credentials are to be mailed to the IN District Office by **March 1, 2018**]

(b) All duly elected voting delegates shall attend all sessions of the convention regularly until the close of the convention.

### <sup>iii</sup> 2016 *Handbook*      ***Election of Synod President.***

3.12.2.3 The Secretary of the Synod shall compile and maintain the voters list for the election of the President of the Synod. This list and any of its parts shall not be disseminated.

(a) This voters list shall include:

(1) the pastor of each member congregation or multi-congregation parish

(2) a lay person from the congregation or parish

(b) The congregation shall present to the Secretary of Synod 90 days prior to the election a proper credentials form provided by the Secretary, signed by two of the congregation's officers. If a congregation or parish has more than one pastor eligible to vote, the congregation shall designate on the credentials form which pastor will cast a vote on behalf of the congregation.

(c) If one or both delegates are unavailable, congregations shall be provided opportunity to select substitute voters up to a deadline designated by the Secretary.

3.12.2.4 Four weeks prior to the national convention, the Secretary of the Synod shall provide, via a secure and verifiable method, opportunity for two voting delegates from each congregation, as determined according to Bylaw

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3.12.2.3, to vote for one of the candidates for President. The Secretary shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors of the Synod, obtain the assistance necessary to accomplish this task. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be retained on the ballot, and another vote shall be taken in the same manner.

3.12.2.5 Following the completion of the election and at least two weeks prior to the convention, the Secretary shall notify the candidates of the results of the ballot(s). He shall thereafter also make the results known to the public. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.

<sup>iv</sup> IN District Bylaws, 2.35 **Elected Officers**

c. All officers and members of the B.O.D., councils and committees shall be members of member congregations of the District upon assuming office and during the course of their tenure.

d. All officers and members of the B.O.D., councils and committees who are elected to represent a region of the District shall forfeit their position if they move outside of the region to which elected.

<sup>v</sup> Districts of Synod elect members to the Committee for [Synod] Convention Nominations on an every-other-triennium cycle. The Indiana District is **not** included in the one-half of districts electing members for the 2019 convention.

<sup>vi</sup> 2016 *Handbook* **Circuit Visitors**

5.2.2 The circuit visitor shall hold his position by virtue of his selection by the circuit forum and ratification by the district convention.

(a) Circuit forums shall meet at the call of their circuit visitors to select their circuit visitors no later than the time established by the district. When in-person meetings are burdensome (e.g., geographically large circuits), a circuit may select another manner of meeting (e.g., e-meeting technologies) that is suitable and made available to all participants, taking into consideration the need to provide for an open and fair exchange of ideas and secure, private, and confidential voting.

(b) Prior to the day of the circuit forum, nominations for candidates for the office of circuit visitor may be submitted by a voting congregation of the circuit and suggested by the district president, in consultation with the praesidium of the district.

(c) Each circuit may adopt procedures and methods that will insure efficiency and accuracy, including the use of mechanical, electronic, or other methods of casting, recording, or tabulating votes. The privilege of voting shall be exercised by the representatives from each member congregation of the circuit, who shall have been selected in the manner prescribed by the congregation (Bylaw 5.3.2).

(d) All nominated pastors serving congregations and emeriti pastors whose names were nominated prior to the day of the circuit forum shall be eligible for election in accordance with section 4.3 of these Bylaws.

(1) Following presentations of pertinent information regarding each pastor as listed in Bylaw 3.12.3.6 (c) and circuit visitor responsibilities as provided hereafter in this bylaw, each voter shall submit the names of two pastors on the initial ballot.

(2) The three pastors (or more in case of a tie vote) who receive the highest number of votes in this preliminary ballot shall be placed on the next ballot. Each voter shall vote for only one candidate.

(3) Balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until one pastor shall have received a simple majority of all votes cast, who shall be declared the nominee.

(e) Immediately following the circuit forum, the circuit visitor shall report in writing the results of the selection process to the secretary of the district in preparation for ratification by the district convention.

(f) In the event that a circuit visitor has not been selected by a circuit forum or has been selected but is no longer available to serve, thus resulting in no circuit visitor selection being included on the convention slate of circuit visitors for a circuit, the district president shall make the selection, which selection shall then be included on the convention slate of circuit visitors.

(g) The convention shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment.

(h) The convention shall then ratify the slate of circuit visitors, which ratification shall constitute election.