Delegates
Indiana District Convention
June 25-26, 2015

Congregation	City	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate
Grace	Dyer	Rev. Christopher Gillespie	Ray Machtemes
St. Paul	East Chicago		
Concordia	Hammond	Rev. Ronald Saatkamp	
St. Paul	Munster	Rev. Don Stock	Tom Breymeyer
Trinity	Hammond	Rev. Kevin Olson	
Redeemer	Highland	Rev. Eric Kleinschmidt	Ronald Murphy
Trinity	Lowell		
Peace	Schererville	Rev. Daniel Dierks	Connie Dierks
Trinity	Crown Point	Rev. David Easterday	Gary Diekelmann
Faith	DeMotte	Rev. Jared Raebel	Ken Pearson
Faith	Gary		
Good Shepherd	Gary		
Our Saviour	Gary		
St. John	Gary		Joseph Posey
St. Philip	Gary		
St. Michael	Hebron	Rev. James Drummond	
Trinity	Hobart		Robert McDougall
Redeemer	Lake Station		
Trinity Mem.	Merrillville	Rev. Richard Boshoven	
Holy Cross	Hobart (Portage)	Rev. Timothy Engel	
St. Paul	Chesterton	Rev. Erich Fickel	Gerhard Mundinger
St. Paul	Kouts	Rev. Robert Hauter	Martin Henrichs
Immanuel	Michigan City	Rev. David Solum	Roger Potratz
St. Paul	Otis	Rev. Thomas Sabel	
St. Peter	Portage		Brad Hughes
Faith Mem.	Valparaiso	Rev. Eric Schoech	Bruce Berner
Heritage	Valparaiso	Rev. Joseph Ostafinski	
Immanuel	Valparaiso	Rev. Andrew Fields	Stacy Maugans
Trinity	Westville	Rev. Jason Harris	
Prince of Peace	Valparaiso	Rev. William Foy	Allen Kent
St. Paul	Denham		Franklin Furr
Immanuel	Hamlet (Tracy)		
St. Matthew	Hamlet	Rev. Kyle Wright II	
First	Hanna	Rev. Jerry Markel	
Our Redeemer	Knox		
St. John	LaCrosse	*	
St. John	LaPorte	Rev. Ronald Brauer	Dionne Lovstad-Jones
St. Mark	Medaryville	*	Ronald Schultz

Congregation	City	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate
St. Peter	North Judson	Rev. Joseph Cunningham	Timothy Brettin
St. John	Wanatah	Rev. Joel Zipay	
St. Luke	Winamac	Rev. Thomas Woodley	
Emmanuel	Wheatfield		
St. Paul	Bremen	Rev. Roger Rohde	Chris Leeper
Trinity	Elkhart	Rev. Christopher Davis	Greg Backus
St. Peter	Mishawaka		John Schroeder
Calvary	Plymouth	Rev. Eric Ahlemeyer	Rick Huff
Emmaus	South Bend	Rev. Dr. D. R. Stuckwisch	Dave Smith
Our Redeemer	South Bend	Rev. Steven Latzke	Ginger Taylor
St. Paul	South Bend	Rev. Gregory Fiechtner	Eric Kuehner
Redeemer	Warsaw	Rev. Michael Mueller	Gerhard Koehlinger
St. Paul	Woodland		
Prince of Peace	Goshen	Rev. Andrew Wollman	John Seering
St. Peter	Warsaw	Rev. Michael Barnes	Timothy Madison
Trinity	Auburn	Rev. Jonathan Nack	Leonard Baughman
Immanuel	Avilla	Rev. Patrick Kuhlman	Leroy Boese
St. John	Columbia City	Rev. David Mommens	Gerry Wiley
Zion	Columbia City	Rev. Philip Rittner II	Ralph Brooke
Zion	Corunna		Larry Beardsley
Clear Lake	Fremont	Rev. Timothy Miller	Deanna Shuman
Zion	Garrett	Rev. Andrew Yeager	Steve Neumann
St. John	Kendallville	Rev. Robert Shriner	
Lake George	Fremont		Dorene Scheimann
Trinity	Ligonier	Rev. Philip Schamehorn	Curt Gierhan
Messiah	Wolcottville	Rev. James Tews	
Shep. by the Lakes	Syracuse	Rev. Jerry Winegarden	Suszane Gilliland
Restoration	Kendallville		
Living Water	Wolf Lake		Janet Gleason
Faith	Churubusco		Reta Borchelt
Sub. Bethlehem	Fort Wayne		Don Esterline
Holy Cross	Fort Wayne	Rev. Dr. T. Ahlersmeyer	Donald Henry
St. Paul	Fort Wayne	Rev. Peter Cage	David Hawk
Trinity	Fort Wayne		Joseph Fair
Our Hope	Huntertown	Rev. Lesley Fichtner	Larry Hilsmier
Emmanuel	Fort Wayne	Rev. Thomas A. Eggold	Maurice Springer
Praise	Fort Wayne		Jim Skurzewski
Bethlehem	Fort Wayne		Nancy Krumm
Emmaus	Fort Wayne	Rev. Roy Olsen	George Eldridge Sr.
Mt. Calvary	Fort Wayne		Paul Doenges
Peace	Fort Wayne	Rev. Paul Spira	Ron Gehring
Shep. of the City	Fort Wayne		
Trinity (Decatur Rd.)	Fort Wayne		Delbert Conrad

Congregation	City	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate
Zion	Fort Wayne	Rev. Douglas Punke	William Wallschlaeger
Aboite	Fort Wayne		
New Life	Fort Wayne	Rev. James Keller	Kyaw Sann
St. Augustine	Fort Wayne		
Southwest	Fort Wayne		
Ascension	Fort Wayne	Rev. John Stube	Mark Franke
Concordia	Fort Wayne		
Gloria Dei	Fort Wayne		
St. Peter	Fort Wayne	Rev. Steve Ahlersmeyer	Dave Peterson
Prince of Peace	Leo (Grabill)		John Roth
Emanuel	New Haven	Rev. David Stecker	Allen Schumm
Martini	New Haven	Rev. Matthew Kohl	Dan Johnson
St. Paul	New Haven	Rev. Michael Blodgett	Ken Koeneman
Christ	Woodburn	Rev. Timothy Edwards	Brian Hoeppner
Zion	Woodburn	Rev. Derek Evans	James Place
Promise	Fort Wayne		
Peace	Berne	Rev. Russell Fuhrmann	Greg Werich
Immanuel	Decatur	Rev. David Koeneman	Ken Krause
St. John	Decatur	Rev. Peter Brock	Bob Thorn
St. Paul	Decatur	Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege	Henry Gallmeyer
St. Peter	Decatur	Rev. Martin Moehring	Allen Franz
Zion	Decatur	Rev. James Voorman	Norbert Bleeke
Zion (Friedheim)	Decatur	Rev. Daniel Dahling	Kathy Fuhrmann
Emmanuel (Soest)	Fort Wayne	Rev. Kyle Krueger	Nathan Bienz
St. John	Monroeville	Rev. Douglas Christian	Brian Hockemeyer
Bethlehem	Ossian		Aldon Bultemeier
New Hope	Ossian	Rev. Paul Doehrmann	Lon Buuck
Faith	Roanoke	Rev. Shayne Jonker	Alan Thompson
Prince of Peace	Hartford City		Jen Holst
Trinity	Culver	*	
Trinity	Goodland	*	
Grace	Lafayette	Rev. Stewart Schulz	Jerry Hogue
St. James	Lafayette	Rev. Michael Salemink	Bryan Shaffer
St. James	Logansport	Rev. K C Dehning	David Lapierre
Our Saviour	Monticello		
St. John	Rensselaer	Rev. David Mueller	Larry Bement
St. Luke	Rensselaer	Rev. Benjamin Hertel	
St. James	Reynolds	Rev. Charles Blakey	Rodney Haskins
St. John	Rochester		Robert Sears Jr.
Redeemer	W. Lafayette		
University	W. Lafayette		Derek Schwanz
St. Matthew	Delphi		Barb Westfall

Congregation	City	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate
Christ	Anderson	Rev. John Jameson	Kenneth Hans
Emanuel	Arcadia		
St. Peter	Huntington	Rev. Timothy Anderson	Randall Prange
Good Shepherd	Kokomo	Rev. Robert Bohlmann	Mark Hartman
Our Redeemer	Kokomo	Rev. William Allison	Jerry Kraase
Zion	Kokomo	Rev. Thomas Ludwig	Wayne L. Meyer
St. James	Marion	Rev. William Lahrman	Norm Wolf
Grace	Muncie	Rev. Daniel Mackey	David Heinkel
St. John	Peru	Rev. Kenneth Greenwald	Jerry Landis
Emanuel	Tipton	Rev. Robb Roloff	Paul North
Zion	Wabash	Rev. Jeremy Yeadon	Gary Robison
Ascension	Beech Grove		
Carmel	Carmel	Rev. Daniel Schumm	Brad Reay
Faith	Greenfield	Rev. William O'Connor	Donald Albrecht
Christ	Indianapolis	Rev. Edmund Lim	William Glawatz
St. John	Indianapolis	Rev. Philip Krupski	Lynn Fox
Trinity	Indianapolis	Rev. John Mackowiak	Rick Lacy
Zion	New Palestine	Rev. Jason Taylor	Jim Reiman
Holy Cross	Indianapolis	Rev. David McClean	Roger Tomes
Christ	Noblesville	Rev. Adrian Piazza	Dave Mees
Lord of Life	Westfield	Rev. Timothy Krupski	Paul Feder
Epiphany	Westfield	Rev. Jeremy Mills	Jack Stefani
Journey	Fishers	Rev. J. vanSliedrecht	Cal Kuphall
Christ	Brownsburg		Jack Underwood
Holy Cross	Crawfordsville		
Peace	Greencastle	Rev. Matthew Schneider	Jess Norton
Messiah	Indianapolis		Roger Vandrey
Our Shepherd	Avon	Rev. Daniel Lepley	Norman Hedges
Immanuel	Terre Haute	Rev. Jacob Sutton	Ronald Dunbar
Living Christ	Plainfield	Rev. Philip Sievers	Carl Benning
Concordia	Greenwood	Rev. John Flamme	Steve Nantz
Calvary	Indianapolis	Rev. Kurt Ebert	Rich Wilson
Emmaus	Indianapolis	Rev. Raymond Smith	
Our Savior	Indianapolis		Alan Presley
Peace Deaf	Indianapolis		
St. Paul	Indianapolis	Rev. David Shadday	Terry Fewell
St. Peter	Indianapolis	Rev. Seth Mierow	Phyllis Hoenstine
First Timothy	Indianapolis		Cleveland Lewis
Mt. Olive	Greenwood	Rev. Jeffrey Alexander	
Faith	Bloomington	Rev. Eric Edwards	Barry Martin
University	Bloomington		Glenn Kurtz
Faith	Columbus	Rev. Todd Riordan	Charles Weddle

Congregation	City	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate
Grace	Columbus	Rev. John Armstrong	Mark Stepper
St. John	Columbus	Rev. Joshua Cook	Louis Voelker
St. Paul	Columbus	Rev. Juan Luna	Adam Hall
St. Peter	Columbus	Rev. Mark Teike	Robert Bense
Good Shepherd	Franklin		
St. Paul	Jonesville		Gerald Clow
Prince of Peace	Martinsville	Rev. Nathan Janssen	Dennis Eickhoff
Shep. of the Hills	Morgantown		
St. Mark	Shelbyville		
St. Peter	Waymansville	Rev. John Beabout	Michael Vandercar
Trinity	Ellettsville	Rev. Raymond Salemink	
North Vernon	Lord of Life		
Emanuel	Seymour		
Immanuel	Seymour	Rev. Ralph Blomenberg	Charles Fox
Redeemer	Seymour	Rev. Andrew Currao	Kevin Kasting
Zion	Seymour	Rev. Jeffrey Stuckwisch	Ron Rieckers
Peace	Seymour		
Calvary	Bedford		Jeffrey Ames
St. Paul	Brownstown	Rev. Martin Keller	Roger Wischmeier
St. Peter	Brownstown	Rev. Jeffrey Patterson	
Emmanuel	Leesville	Rev. Paul Neuman	Timothy Steltenpohl
Good Shepherd	Medora	Rev. Jack Belk	Robin England
Faith	Salem		
St. John	Seymour	Rev. Craig Muhlbach	Donald Rieckers
Trinity	Vallonia		Frank Wolka Jr.
St. John	Aurora	Rev. Edward Davis	John Rahe
Bethany	Connersville		
St. Paul	Cross Plains		Howard Smith Jr.
Trinity	Dillsboro	Rev. Richard Kolaskey	John Miller
St. John	Farmers Retreat	Rev. Garry Wickert	Casey Gilmour
Holy Trinity	Greensburg	Rev. Aaron West	
Bethlehem	Greendale	Rev. Michael Manz	
Faith	Madison		
Our Savior	Danville		
Our Redeemer	Lexington		
St. John	Lexington		Gary Young
Good Shepherd	Lexington		Kelly Campanelli
St. John	Evanston		
Our Saviour	Evansville	Rev. Robert Schneider	Andy Gallmeister
Our Redeemer	Evansville	Rev. Thomas Wenig	
Trinity	Henderson	Rev. Mark Moog	Don Letterman
Peace	Owensboro	Rev. Roger Sassaman	

Congregation	City	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate
Emmanuel	Tell City	Rev. Daniel Gadbaw	Kelly Stephens
Concordia	Evansville	Rev. David Wiist	Ed McCoy
Immanuel	Evansville	Rev. Kirk Horstmeyer	Jim Bratten
Messiah	Evansville		
St. Paul	Evansville	Rev. Chad Eckels	Jim Claybourn
Trinity	Evansville	Rev. Dr. Martin Noland	James Sturtevant
Trinity	Darmstadt	Rev. Stanton Temme	James Kahre
St. John	Vincennes	Rev. Ron Maxwell	
St. Peter	Vincennes	Rev. Nathan Rastl	
Shep. Of the Hills	Georgetown	Rev. Mark Darnstaedt	Daniel Biggs
St. John	Lanesville	Rev. Chris Truelsen	Don Wood
Concordia	Louisville	Rev. Michael Boyd	Aaron Silletto
Redeemer	Louisville	Rev. Steven Ensley	Jerry Sauer Sr.
Grace	New Albany		Auggie Hinz
Epiphany	New Salisbury	Rev. Charles Fischer	Harold Gardner
Risen Lord	Taylorsville		
Gloria Dei	Elizabethtown		Charlotte Campbell
Holy Trinity	LaGrange		
Holy Trinity	Leitchfield		
Faith	Louisville	Rev. Ronald Richeson	Robert Allison
Our Savior	Louisville	Rev. Charles Fausel	Karen McKinney
Peace	Louisville		
Resurrection	Louisville		John Ater
Holy Cross	Shelbyville		
Divine Savior	Shepherdsville		
Good Shepherd	Bardstown		Valerie Border

ADVISORY - ORDAINED

Rev. Alan Barber, Emeritus
Rev. Joseph J. Barlau, Redeemer, Seymour
Rev. William Barlow, Emeritus
Rev. Robert Becker, Emeritus
Rev. Philip Bloch, Immanuel, Seymour
Rev. Steve Bongard, Immanuel, Valparaiso
Rev. Dr. Paul Dancy, Emeritus
Rev. Galen Drawbaugh, Emeritus
Rev. T om Dunbar, Emeritus
Rev. Eric Ebb, Mooresville
Rev. Randall Glander, Fort Wayne
Rev. Robert Gullion, Emeritus
Rev. Robert Hall, Emeritus
Rev. Allen Hellwege, Emeritus
Rev. Justin Herman, University, Lafayette
Rev. Marvin Hinkle, Emeritus
Rev. Soren S. Urberg, Emeritus
Rev. Mark Whitsett, LaGrange, KY
Rev. Cory Wielert, Crown Point
Rev. Richard Koehneke, Emeritus
Rev. Weldon Leimer, Emeritus
Rev. Steven MacDouglall, Emeritus
Rev. Lannon Martin, Concordia Theo. Sem.
Rev. Yohannes Mengsteab, Holy Cross, Ft. ayne
Rev. David Nabinger, Emeritus
Rev. Richard Radtke, Emeritus
Rev. Udahayanesan Raji, Calvary, Indianapolis
Rev. Marvin Rastl, Emeritus
Rev. Philip Rigdon, Our Shepherd, Avon
Rev. James Rodriguez, Jr., Immanuel, Seymour
Rev. Donald Sandmann, Emeritus
Rev. Ralph Schmidt, Emeritus
Rev. Herbert Schumm, Emeritus
Rev. Jerrell Simmerman, Noblesville
Rev. Timothy Sims, Emeritus
Rev. Richard Woelmer, University, Bloomington
Rev. Scott Zeckzer, Emanuel, New Haven

ADVISORY – COMMISSIONED

Dr. Todd Behmlander, Immanuel, Seymour
Evelyn Benning, Emeritus
Matthew Carlson, Christ, Noblesville
Sara Cunningham, Immanuel, Valparaiso
George Denholm, St. Peter's, Columbus
Dr. Clifford Dietrich, Emeritus
Ken Eichinger, St. Paul's, Bremen
Jerry Hapke, Promise, Fort Wayne
Larry Hencye, Trinity (St. Mary's), Fort Wane
Susan Hessong, St. John's, Seymour
Lance Hoffman, Concordia High School, Ft. Wayne
Brian Horning, St. John, Decatur
Karl Ketcher, Trinity, Crown Point
Carole King, Trinity, Crown Point
Larry Koelper, St. Paul's, Fort Wayne
Darin Koenemann, Ascension, Fort Wayne
Mark Muehl, Fort Wayne
John G. Mueller, Emeritus
Krista Nagy, Luth. So. Unity, Ft. Wayne
Fay Richart, Emeritus
James Russell, St. Paul's, Bremen
Norbert Schaekel, Emeritus
William Schmidt, Emeritus
Carl Schulenburg, Emeritus
Linda Schulenburg, Emeritus
Rich Schwantz, Concordia, Ft. Wayne
Margie Whitsett, Our Savior, Louisville

Minutes of the
Twenty-First Convention of the Indiana District
of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

June 25 – 26, 2015
Grand Wayne Convention Center
Fort Wayne, Indiana

One Spirit and Purpose
Ephesians 4: 4-5

Thursday, June 25, 2015

9:45 a.m. – President May welcomed the delegates. A video introducing the work in the Indiana District was shown to the delegates.

Devotion 10:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m. Convention Chaplain Pastor Jason Taylor led the delegates in a time of devotion.

Synod Report (DVD) 10:15 a.m.

Rev. Herbert Mueller, First Vice-President of the LC-MS represented President Harrison and the LC-MS. A video entitled "Upon this Rock" was show. "Upon This Rock" this is also the theme for the 2016 LC-MS Synod-wide Convention (Milwaukee, WI).

Registration Report 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Ron Bleke gave the registration report as of 10 a.m. Registered voting delegates: a) Pastors – 131; b) Lay delegates – 145; c) total voting delegates – 276. Registered advisory delegates: 56. Total registered delegates: 332.
The registered voting delegates represented the required quorum of one-third of the district congregations being represented. Rev. President Daniel May called the convention to order.

Agenda: It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as presented in Today's Business. **Action**: Adopted (275 votes; 98.6%)

Mr. Dennis Becker was introduced as Parliamentarian for the convention.

Acceptance of Roberts Rules of Order & Standing Rules (Printed on pages 159 and 160 in the workbook). Adoption of the standing rules requires a 2/3 majority.

Motion: it is moved and seconded to adopt the Roberts Rules of Order and Standing Rules as presented on pages 159-160 of the convention supplement.
Action: Adopted (288 votes; 98%)

New Congregations of the District were welcomed:

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Delphi, Indiana (chartered 1/11/15) Journey Lutheran Ministries Fishers, Indiana (chartered 8/10/2014) Resurrection Lutheran Church, Louisville, Kentucky (chartered 11/03/2013) St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Warsaw, Indiana (chartered 10/06/2013)
Praise Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana (transfer from the English District)
Christ the King Lutheran Church, Mooresville, Indiana

New Workers (ordained and commissioned) in the Indiana District were welcomed.

See the Convention Workbook, pages 46-61 and Convention Workbook Supplement, page 184-189 for the list of new workers.

Floor Committee Chairmen were introduced

Committee #1 Theology and Administration: Rev. Ralph Blomenberg, co-chairman.
Committee #2 Outreach: Rev. Paul Shoemaker, chairman.
Committee #3 Education and Congregational Services: Rev. Ron Brauer, chairman.
Committee #4 Stewardship and Structure: Rev. Daniel Schumm, chairman
Committee #5 Elections: Rev. Scott Zeckzer, chairman.
Committee #6 Nominations: Rev. Richard Radtke, chairman.

Committee #5: Elections 10:40 a.m.

Pastor Scott Zeckzer came to the dais. He reviewed the election process including the process for floor nominations. Pastor Zeckzer then introduced the nominees for the Office of District President; this was followed by voting for District President.

First Ballot for District President

Candidate	votes / percent (278 votes cast)
Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege –	98 / 35.3%
Rev. Douglas Christian –	7 / 2.5%
Rev. Dr. Daniel May –	150 / 54%
Rev. David Mommens –	3 / 1.1%
Rev. Geoffrey Robinson –	7 / 2.5%
Rev. Dr. D. Richard Stuckwisch –	13 / 4.7%

President Daniel May having received 54% of the votes was elected to his fifth term as district president.

SYNOD REPORT (Bible Study) –Dr. Herb Mueller - 10:55 am.
Rev. Mueller led the delegates in a study of Matthew 16: 16-17 followed by a brief report on the status of the LC-MS (financial, mission work, goals, etc.).

Greetings 11:45 a.m.

Lutheran Hour Ministries – Dionne Lovestad-Jones
Orphan Grain Train – Rev. Ralph Schmidt
Cross Connections Counseling – Matthew Konow (video)

Announcements:
There will be a LCEF sponsored Reception 7 to 9 pm Thursday
12:10 pm recess for lunch
1:00 pm President May called the delegates back into session.

DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Committee #5: Elections – 2:02 p.m.
Election of Vice Presidents

Pastor Jason Taylor led the assembly in prayer prior to the election process for Vice Presidents. 2:06 p.m.

Pastor David Mueller requested that his name be removed from the ballot for Vice President of the Central Region.

Northwest Region:	Rev. William Foy (88 votes; 32.2%)	
	Rev. Dr. D. Richard Stuckwisch (185 votes; 67.8%)	Rev. Stuckwisch elected
Northeast Region:	Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege (175 votes; 61.6%)	Rev. Brege elected
	Rev. Dr. Lane Burgland (60 votes; 21.1%)	
	Rev. Douglas Punke (49 votes; 17.3%)	
Central Region:	Rev. David Shadday (209 votes; 75.5%)	Rev. Shadday elected
	Rev. Arthur Wehrmeister (68 votes; 24.5%)	
Southern Region:	Rev. Nathan Rastl (139 votes; 48.8%)	
	Rev. Robert Schneider (156 votes; 51.2%)	Rev. Schneider elected

Each vice president was elected on the first ballot

Ratification of Circuit Visitor Elections

Circuit Name	2015 Visitor
1 Hammond	Dr. Eric Stumpf
2 Gary	Rev. Richard Boshoven
3 Valparaiso	Rev. Donald Williams
4 LaPorte	Rev. Joel S. Zipay
5 South Bend	vacant
6 Kendallville	Rev. Patrick Kuhlman
7 Fort Wayne North	Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer
8 Fort Wayne South	Rev. Douglas Punke
9 Fort Wayne East	Rev. Timothy E. Sims
10 Decatur	Rev. Shayne Jonker
11 Lafayette	Rev. David R. Mueller

12 Kokomo	Rev. William Allison
13 Indianapolis East	Rev. Ronald Baumann
14 Indianapolis West	Rev. Philip Rigdon
15 Indianapolis Central	Rev. Arthur Wehrmeister
16 Columbus	Rev. Nathan Janssen
17 Seymour	Rev. Philip Bloch
18 Brownstown	Rev. Craig Muhlbach
19 Aurora	Rev. Richard Kolaskey
20 Lexington	Rev. Michael Huebner
21 Evansville East	Rev. Daniel Gadbaw
22 Evansville West	Rev. David Wiist
23 Louisville West	Rev. Michael Boyd
24 Louisville East	Rev. John Fraiser

Motion to ratify Circuit Visitors
It is moved and seconded to ratify the Circuit Visitor election as amended.
Action: Adopted (289 of 303 votes; 95.4%)

Floor Nominations for Councils and Standing Committees
President May asked delegates to submit floor nominations in writing to the registration desk.

Wittenberg Project Report - Rev. David Bultemann – 2:23 p.m.

Committee #2 – Outreach – 2:57 p.m.
The convention chairman requested that only resolves be read.

Resolution 2-01: To Establish a Task Force for Ministry to and with People with Disabilities (Overture 2-01, Workbook, page 145)

Whereas, our Lord ministered to the needs of all people and asks His followers to emulate His example; and

Whereas, "all people" includes individuals with disabilities (those who are blind or visually impaired, deaf or hearing impaired, have developmental disabilities, live with severe mental illnesses, [currently about 16 percent of the total population]) which significantly limit major life activities; and

Whereas, the Son of God embarked on a ministry of mercy and restoration for those who live on the margins of life, that they too might hear that their sins are forgiven by Him who shows mercy and restores body, soul and spirit, and thus "all people" were welcomed and participated in the Body of Christ; and

Whereas, people with disabilities are often faced with physical and attitudinal barriers to full participation in worship, education, fellowship and service activities, with many church members having difficulty in accepting people with disabilities, identifying their needs, and providing ways to welcome them into their congregations; and

Whereas, the removal of physical and attitudinal barriers significantly enhances the spiritual, emotional and social life of people with disabilities, and is a sign of Christian love and hospitality to all; and

Whereas, people with disabilities are able to make positive contributions to parish life lived under the cross; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District establish a Disability Ministry Task Force modeled after the LCMS Disability Ministry Task Force, and under the supervision of the President of the Indiana District; and be it further

Revolved, that the Indiana District Disability Task Force (DTF) be established for initial 3 year term and, thereafter, through convention resolution, be considered for renewal of a 3-year term at every convention; and be it further

Resolved, that the President of the Indiana District appoint members to the DTF from members of the Indiana District with representation by people with disabilities, and including professionals in the areas of spiritual life supports, medical care, education, building design, law, as others are needed, to give pertinent information to congregations and church workers that they may provide excellent services to people with disabilities; and be it finally

Resolved, that the DTF address the following (including but not limited to):

1. A mission statement for the work of the task force;
2. A congregational self-assessment tool to assess the needs of people with disabilities;
3. Plans and guidelines to address physical, attitudinal, and other barriers in churches;
4. Suggestions whereby people with disabilities can ore fully participate in the life and ministry of the congregation;
5. Provide a list of available resources which will help individuals with disabilities, their families, and congregation members network with nearby agencies and other families with disability;
6. Request financial support from LCEF and other synodical auxiliaries (e.g. LWML's mission mite grants) to provide funds necessary to make physical changes to existing buildings to improve services for meeting the needs of people with disabilities.

Resolution 2-01 being moved by the floor committee came before the delegates for action.

Motion to amend: it was moved and seconded to strike the second resolve.
Discussion: The committee had no objection to the amendment.
Action on the motion to amend: Adopted (225 of 270 votes; 83.3%)

Amended resolution 2-01 with the second resolve removed reads as follows:

Resolution 2-01 Amended: To Establish a Task Force for Ministry to and with People with Disabilities

(Overture 2-01, Workbook, page 145)

Whereas, our Lord ministered to the needs of all people and asks His followers to emulate His example; and

Whereas, "all people" includes individuals with disabilities (those who are blind or visually impaired, deaf or hearing impaired, have developmental disabilities, live with severe mental illnesses, [currently about 16 percent of the total population]) which significantly limit major life activities; and

Whereas, the Son of God embarked on a ministry of mercy and restoration for those who live on the margins of life, that they too might hear that their sins are forgiven by Him who shows mercy and restores body, soul and spirit, and thus "all people" were welcomed and participated in the Body of Christ; and

Whereas, people with disabilities are often faced with physical and attitudinal barriers to full participation in worship, education, fellowship and service activities, with many church members having difficulty in accepting people with disabilities, identifying their needs, and providing ways to welcome them into their congregations; and

Whereas, the removal of physical and attitudinal barriers significantly enhances the spiritual, emotional and social life of people with disabilities, and is a sign of Christian love and hospitality to all; and

Whereas, people with disabilities are able to make positive contributions to parish life lived under the cross; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District establish a Disability Ministry Task Force modeled after the
LCMS Disability Ministry Task Force, and under the supervision of the President of the Indiana District; and be it further

Resolved, that the President of the Indiana District appoint members to the DTF from members of the Indiana District with representation by people with disabilities, and including professionals in the areas of spiritual life supports, medical care, education, building design, law, as others are needed, to give pertinent information to congregations and church workers that they may provide excellent services to people with disabilities; and be it finally

Resolved, that the DTF address the following (including but not limited to):

1. A mission statement for the work of the task force;
2. A congregational self-assessment tool to assess the needs of people with disabilities;
3. Plans and guidelines to address physical, attitudinal, and other barriers in churches;
4. Suggestions whereby people with disabilities can ore fully participate in the life and ministry of the congregation;
5. Provide a list of available resources which will help individuals with disabilities, their families, and congregation members network with nearby agencies and other families with disability;
6. Request financial support from LCEF and other synodical auxiliaries (e.g. LWML's mission mite grants) to provide funds necessary to make physical changes to existing buildings to improve services for meeting the needs of people with disabilities.

Action on Amended Resolution 2-01: Adopted (239 of 268 votes; 89.2%)

Resolution 2-02: To Support the Well-being of All the Church's Workers in the Indiana District (Overture 2-02, Workbook, page 146)

Whereas, the well-being of the church's workers is vital to the ministry and mission of the church; and

Whereas, those who are called to serve the church in various capacities are well advised to care for themselves so that they can carry out their ministries to the best of their ability; and

Whereas, congregations, schools, and other agencies are vital to the well-being of their ministers as they support those ministers in pursuit of their well-being; and

Whereas, major challenges to the well-being of the church's ministers are known and documented, along with effective strategies to deal with those challenges to enhance their wellbeing; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District in convention express its support for all efforts of congregations, schools, and agencies to care for our workers and support them in their wellbeing, including the following components of holistic well-being: spiritual, financial, vocational, intellectual, relational, emotional, and physical; and be it further

Resolved, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to do all they can to support the holistic well-being of their ministers, focusing on intentional, strategic, practical efforts at preventing problems before they develop and resolving them before they become crises; and be it further

Resolved, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to support the holistic well-being of all their other workers as well; and be it finally

Resolved, that the church's workers of the Indiana District be encouraged to care for themselves in every aspect of holistic well-being so that they can continue to serve to the best of their ability with the gifts and strength that God supplies.

Resolution 2-02 being moved by the floor committee came before the delegates for action.

Action on Resolution 2-02: Adopted (241 of 272 votes; 88.6 %)

Resolution 2-03: To Develop Guidelines for Responsible Use of Social Media by Professional Church Workers
(Overture 2-03, Workbook, page 147)

Whereas, the prevalence of social media in the 21st century has introduced a new blend of both private and public discourse; and

Whereas, many professional church workers in the LCMS utilize social media; and

Whereas, we are called by the Gospel and enlightened with God's gifts to be His witnesses in both private and public settings;, and

Whereas, the Eighth Commandment (Exodus 20:16) commands us to "not give false testimony against your neighbor," and

Whereas, Martin Luther's explanation of the Eighth Commandment in the *Small Catechism* exhorts us to "Explain everything in the kindest way"; and

Whereas, the Apostle Peter's words in 1 Peter 3:15 instruct us to witness in both word and action "with gentleness and respect;" and

Whereas, employers throughout the United States are developing systems to safeguard the integrity of their organizations through professional agreements with their workers regarding their personal and public use of social media; and

Whereas, as servant leaders, professional church workers are called to live as examples both for the Christian church and for the secular world; and

Whereas, the public witness of the LCMS to the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ can be either helped or hindered by professional church workers' use of social media; therefore be it

Resolved, that the President of the Indiana District, in coordination and cooperation with all appropriate commissions and task forces, review the social media policy for the Indiana District office to be modified for congregational use. This will be completed by the end of 2015; and be it further

Resolved, that the President of the Indiana District will equip all Circuit Visitors to utilize this agreement for the blessing of all professional church workers and congregations they serve; and be it further

Resolved, that the President of the Indiana District will address the issue of responsible use of social media with all professional church workers at their respective conferences in 2016; and be it finally

Resolved, that the 2015 Indiana District Convention memorialize the 2016 LCMS Convention to develop a comprehensive "Social Media Agreement for Professional Church Workers" that will be studied and implemented throughout the LCMS.

Resolution 2-03 being moved by the floor committee came before the delegates for action.

A friendly amendment, accepted by the floor committee, was made to use the current language of the Small Catechism in the whereas ("Explain everything in the kindest way") was accepted by consensus. This amended wording is in the motion printed above.

Action on Resolution 2-03: Adopted (227 of 279 votes; 81.4%)

Rev. Nathanial Bol a native of South Sudan was welcomed to dais to address the delegates. Rev. Bol told of the confessional struggle of God's people in South Sudan which led many to affiliate themselves with the Lutheran Confession.

Motion to amend Omnibus B
It is moved and seconded that overture 2-08 be removed from omnibus B

Discussion: the committee requests time to consider overture 2-08

Motion to table the motion to amend Omnibus B

Action on motion to table amendment Omnibus B: Motion tabled (239 of 266 votes; 89.9%)

Orders of the day were called by the chairman

Committee 5: Election of Boards, Councils and Committees – 3:30 pm

Convention Chaplain, Pastor Jason Taylor offered prayer before the election process.

Motion to accept the candidates for uncontested positions.
It was moved and seconded to elect the uncontested candidates.
Action: Adopted 95.8% (276 of 288 votes; 95.8%)

List of uncontested candidates elected by the motion:

Treasurer	Thomas Steinmetz	
Board of Directors:	Northwest Commissioned: Kenneth Eichinger	
	Southern Lay: Roy Stuckwisch	
Council for Outreach:	Northwest Commissioned: Kenneth Eichinger	
	Central Commissioned: Evelyn Benning	
	Central Lay: Wayne Meyer	
	Southern Lay: Matthew Helwig	
Council for Services:	Southern Commissioned: Scott Schumacher	
Council for Resources:	Southern Ordained: Rev. Todd Riordan	
	Northeast Commissioned: Kenneth Schilf	
	Central Commissioned: Carl Schulenburg	
	Southern Commissioned: Jonathan Baumgartel	
	Northwest Lay: John Niemann	
Worship and Spiritual Care:	Central Ordained: Rev. Jacob Sutton	
	Northwest Commissioned: Dcs. Sandra Rhein	
	Southern Commissioned: Henry Wischmeier	
	Northwest Lay: John Niemann	
	Central Lay: Joyce Zimmerman	
Nominating Committee:	Northeast Ordained: Rev. Timothy Sims	
	Northwest Commissioned: Paul Wendt	
	Central Commissioned: Paul Johnson	
	Northeast Lay: David Hawk	
	Central Lay: Robert Ferguson	
Constitutional Matters:	Commissioned:	Darin Koeneman
		Fred Willig
	Lay:	Mark Franke
		Norman Hedges

Point of information: Do the conflicts in the uncontested list (a person elected to more than one position, for example) come back to the delegates for resolution? The answer given by chairman stated that the conflicts will not come back to the convention delegates.

Election of Councils and Committees
Changes to the printed ballot:

Council for Congregational Outreach:

Rev. Richard Boshoven removed his name from the ballot.
Rev. Jeffrey Pulse removed from the ballot
Rev. Michael Boyd removed his name from the ballot.

Committee on Worship and Spiritual Care:

Rev. Joshua Osbun removed his name from the ballot.

Nominating Committee:

Rev. Richard Radtke removed his name from the ballot.

SECRETARY: Rev. Peter Brock – 51.3% (second ballot)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Northeast-Commissioned: John Weber – 60.4% (seond ballot)
Central-Commissioned: Mark Borcherding 50.4% (first ballot)
Southern-Commissioned: Dr. Todd Behmlander – 70.2% (first ballot)
Northwest-Lay: Allen Kent – 67.3% (first ballot)
Northeast-Lay: Michael Hawk – 56.6% (second ballot)
Central-Lay: Don Scifres – 61.4% (first ballot)

COUNCIL FOR CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH: Northwest-Ordained: Rev. Erich Fickel – 54.5% (first ballot) Central-Ordained: Rev. Jeffrey Alexander – 65.4% (first ballot)
Northwest-Lay: Dave Smith – 51.2% (first ballot)
Northeast-Lay: Claire Fickenscher – 52% (second ballot)

COUNCIL FOR CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES:

Northwest-Ordained: Rev. Michael Barnes – 73.9% (first ballot)
Northeast-Ordained: Rev. Lesley Joe Fichtner – 53.1% (second ballot)
Central-Ordained: Rev. Seth Mierow – 60% (first ballot)
Southern-Ordained: Rev. Steve Ensley – 67.7% (first ballot)
Northwest-Commissioned: Jaymes Hayes – 50.8% (first ballot)
Northeast-Commissioned: Dcs. Joyce Ostermann – 53.4% (first ballot)
Central-Commissioned: Dcs. Shaina Mitchell – 67.3% (first ballot)
Northwest-Lay: Roger Potratz – 60% (first ballot)
Central-Lay: Don Leach – 60.3% (second ballot)
Southern-Lay: Frank Wolka, Jr – 52.9% (first ballot)

COUNCIL FOR CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES: Northwest-Ordained: Rev. Roger Rohde – 55.9% (first ballot) Northeast-Ordained: Rev. Paul Shoemaker – 72.5% (first ballot) Central-Ordained: Rev. Philip Sievers – 53.2% (first ballot) Northwest-Commissioned: Sara Cunningham – 51.6% (first ballot) Northeast-Lay: Gary Lybarger – 61.1% (second ballot)
Central-Lay: Paul North – 51.4% (second ballot)
Southern-Lay: Gerald Clow – 57.5% (first ballot)

COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL CARE:

Northwest-Ordained: Rev. Christopher Gillespie – 63% (first ballot)
Northeast-Ordained: Rev. Martin Moehring – 70.4% (first ballot)
Southern-Ordained: Nathan Rastl – 66.2% (first ballot)
Northeast-Commissioned: Matthew Machemer – 55% (third ballot)
Central-Commissioned: Matthew Carlson – 52.4% (first ballot)
Northeast-Lay: Michael Hollman – 61.4% (second ballot)
Southern-Lay: Terence Kensell – 50.6% (first ballot)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Northwest-Ordained: Rev. Eric Ahlemeyer – 54.9% (first ballot)
Central-Ordained: Rev. David Mueller – 58.9% (first ballot)
Southern-Ordained: Rev. Martin Keller – 69.4% (first ballot)
Northeast-Commissioned: Mark Muehl – 60.7% (second ballot)
Northwest-Lay: Roger Potratz – 53.4% (first ballot)
Southern-Lay: James Claybourn – 62.3% (first ballot)

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS:

Ordained:	Rev. Chad Kendall – 55.1% (first ballot)
	Rev. Richard Nuffer – 53.3% (first ballot)
Commissioned:	Darin Koenemann – 79.8% (first ballot)
	Fred Willig – 77.4% (first ballot)
Lay:	Mark Franke – 81.4% (first ballot)
	Norman Hedges – 84.8% (first ballot)

SYNODICAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Rev. Dr. Martin Noland – 57.9% (first ballot)

Motion to elect Rev. Timothy Sims to the Council for Congregation Outreach, Northeast-Ordained position.
Action: passed by voice vote

Vice Presidents Ranking Ballot – 4:10 p.m.

Results of the Ranking Balloting

First Vice President: Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege (second ballot, 62.4%)
Second Vice President: Rev. David Shadday (second ballot, 58.2%)
Third Vice President: Rev. Dr. D. Richard Stuckwisch (first ballot, 57.2%)
Fourth Vice President: Rev. Robert Schneider

Synod Q & A with Rev. Herbert Mueller – 4:30 p.m.
Closing Devotion and Meal prayer 5:15 p.m.- 5:25 p.m.
President May called the convention into recess to reconvene on Friday at 10 a.m.

Dinner was held at the Convention Center at 6:15 p.m. followed by an LCEF-sponsored reception.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

An Open House was held at the District Office Building at 7 a.m.
The Worship Service with the Installation of Officers and Remembrance of Church Workers who have fallen asleep in Jesus was held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne at 8 a.m.

10:14 a.m. President May called the convention back into session.
Convention Chaplain Pastor Daniel Lepley began the session with prayer.

Greetings 10:20 a.m.

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN – Dr. Lawrence Rast
Concordia University Wisconsin / Ann Arbor, MI – Rev. John Bush (Video)
Concordia University, Chicago, IL – Dr. Daniel Gard
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO – Dr. James Voelz (Video)
Concordia Plan Services – Maureen Schneider (Video)

Committee #1: Theology and Administration - 11:15 a.m.

Resolution 1-01: To Celebrate the 500TH Anniversary of the Reformation
(Overture 1-06, Supplement to the Workbook, page 198)

Whereas, the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation will occur in 2017 and

Whereas, we remember the nailing of the 95 these on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany not so much for historic reasons, but primarily for theological reasons and

Whereas, the theology developed and espoused in the Lutheran Reformation culminated in the Book of Concord of 1580 (U.A.C.) which all pastors and teachers of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod pledge to adhere to in their commissioning or ordination vow, and

Whereas, this pledge is done because we believe that the Book of Concord is a true exposition of Holy Scripture, and

Whereas, in the Book of Concord is stated that the Holy Scriptures are the sole, rule and norm for our faith and life, and

Whereas, this is the faith that we live and are enjoined by God to teach our families and also to share with the world of unbelievers, and

Whereas, we believe that Lutheran theology shares the Gospel of Christ in the purest form, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District in convention encourage all congregations and circuits to partake of the various activities and celebratory events marking this 500th anniversary; and be it further

Resolved, that the Indiana District in Convention encourage the study of the Lutheran Symbols contained in the Book of Concord of 1580 and Christian Apologetics within our congregations; and be it further

Resolved, that the convention instruct the Executive Staff of the district to prepare bulletin fliers, Sunday school activities, plays, bumper stickers, signs etc., and regional events to celebrate this 500th anniversary; and be it further

Resolved, that congregational education and outreach activities be offered to all congregations of the Indiana District LCMS, and be it further

Resolved, that these educational and outreach activities be prepared by the appropriate department of the Indiana District Executive Staff, and be it finally

Resolved, that a district wide celebratory rally be considered to occur on October 31, 2017, in which we celebrate the pure teaching of the Gospel of Christ through preaching and teaching.

A friendly amendment to the second resolve was accepted by the committee which adds the word "these Lutheran Symbols contained in the Book of Concord." So the paragraph will read: "Resolved, that the Indiana District in Convention encourage the study of ***these Lutheran Symbols contained in the Book of Concord of 1580 and*** Christian Apologetics within our congregations;"

Resolution 1-01 was moved by the floor committee

Action on Resolution 1-01: Adopted (246 of 259 votes; 95%)

Resolution 1-02: To Encourage Concordia (Overture 1-05, Workbook page 142)

Whereas, LCMS Lutherans have loved Concordia in the past as evidenced by the fact that both of our LCMS seminaries have in their names Concordia, the official archives of our church body has the name Concordia Historical Institute, our ten universities have Concordia in their name, our Lutheran high school in Fort Wayne is named Concordia Lutheran High School, many of our overseas missions have Concordia in their names and numerous churches have Concordia in their names, in effect Concordia is an LCMS moniker; and

Whereas, "*Concordia* comes from two Latin words meaning 'with' and 'heart.' It describes a commitment to the truth so strong and so deep, it is as if those who share it have a single heart beat."[1]; and

Whereas, there is only one absolute book of truth found in the world, namely, the Holy Scriptures; and

Whereas, these Scriptures are the sole, rule and norm for faith and life; and

Whereas, all pastors and congregations of the Indiana District – LCMS have sworn their commitment to uphold the teachings of Holy Scripture as expounded in the Book of Concord of 1580 (U.A.C.); therefore be it

Resolved, that pastors and members of the congregations be encouraged to continue to study God's Word diligently; and be it further

Resolved, that the pastors and members of the congregations of the Indiana District – LCMS be encouraged to actively seek ways to share this Word of God with

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1 Paul Timothy McCain, ed., *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions -- A Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord*, 2nd edition (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing, 2007), xiii.

their communities through intentional outreach as well as in their daily vocations; and be it further

Resolved, that pastors and their congregational members be encouraged to work together in furthering the Mission of God locally, and corporately as members of the Indiana District – LCMS; and be it further

Resolved, that collectively we rejoice in the cooperation that is ongoing in the Indiana District – LCMS and that we thank the congregations of the Indiana District – LCMS for their support of mission work throughout the district; and be it finally

Resolved, that pastors and members of the congregations of the Indiana District – LCMS be encouraged to support the Indiana District – LCMS in a robust way through their prayers, fraternal comments and financial offerings so that the Word of God might be proclaimed loudly and boldly in new areas within the Indiana District – LCMS.

The floor committee moves adoption of resolution 1-02
Discussion:
Action on Resolution 1-02: Adopted (249 of 266 votes; 93.6%)

Resolution 1-03: To Encourage Communion Statements Faithful to the Scriptural and Confessional Position of the LCMS
(Overture 1-08, Supplement, page 200)

Whereas, The official position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod regarding admission to Holy Communion is: "That pastors and congregations of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, except in situations of emergency and in special cases of pastoral care, commune individuals of only those Lutheran synods which are now in fellowship with us." (1967 Resolution 2-19); and

Whereas, The position of the LCMS regarding admission to Holy Communion is Biblical (1 Corinthians 10:21; 11:26-29), taught by our Lutheran Confessions (AC XXIV), and affirmed by the Synod in Convention (1969 Resolution 3-16 "To Refrain from Selective Fellowship"; 1986
Resolution 3-08 "To Maintain Practice of Close Communion"; 1995 Resolution 3-08 "To Reaffirm the Practice of Close[d] Communion"; 2007 Resolution 3-09 "To Address Administration of the Lord's Supper"; and

Whereas, LCMS President Matthew Harrison has reported to the Synod, through the April 2015 *Reporter* Supplement, that he has seen a variety of Communion Statements across the LCMS that do not always reflect the official position of the LCMS; and

Whereas, President Harrison requested the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) to provide guidance on formulating congregational Communion Statements that reflect the scriptural and confessional position of the LCMS; and

Whereas, The guidelines prepared by the CTCR were mailed to all LCMS congregations and also printed in the April 2015 *Reporter* Supplement; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Indiana District commend President Harrison for his diligence and desire to "maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3); and be it further

Resolved, That the Indiana District express its appreciation for the work of the CTCR in preparing "Guidelines for congregational, district, and Synod Communion statements;" and be it finally

Resolved, That the Indiana District encourage the pastors and congregations of the Indiana District to use the CTCR Guidelines to re-examine their Communion Statements and make whatever changes may be necessary in order that all Communion Statements of Indiana District congregations properly reflect the scriptural and confessional position of the LCMS.

Resolution 1-03 moved by the floor committee
Discussion:
An amendment was moved and seconded to add the final resolve of the original overture 1-08 (page 200) to the resolution.
Action on the amendment to resolution 1-03: motion failed (140 of 265 votes; 52.8%)

No further discussion, the original resolution 1-03 came before the delegates.
Action on Resolution 1-03: Adopted (243 of 269 votes; 90.3%)

Resolution 1-05: A Memorial to Synod to Address Cases of Rostered LCMS Workers Who Teach Contrary to Our LCMS Biblical Confession Regarding the Office of the Ministry
(Overture 1-01, Workbook pg. 137)

Whereas: Holy Scripture declares, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17); and

Whereas: Membership in the Synod requires acceptance "without reservation" of "the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and practice" (Constitution of the LCMS Articles II and VI; and

Whereas: Our Synod has consistently held that the Scriptures calls only men to be pastors (for example, 2004 Res. 3-08A; I Corinthians 14:34-36; I Timothy) and

Whereas: Some ordained members of the Synod, have publicly taught and written that women should be permitted to be pastors; and

Whereas: In response to a formal dissent by an ordained LCMS member, the Commission on Theology and Church Relations found:

a) that there was a difference in teaching and confession concerning the authority of Scripture.

b) that dissent on matters of women in the pastoral office is at odds with our understanding of Scripture and,

c) that "such dissent does not provide a sufficient scriptural or confessional basis to support the claim that the doctrinal position of the Synod is in need of revision" (2013-LCMS *Convention Workbook,* 399) and

Whereas: These public teachings constitute a public offense to the Synod and members of the Synod; and

Whereas: "... where the sin is public, the reproof also must be public, that every one may learn to guard against it." (Large Catechism, 8th Commandment, para. 284), and

Whereas: We at the same time are called to safeguard the reputation of our brothers and sisters; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District in Convention encourage everyone throughout the Indiana District to pray fervently to the Lord of the Church that His Holy Spirit, working through the holy and inerrant Word of God, would lead those who teach contrary to our confession to repentance and once again affirm doctrinal unity in and with the LCMS; and be it further

Resolved: That the Indiana District commend President Matthew Harrison for his faithful leadership in working to "conserve and promote unity of the true faith" (Constitution of the LCMS Article III) and encourage him to advise the appropriate ecclesiastical leaders to carry out the duties of their office (Article XI); and be it further

Resolved, that the Indiana District encourage President Harrison to provide an appropriate report to the synod concerning this and other matters involving false teaching, and be it finally

Resolved, that the Indiana District in Convention petition the Synod in the 2016 LCMS Convention to review and consider revision of the dispute resolution process to be more expedient in dealing with cases of false doctrine.

Resolution 1-05 moved by the floor committee
Discussion:

Motion to substitute Overture 1-01 (page 137) for Resolution 1-05

It was moved and seconded to substitute Overture 1-01 page 137 for resolution 1-05

Overture 1-01 reads as follows:

Overture 1-01: To Publicly Call Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker to Repentance

Whereas, Holy Scripture warns, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matt. 7:15 ESV); and

Whereas, Holy Scripture warns "I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naïve." (Rom. 16:17-18 ESV); and

Whereas, Holy Scripture warns "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths." (2 Tim. 4:3-4); and

Whereas, Holy Scripture declares, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every god work." (2 Tim. 3:16-17); and

Whereas, Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker has stated on his own blog, Transverse Markings: One Theologian's Notes (http://matthewlbecker.blogspot.com/2013/10/what-

is-he-trying-to-accomplish.html), that he has three goals for the LCMS all of which are contrary to the Scriptures and the positions of Synod:
1. To encourage members within the synod to think differently about two issues, namely, (a) the synod's understanding of Scripture that insists that only qualified men may serve as pastor in the synod; and (b) the synod's understanding of Scripture that requires one to interpret the creation accounts in Genesis to be literal, historical descriptions of what God did in the not-too-distant past over the course of six actual 24-hr. days ("six-day creationism");
2. To have the synod change its position that restricts the office of pastor only to men;
3. To have the synod reject "creationism" in favor of "a more robust doctrine of creation, one that sets forth a theological understanding that better accords with the language and genre of these Genesis texts and that better accords with what people today know to be true and valid about the natural history of our planet"; and

Whereas, Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker has filed dissent yet continues to publicly teach and promote false doctrine including woman's ordination, having published articles on his own blog, and on Daystar where he published an article titled "An Argument for Female Pastors and Theologians" in which he states: "There is no legitimate biblical or dogmatic rationale for why
the LCMS should now prohibit women from serving as theologians and pastors in the church" (http://thedaystarjournal.com/an-argument-for-womenpastors-and theologians/); and

Whereas, Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker continues to publicly teach and promote false doctrine including by his participation, while vested, in the installation of Charlene Rachuy Cox at Valparaiso University; and

Whereas, Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker continues to publicly teach and promote false doctrine including, acceptance of homosexuality and homosexual marriage, having written to such effect on his blog Transverse Markings: One Theologian's Notes in an article/a post titled "Further Signs of LCMS Times"; and

Whereas, Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker continues to publicly teach and promote false doctrine including promoting a figurative interpretation of Genesis 1 and 2 stating in his post "The Scandal of the LMCS Mind"…"Scientific data about the reality of physical death in the animal and plant kingdoms prior to origin of human beings (e.g., fossils of animals that lived long before the origin of human beings) must lead those who interpret the Bible in light of scientific knowledge to restate the nature of God's good creation prior to the advent of human sin (e.g., such a good creation must have included the reality of death prior to the existence of human beings) and the character of the historical origin of sin (e.g., the advent of sin is to be traced to the first hominids who disobeyed God's will but not necessarily to their having eaten from a tree in an actual place called the Garden of Eden several thousand years ago)." ; and

Whereas, the LCMS Committee on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has ruled, "While the filing of dissent does not constitute a case for removal, the member is required to teach and practice in accord with Synod's stated confessional position during the dissent process. If the member fails to honor and uphold the stated confessional position of Synod during the dissent process, the member becomes subject to disciplinary action due both to the violation of the doctrinal position of Synod and the offense against the other members of Synod created by such failure (Constitution Art. XIII 1). In such case it

is incumbent upon the ecclesiastical supervisor of the member to exercise disciplinary action against the member who fails to teach and act within Synod's stated confessional position, whether apart from or during the dissent process (Bylaws 2.14.4; 2.15.4; 2.16.4)"; and

Whereas, the LCMS Constitution and Bylaws define the responsibilities of the LCMS President to include:

(c) [the President] shall call up for review any action by an individual officer, executive, or agency that, in his view, may be in violation of the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod. [LCMS Bylaw 3.3.1.2 c.]; also

2. It is the President's duty to see to it that all the aforementioned [officers, employees, individual districts, and district presidents of Synod] act in accordance with the Synod's Constitution, to admonish all who in any way depart from it, and, if such admonition is not heeded, to report such cases to the Synod.

3. The President has and always shall have the power to advise, admonish, and reprove. He shall conscientiously use all means at his command to promote and maintain unity of doctrine and practice in all the districts of the Synod. [LCMS Constitution, Article XI, B. Duties of the President]; and

Whereas, President Matt Harrison stated on the "Witness Mercy Life Together" blog: "When a public teacher on the roster of Synod can without consequence publicly advocate the ordination of women (even participate vested in the installation of an ELCA clergy person), homosexuality, the errancy of the Bible, the historical-critical method, open communion, communion with the Reformed, does not change its inability to call such a person to repentance and remove such a teacher where there is no repentance, then we are liars and our confession is meaningless. I do not want to belong to such a synod, much less lead it. I have no intention of walking away from my vocation. I shall rather use it and, by the grace of God, use all the energy I have to call this Synod to fidelity to correct this situation."; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District in Convention commend President Harrison in his diligence to uphold the teachings of Holy Scripture and also the Constitution and Bylaws of the LCMS: and be it further

Resolved, that the Indiana District encourage President Harrison to provide a full report to the synod of this matter involving Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker; and be it further

Resolved, that the Indiana District in Convention request the Synod in convention to publicly call Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker to repent and recant or remove him from the clergy roster of Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Indiana District in Convention encourage everyone throughout the Indiana District to pray fervently to the Lord of the Church that His Holy Spirit, working through the holy and inerrant Word of God, would lead Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker to repentance and to confess once again with us in doctrinal unity what we believe, teach, and confess.

Discussion of the motion to substitute proceeded.

A Point of Order was Called: the Behnken Rule requires the delegates to approve consideration of the substitution.

Motion to consider substitute motion

Action on motion to consider substitution of Overture 1-01 for Resolution 1-05: motion to consider substitution adopted (176 of 268 votes; 65.7%)

Overture 1-01 is on the floor for discussion.

Motion to adopt Overture 1-01 as Resolution 1-05B
The motion was made and seconded to adopt Overture 1-01 as Resolution 1-05B
Delegates were reminded the Behnken Rule is being used.
Action on motion to adopt Overture 1-01: Adopted (152 of 258 votes; 58.9%)

Overture 1-01 is now Resolution 1-05B; Resolution 1-05B is the adopted resolution of the convention.

The question was asked if the original resolution 1-05 can be brought before the delegates for separate action as a way to request the LCMS to study the issue of those engaged in false teaching. The committee took this under advisement.

[The following note is not to be considered a part of these minutes, but is for information only: The wording included above in the official, approved minutes of the 2015 IN District Convention ("motion to consider substitution" and "motion to adopt") are different than the wording in the electronically recorded proceedings as displayed before the delegates during the convention. Those recorded proceedings do not include a record of action on Overture 1-01/Resolution 1-05B.]

Committee #3 Education and Congregational Services – 11:46 a.m.
Floor Committee chairman Rev. Bauer asked Dr. Jon Mielke to give his report.

Dr. Jon Mielke Presentation included recognition of Mr. Cliff Dietrich's service to the Indiana District in a variety of ways.

Commissioned Advisory and Alternate Delegates for the 2016 LCMS Convention.

Advisory Delegates
Karol Ketcher – Trinity, Crown Point IN
Sara Cunningham – Immanuel, Valparaiso
Gary Truwe – Trinity, Indianapolis IN
Paul Johnson – St John, Indianapolis IN
George Denholm – St Peter's Columbus IN
Marvin Brandt – St Peter's, Columbus IN
Mark Schallhorn –Bethlehem, Ossian IN
Vicki Schallhorn – Bethlehem, Ossian IN
Brian Horning – St John Bingen, Decatur IN
Darin Koenemann – Ascension, Fort Wayne IN
Richard Schwantz – Concordia, Fort Wayne IN
Peter Meyer – Peace, Fort Wayne IN
Elizabeth Moeller – Zion, Wabash IN

Alternate Advisory Delegates
John Weber - St. Paul (Gar Creek), New Haven IN
Sarah Weber – St. Paul (Gar Creek), New Haven IN
Krista Nagy – Bethlehem, Fort Wayne IN

Lance Hoffman – Zion, Corunna IN

Dr. Jon Mielke – Emmaus, Fort Wayne, IN

Motion to adopt the list of Commissioned Advisory Delegates
It was moved and seconded to adopt the list of Commissioned Advisory Delegates for the 2016 LCMS Convention
Action on Motion to adopt list of Commissioned Advisory Delegates: Adopted (216 of 225 votes; 96%)

Mr. Cliff Dietrich gave the Ministerial Health Commission report.

12:16 Chaplain Lepley led in prayer prior to the lunch recess
Lunch Recess
1:19 pm President May called the delegated back into session
Chaplain Pastor Lepley led the assembly in noontime devotion.

GREETINGS - LCEF & Ministry Support Max Biesenthal 1:36 p.m.
LCMS Lutheran Foundation –Rick Paul 1:43 p.m.
The announcement was made that the Rev. Phil Krupski has been appointed as the full-time gift planning counselor for the LCMS Foundation in the Indiana District.

Committee 4 – Stewardship and Structure – 1:48 pm
The LCEF video on stewardship for children was shown.

Mr. Ron Bleke, executive for finances addressed the delegates; He stated that the fiscal position of the District is positive and healthy.

Pastor Dan Schumm came to the podium to conduct the business of committee 4

Resolution 4-01: To Realign Columbus (Circuit 16) and Aurora (Circuit 19) Circuits (Overture 4-01, Convention Workbook, page 153)

Whereas, "The Synod divides itself into districts and authorizes its districts to create circuits" (Bylaws: 1.3.2); and

Whereas, an Electoral Circuit "…shall consist either of one or two adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors on the basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an aggregate communicant membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000" (Bylaws: 3.1.2a); and

Whereas, the Aurora Circuit, although having eight congregations, has less than 1,500 communicant members in these eight congregations; and

Whereas, merging the Columbus and Aurora Circuits would exceed the maximum number of congregations for an electoral circuit (22 congregations); and

Whereas, St. Paul (Clifty) Evangelical Lutheran Church, Columbus, Indiana, is less than ten miles from Decatur County, the present boundary of the Columbus and Aurora circuits; and

Whereas, the addition of St. Paul (Clifty) Evangelical Lutheran Church to the Aurora Circuit would increase the Aurora Circuit's communicant membership above 1,500; and

Whereas, it is an amicable arrangement of St. Paul (Clifty) Evangelical Lutheran Church that she become a member of the Aurora circuit; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District in convention realign the Columbus and Aurora Circuits, moving St. Paul (Clifty) Evangelical Lutheran Church from the Columbus Circuit (Circuit 16) into the Aurora Circuit (Circuit 19).

Resolution 4-01 was moved by the floor committee
Discussion: none
Action on Resolution 4-01: Adopted (227 of 236 votes; 96.2%)

Resolution 4-06: To Transfer St. Augustine Lutheran Church from Fort Wayne South (8) Circuit to Fort Wayne (7) Circuit

Whereas, "The Synod divides itself into districts and authorizes its districts to create circuits and authorizes its districts to create circuits" (Bylaws: 1.3.2); and

Whereas, St. Augustine Lutheran Church has moved from the Southeast part of Fort Wayne and now conducts worship, education, and administrative matters from the campus of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in the Northeast section of Fort Wayne; and

Whereas, St. Augustine Lutheran Church has requested to be placed in the geographical circuit in which it conducts its congregational activities; and

Whereas, both Fort Wayne South (8) Circuit and Fort Wayne North (7) Circuit approve St. Augustine's request; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District in convention transfer St. Augustine Lutheran Church from Fort Wayne South (8) Circuit to Fort Wayne North (7) Circuit.

Resolution 4-06 was moved by the floor committee.
Discussion: none
Action on Resolution 4-06: Adopted (241of 245 votes; 98.4%)

Resolution 4-02: To Petition Synod Regarding District Membership of Those Rostered Workers Teaching in any Geographical District
(Overture 4-04, Convention Workbook, page 154)

Whereas, for the sake of harmony and unity it is desirable for proper ecclesiastical supervision of all rostered workers of the LC-MS; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District in convention petition the LC-MS in convention (2016) TO clarify the ecclesiastical supervision of rostered workers (ordained and commissioned) who are serving in areas outside of the geographical district in which they hold membership.

Resolution 4-02 moved by floor committee
Discussion: none
Action on Resolution 4-02: Adopted (231 of 248 votes; 93.1%)

Resolution 4-03: To Adopt the Proposed Changes in Indiana District Bylaws

(Overture 4-05, Convention Workbook, page 155)

Whereas, Synod Bylaw 4.1.1.2 (see especially ".a") requires that the bylaws of the districts of the Synod not conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod; and

Whereas, the LCMS in convention (2013) adopted several changes to the LCMS Bylaws; and

Whereas, the LCMS in convention (2013) adopted a resolution to change the terminology of "Circuit Counselor" to "Circuit Visitor" requiring the approval of the congregations of the Synod; and

Whereas, the congregations of the LCMS adopted this terminology change which now require the terminology change in the District Bylaws at 2.15.c; 2.17.b; 2.35.a; 2.67.b; 2.71.d; 2.75.7; 7.23; 7.37.j; 7.65); and

Whereas, the District B.O.D. submitted to the Synod CCM for prior approval (in accordance to Synod Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3 and 4.1.1.2) proposed changes to the District Bylaws 7.05 and 7.51 to clarify the transition procedures for newly elected officers of the District; and

Whereas, the Synod CCM approved the proposed District Bylaw changes and upon review of the current District Bylaws provided a list of required changes to bring the District Bylaws into conformity with the LCMS Bylaws, specifically to correct references to the Synod Constitution and Bylaws in the following District Bylaws: 2.01; 2.05; 2.67; 7.23; and to correct the wording in the bylaws as follows:

Bylaw 1.13

b. The Synod/District expects every member congregation to respect it's resolutions and to consider them of binding force if they are in accordance with the Word of God, and if they appear ~~expedient~~ applicable as far as the condition of the congregation is concerned. The Synod/District, being an advisory body, recognizes the right of the congregation to be the judge of the ~~expediency~~ applicability of the resolution as applied to its local condition. However, in exercising such judgment, a congregation must not act arbitrarily, but in accordance with the principles of Christian love and charity.

Bylaw 2.09 One-third of the voting congregations represented by at least one of their respective delegates (~~Minister of Religion - Ordained~~ Pastor or lay delegate) shall constitute a quorum

Bylaw 2.14

b. The electoral circuit forum shall be made up of ~~a Ministry of Religion – Ordained~~ the Pastor of each congregation and one lay member of each congregation designated by the congregation.

Bylaw 2.17

c. To elect the ~~Minister of Religion – Ordained~~ Pastor and lay delegate and their alternates to the national convention of the Synod according to the bylaws of the Synod, provided the visitation circuit forum is an electoral circuit forum (see 2.14). The delegates shall upon

their election serve a term of three years as advisory members of the circuit forum. (H.B. 5.3.3)

d. To ~~elect~~ select the circuit ~~counselor~~ visitor following the bylaws of the Synod (H.B. 5.2.2)

Bylaw 2.35

a. The following officers shall be elected by the Indiana District in Convention, each for a three-year term of office: a) The District President, nominated from the Minister of Religion - Ordained roster of the Synod; b) four Regional VicePresidents, one from each region, nominated from the Ministry of Religion – Ordained roster of the region; c) a Circuit Visitor for each circuit established by the District, selected by the Circuit Forum and ratified by the District Convention; and d) a District Secretary, nominated from the Minister of Religion – Ordained roster of the District. ~~for three-year terms of office: The District President, four Vice-Presidents, the Secretary and a Circuit Counselor Visitor for each circuit established by the District.~~

Bylaw 2.81 Nomination of the Vice Presidents

a. Vice-Presidents shall be nominated and elected from the roster of Ministers of Religion – Ordained of the ~~Synod~~ District (H.B. 4.3.1), giving consent to serve upon nomination, including consent to relocate as necessary to fulfill the expectations of the office (H.B. 4.3.3)

Bylaw 2.91 Duties of the Secretary

c. He along with the President of the district shall prepare and sign official papers and documents of the District as may be required by government entities or corporations with which the District conducts business. Bylaw 2.107 Duties of the B.O.D

The B.O.D. represents ~~the congregations of~~ the District, and shall have power to conduct and transact all business necessary to carry out the purposes of the District. The B.O.D. defines the general sphere of duties for each council or committee. The authority to carry out the purposes of the District is vested in this B.O.D. as limited by the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod, the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and resolutions of the District.

Bylaw 7.11 Nomination of Vice Presidents

a. Six months prior to the District Convention the district office shall notify each congregation of its privilege to nominate candidates for the office of Regional

Vice President from the ~~S ynod's~~ District's roster of Ministers of Religion – Ordained. The notification will include a current list of Ministers of Religion – Ordained currently members of congregations of each region of the District. ~~The notification will include information that nominees must give consent to relocate as necessary in order to fulfill the office of Regional Vice President.~~ (H.B. 4.3)

Bylaw 7.15 Ranking of Vice Presidents

After the Vice-Presidents have been elected, the voting delegates will rank the VicePresidents in the following manner. The first ranking-ballot will include the names of all four Vice-Presidents in random order; the first of the Vice-Presidents to receive a majority of the ~~Vice-President receiving the most~~ votes cast will be the First VicePresident. The second ranking-ballot for the Second Vice-President position will follow the same procedure with the three remaining Vice-President names. ~~will list the three remaining Vice-Presidents; the Vice-President receiving the most votes cast will be the Second Vice-President.~~ The third ranking-ballot for the Third Vice-President position will follow the same procedure with the two remaining Vice-President names. For each ranking-ballot run-off ranking-ballots will continue until a Vice-President receives a majority of votes cast. ~~will list the remaining Vice-Presidents; the Vice-President receiving the most votes cast will be the Third Vice-President. In the event of a tie in receiving the most votes cast on any ranking-ballot, the name receiving the fewest votes cast will be removed from the run-off ranking-ballot.~~

Bylaw 7.37 Nomination Committee Function and Procedures

j. Nominations for positions held by laity are to be members of member congregations of the District, and if the position requires, residents of the appropriate region of the District. Nominees for positions held by Ministers of Religion – Commissioned are to be members of a District congregation, and if the position requires, residents of the appropriate region of the District. Nominees for District President~~,~~ are to be from the Synod's roster of Ministers of Religion – Ordained. Nominees for Regional Vice Presidents are to be from the District's roster of Minister of Religion – Ordained from that region. Nominees for Secretary are to be from the District's roster of Ministers of Religion – Ordained. ~~and~~ Circuit ~~Counselors~~ Visitors are selected by the Circuit Forum from the roster of Ministers of Religion – Ordained of that circuit. ~~to be from the Synod roster of Ministers of Religion – Ordained; all~~ All other positions (councils, committees, etc.) that are to be filled by Ministers of Religion – Ordained shall be filled with members of the District roster of Ministers of Religion – Ordained, and if the position requires, residents of the appropriate region of the District. Therefore be it

Resolved, that the 2015 Indiana District Convention approve the change in terminology for the Circuit Visitor, and the corrected Synod Bylaw references and wording as presented in whereas six (above), and be it further

Resolved, that the 2015 Indiana District Convention adopt the proposed change to the District Bylaws 7.05 and 7.51 in order to clarify the transition for newly elected officers of the District:

7.05 Transition

a. When there is a change in the presidency, a period of ninety days shall be allowed for the orderly transfer of duties to the new president. ~~During this period of time the successor may continue in his previous activity, and in that case shall be given additional salary by the District. His combined salaries shall equal the amount he will receive as President.~~ The new president will assume office at the time of his induction on or

before September 1 following the District convention. The incumbent president shall serve until his successor is inducted during which time he will bring his administration to a close and assist the newly elected president as requested to become acquainted with the responsibilities of the office. The new president may continue in his previous Call responsibilities during the time of transition (up to 90 days from the close of the District convention) during which the combined salaries shall equal the amount the successor will receive as District President.

7.51 Induction

a. ~~All elected officers and members of the elected B.O.D, Councils, and Committees~~
The newly elected and re-elected, except for the District President, Regional Vice-Presidents and Secretary, shall be inducted into office in a special service following the final session of the District Convention. The incumbent President shall officiate at the induction.

b. Those who are not present at the Convention shall be inducted into office at the Orientation Meeting or the first meeting of the B.O.D., Council, or Committee to which they have been elected, following the Convention.

e. The District President, Regional Vice-Presidents and Secretary shall assume office following the District convention. The induction shall take place no later than September 1 during a worship service held at the time of the Orientation Meeting
for the elected members of District Boards, Councils and Committees. The President of the Synod or his representative shall install the District President, and the newly elected President shall induct all other elected persons.

f. Incumbents shall serve until their successors assume office.

and, be it finally

Resolved, that the 2015 Indiana District Convention authorize the Indiana District Board of Directors, with the recommendation of the District Committee on Constitutional Matters, to make minor changes in grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization and format to ensure internal consistency of the bylaws prior to formal publication of the District Bylaws.

Resolution 4-03 moved by the floor committee
Discussion: it was clarified that the proposed changes regarding induction of the District President, etc. were not in effect for the 21st Convention of the Indiana District.
Action on Resolution 4-03: Adopted (219 of 240 votes; 91.3%)

Resolution 4-04: To Preserve Histories of the Indiana District LCMS Congregations and Other Entities of the Indiana District (Overture 4-03, Convention Workbook, page 154)

Whereas, the Indiana District Archives is a collection of historical records from the congregations of the Indiana District; and

Whereas, once it is not written down, and once it is gone, it's gone forever; and

Whereas, in the past, records from some congregations that have closed have not been submitted to the Indiana District archives; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District LCMS in convention encourage congregations and other entities to preserve all historical records; and be it finally

Resolved , to encourage congregations at times of celebration (anniversaries, maturing mortgages, expansions, etc.) to submit documents of historical value to the Indiana District archives.

Resolution 4-04 was moved by the floor committee.
Discussion: none
Action on Resolution 4-04: Adopted (233 of 244 votes; 95.5%)

Resolution 4-05: To Send District Salary Guidelines to Congregational Leaders and Pastors (Overture 4-02, Convention Workbook, page 153)

Whereas, District Salary Guidelines for professional church workers are prepared yearly and provided on the District web site; and

Whereas, such guidelines are not always accessed by district pastors, rostered church workers and those congregation and school leaders who make budgetary decisions; be it

Resolved, that the District make every effort to make all congregations and school associations aware that these guidelines are available and that congregations and schools be strongly encouraged to give prayerful consideration to these guidelines in caring for their professional church workers; and be it

Resolved, that to this end the District Salary Guidelines are to be sent via electronic means to District pastors, congregations, schools and their treasurers with the encouragement that they discuss them within their congregation and schools; and be it finally

Resolved, for those congregations who are unable to receive by electronic means a single printed copy of salary guidelines will be sent via "surface mail."

Committee on Stewardship and Structure

Resolution 4-05 was moved by the floor committee.
Discussion: none
Action on Resolution 4-05: Adopted (242 of 253 votes; 95.7%)

Committee 4 work completed, President May dismissed the committee with thanks.

Committee 5 - Election
Pastor Zeckzer presented the need to approve the election of the nominee (Mr. Mark Muehl) for the Northeast-Commissioned position for the Council of Congregational Outreach.

Motion to elect Mark Muehl
By voice vote the delegates approved the election of Mark Muehl as Northeast-Commissioned representative on the Council for Congregation Outreach.

The work of the Election Committee completed, President May dismissed the committee with thanks.

Synod Question and Answer Session - Rev. Bart Day - 2:13 pm
Rev. Bart Day, Executive for National Missions, led the question and answer session.

At 2:45 the Orders of the Day were called.

Committee 1 – Theology and Administration 2:45 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Resolution 1-09: To Urge LCMS Members to Cease the Practice of Infant / Toddler Communion (overture 1-09, Today's Business, page 347)

Whereas, St. Paul says in his first letter to the Corinthians, "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died." (1 Corinthians 11:27-30); and

Whereas, the Greek word in v.28, δοκιμαζετω[doki-madzeto] <pres. imperative act.>, is translated as "let examine." Examining oneself for Holy Communion is beyond the capability of an infant or toddler regarding *the consequences* of receiving the Lord's Supper. According to the Greek Concordance this root word [doki-madzo] is used by Paul elsewhere in 1 Corinthians, Galatians, and Romans and translated (ESV) as "test, accredit, prove, tested," and "see fit"; and

Whereas, the Greek word in v.29, διακρινων [dia-krin-own] <pres. act. part.>, is translated as "discerning." Again, the Greek Concordance indicates that the Greek root word [diakrino] is used elsewhere by Paul in 1 Corinthians and Romans and translated (ESV) as "settle a dispute, weigh," and "waver." Again, such discernment upon reception of the true body and true blood of Christ Jesus is beyond an infant or toddler and putting them at risk of spiritual harm; and

Whereas, some children at an early age may be able to so examine themselves, but infants and toddlers are unable to demonstrate that they can complete the kind of self-examination required by these passages; and

Whereas, our Lutheran Confessions further provide direction regarding admission to the Lord's Supper: "As we treated Holy Baptism under three headings, so we must deal with the second sacrament in the same way, stating what it is, what its benefits are, and who is to receive it. All these are established from the words by which

Christ instituted it. So everyone who wishes to be a Christian and go to the sacrament should be familiar with them. For we do not intend to admit to the sacrament and administer it to those who do not know what they seek or why they come." (LC V 1-2.) Infants and toddlers are unable to fathom what God promises in the Lord's Supper promises or its benefits. Nor do they "know what they seek or why they come"; and

Whereas, the congregations and pastors who are members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod must require of communicants the sort of careful self-examination required by St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11. To this end, and for the sake of those who wish to partake of the Lord's Supper, congregations and pastors must admit to this Sacrament only those persons who are of sufficient age and discretion to examine themselves. Typically, such age and discretion shall be evidenced by the person having been confirmed by an LCMS congregation, or by a Lutheran congregation in altar fellowship with the LCMS; and

Whereas, the practice of communing infants and toddlers (Paedo-Communion) violates Holy Scripture and the Lutheran confessions; therefore be it

Resolved, that for the sake of the unity of Holy Scripture, for the unity of practice and doctrine for all LCMS congregations in the Indiana District, and for the steadfast Christian faith of all our congregations' members, we strongly urge all LCMS pastors and congregations in the Indiana District to reject and avoid the practice of communing infants and toddlers; and be it further

Resolved, that the 2015 Indiana District Convention declare that the teaching and practice of communing infants and toddlers in LCMS churches in this District is contrary to the Holy Scriptures and to the Lutheran Confessions; and be it finally

Resolved, that the 2015 Indiana District Convention memorialize the 2016 LCMS Convention to adopt clear guidelines for LCMS member pastors and congregations regarding the practice of communing infants and toddlers.

Resolution 1-09 was moved by the floor committee.
Discussion:

A friendly amendment (accepted by the floor committee) changed the second whereas correcting the tense of the Greek verb that is an imperative, not an imperfect. (changed in the resolution as printed above).

Question: how is "toddler" defined (what age is being referenced). Answer: the term "toddler" was not defined in the original overture.

Motion to table Resolution 1-09
It was moved and seconded to table Resolution 1-09.

Action on motion to table: 170 votes (73.3%) were cast to table resolution 1-09

Resolution 1-10 To Encourage the Synod to Bear Witness to What We Believe, Teach, and Confess Regarding Marriage
(Overture 1-10, Today's Business, page 348)

Whereas, relying upon the Holy Scriptures, we believe, teach, and confess that marriage as instituted by God is a lifelong union of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6); and

Whereas, marriage is to be honored by all and kept pure (Hebrews 13:4; 1

Thessalonians 4:2-5); and

Whereas, children are the most obvious, natural gift of marriage, for God blessed the first married couple—and all married couples—by saying, "Be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:28); and

Whereas, St. Paul describes marriage as a type of the relationship existing between Christ and His bride: "This mystery [of marriage] is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:32); and

Whereas, on its own, the church can do nothing; but if the church abides in Christ and Christ in the church, it bears much fruit (John 15:5); and

Whereas, it is thus with marriage—only a union of a man and a woman can be fruitful and multiply; and

Whereas, marriage thus understood also blesses children by giving them a father and a mother to nurture and care for them—making it the optimal setting for the child; and

Whereas, sexual complementarity is therefore the foundation of the Biblical view of marriage as God intended it; and

Whereas, though solidly grounded in a Scriptural understanding of God's design, this "conjugal view" of marriage is not unique in the world to Christian cultures, as nearly every culture has recognized this view of marriage, and it has been foundational to the ordering of civil society from time immemorial; and

Whereas, the left-hand kingdom's subscription to the conjugal view of marriage should come as no surprise, because St. Paul also tells us that God's invisible attributes, including His views of what is ungodly or unrighteous, may be clearly seen as reflected in His creation (Romans 1:18-20); and

Whereas, the Holy Scriptures also explicitly teach that same-sex attraction is a manifestation of sin. (Leviticus 18:22 ["abomination"]; Romans 1:26-27 ["dishonorable" and "shameless"]; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:8-11 ["contrary to sound doctrine"]); and

Whereas, the official position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as set forth in 1998 Resolution 3-21 ("To Affirm the Sanctity of Marriage and to Reject Same-Sex Unions"), is that homosexual unions come under categorical prohibition in the Old and New Testaments (Leviticus 18:22, 24; 20:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:9-10) as contrary to the Creator's design (Romans 1:26-27); and

Whereas, St. Paul also cautions us that sexual sins are no greater and no lesser than any other sins (Romans 1:26-32), as all sins separate us from God and are deserving of eternal death (Romans 1:32, 6:23); and

Whereas, in recent years, our culture has seen a shift in attitudes about marriage, with same-sex "marriage" and civil unions now considered by many to be morally acceptable and legally desirable; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court of the United States decided on June 26, 2015 that the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States requires the states to licenses marriages between two people of the same sex, and to recognize such marriages contracted elsewhere; and

Whereas, the Solicitor General of the United States has declared that, if the Supreme Court compels states to recognize same-sex relationships as marriages, "it is going to be an issue" for groups and individuals who object to same-sex marriage on religious grounds, including but not limited to the possible revocation of tax-exempt

status for such groups and the legal requirement that such individuals act contrary to the dictates of conscience; and

Whereas, at the Diet of Worms (on April 18, 1521), Martin Luther declared, "I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe"; and

Whereas, our consciences also are captive to the Word of God; and

Whereas, the Word of God teaches that, as citizens of God's left-hand kingdom, we must obey our government (Romans 13:1-4; LC III 141-42, 150; AC XVI 1); however, when the government interferes with the rights of conscience and the clear commands of Scripture, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29; AC XVI 6-7); and

Whereas, it is the role of the universal Church to boldly proclaim the Gospel of forgiveness, and to boldly teach and confess the truths revealed in the Scriptures; therefore be it

Resolved, that the 2015 Indiana District Convention affirm its adherence to 1998 LCMS Resolution 3-21 ("To Affirm the Sanctity of Marriage and to Reject Same-Sex Unions"), as a faithful exposition of the Scripture passages cited therein; and be it further

Resolved, that the 2015 Indiana District Convention thank LCMS President Matthew C. Harrison and the LCMS's "Free to be Faithful" campaign for standing up for religious freedom and the rights of conscience, including but not limited to the right to boldly teach and confess the Scriptural truth concerning the institution of marriage, and encourage them to continue in their bold witness; and be it further

Resolved, that the Indiana District reaffirm our commitment to teaching both the Law and Gospel concerning marriage, both calling our nation and those struggling with same-sex attraction to repentance and proclaiming the Gospel of Christ's forgiveness to all who call upon Christ's name; and be it finally

Resolved, that the 2015 Indiana District Convention memorialize the 2016 LCMS Convention to develop a comprehensive response to recent court decisions concerning marriage that will comport with the Holy Scriptures and the traditional Lutheran understanding of marriage, including but not limited to the role of LCMS pastors acting as agents of the state and conducting a marriage ceremony.

Resolution 1-10 was moved by the floor committee.

Discussion: two friendly amendments were accepted by the floor committee: 1) to amend whereas 15 to state the date of the Supreme Court decision; and 2) the last resolve amended to end as follows "…acting as agents of the state and conducting a marriage ceremony." Both friendly amendments are included in the resolution as printed above.

Action on Resolution 1-10: Adopted (216 of 228 votes; 94.7 %)

The work of committee 1 completed, President May dismissed the committee with thanks.

Delegate Pastor David Shadday asked to remove Overture 1-02 from Omnibus B. Orders of the day were called.

Committee 2 – Outreach 3:05 p.m.
Floor committee chairman Pastor Paul Shoemaker asked Rev. Geoff Robinson to give his report.

Rev. Robinson presented a portion of a report supplementing the report in the Convention Workbook.

Committee 3 – Education and Congregational Services 3:20 p.m.- 3:40 p.m.

Resolution 3-01: To Commend, Affirm, and Encourage the Christian Educational Outreach Efforts in the Gary Community
(Overture 3-01, Workbook, page 149)

Whereas, in the early 60's through the mid-1970's an association Lutheran school once existed and was operated by multiple LCMS congregations in the Gary community to teach young adults and children about Jesus; and

Whereas, changing demographics, declining membership, and socioeconomic status of and around the Gary area made it more challenging for these congregations to sustain Christian instruction through the operation of a Lutheran school; and

Whereas, Word and Sacrament ministry continues to exist and continues to be made available to congregational members that embody these LCMS congregations in the Gary community; and,

Whereas, schools of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have been established to encourage, support, equip, and empower parents in their duty and responsibility to bring their children up "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4); and

Whereas, the Indiana District has and continues to have a strong presence in the Gary community and surrounding areas with Word and Sacrament ministry and, now with the beginnings of an After School Initiative, have an opportunity for Christian education at Our Saviour Lutheran; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District continue to affirm, encourage, and strengthen the After School Initiative that currently exists at Our Saviour Lutheran; and be it further

Resolved, that the Indiana District, plus congregations and schools that embody the Indiana District, continue to invest financial resources in efforts to start a new school and support the After School Initiative currently in operation; and be it

Resolved, that thanks be given to those who have faithfully and continue to faithfully serve our Heavenly Father in the Gary community.

Resolution 3-01 is moved by the floor committee
Discussion: none
Action on Resolution 3-01: Adopted (193 of 200 votes; 96.5%)

Resolution 3-02: To Commend Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod Lutheran Schools and All those Who Serve in them
(Overture 3-02, Workbook, page 149)

Whereas, schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have predated some congregations within our own Indiana District; and

Whereas, Christian teachers in our schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod strive to teach young adults and children about Jesus through instruction and witness; and

Whereas, schools of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have been established to encourage, support, equip, and empower parents in their duty and responsibility to bring their children up "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4); and

Whereas, schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod strive to connect the congregation to the community they serve through daily instruction, activities, and programs; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District thank our Heavenly Father for the blessings of schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and those who serve therein; and be it further

Resolved, that thanks be given to those who have faithfully served and continue to faithfully serve the church in these LCMS schools; and be it

Resolved, that the member churches, schools, and recognized service organizations of the Indiana District encourage church workers and parents to embrace the responsibility and privilege of nurturing the lambs He has placed into their care with joy and thanksgiving as they do so with the study of His Word and prayer at the forefront of all they think, say, and do.

Resolution 3-02 is moved by the floor committee
Discussion: none
Action on Resolution 3-02: Adopted (197 of 203; 97%)

Resolution 3-03: To Affirm and Encourage Use of Multiple Colloquy Programs for Parish Workers
(Overture 3-03, Convention Workbook, page 150)

Preamble: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has established multiple Colloquy programs to provide the necessary class work for those serving in our Lutheran congregations to obtain Lutheran doctrinal training and be eligible for roster status in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The Indiana District affirms and acknowledges these multiple Colloquy programs.

Whereas, more congregations are raising up workers from amidst their membership; and

Whereas, most of these lay parish workers are teaching doctrine directly and indirectly in many aspects of their ministry; and

Whereas, the Colloquy programs provide opportunity for contracted lay parish workers to receive doctrinal training and be on the Commissioned Minister roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

Whereas, two Directors of Christian Education (DCE's) and one Director of Family Life Ministry (DFLM) have completed the Colloquy Program and are commissioned and one Director of Parish Ministry (DPM) is currently enrolled during this triennium; and

Whereas, a number of lay parish workers have enrolled since the inception of the program; and

Whereas, the Indiana District has made it a priority to support the LCMS Colloquy programs through scholarship money; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District continue to affirm and support the Colloquy programs through scholarship funds for lay parish workers who desire to enroll and graduate from these programs; and be it further

Resolved, that the Indiana District congregations and association schools continue to encourage the use of these Colloquy programs for their lay parish workers.
Committee on Education and Congregational Services

Resolution 3-03 is moved by the floor committee
Discussion: none
Action on Resolution 3-03: Adopted (194 of 210 votes; 92.4%)

Resolution 3-04: To Affirm and Encourage Use of the Teacher Colloquy Program
(Overture 3-04, Workbook, page 151)

Preamble: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has established a teacher Colloquy program to provide the necessary class work for those teaching in our Lutheran schools to obtain Lutheran doctrinal training, to receive their Lutheran teacher diploma and be eligible for roster status in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The Indiana District affirms and acknowledges this teacher Colloquy program.

Whereas, the Colloquy program provides opportunity for teachers to receive their Lutheran teaching diploma and be on the roster of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; and

Whereas, a significant number of teachers have enrolled in the Colloquy program since the inception of the program; and

Whereas, approximately one third of the teachers in the schools of the Indiana District are eligible for the Colloquy program; and

Whereas, over the past three trienniums, fifty-seven (57) servants have enrolled into the Colloquy program, forty (40) teachers have completed all course work and twenty-eight (28) of those forty (40) have been commissioned and are now on the roster of The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod; and

Whereas, the Indiana District has made it a priority to support the Colloquy program through scholarship money; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District continue to affirm and support the Colloquy program through scholarship funds for teachers who desire to enroll and graduate from this program; and be it further

Resolved, that Indiana District congregations and association schools continue to encourage the use of the Colloquy program for their teachers.
Committee for Education and Congregational Services

Resolution 3-04 is moved by the floor committee
Discussion: none
Action on Resolution 3-04: Adopted (198 of 208 votes; 95.2%)

Resolution 3-05: To Encourage Support of "Family Friendly" Ministries
(Overture 3-05, Convention Workbook, page 152)

Whereas, the teaching of the faith is a necessary responsibility and function of the family, in partnership with the congregation; and

Whereas, Luther's Small Catechism exhorts the heads of households to teach each chief part and section to their family in a simple way; and

Whereas, a role of the congregation is to encourage and assist the heads of households in their responsibility and task of leading their family in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and

Whereas, the "Family Friendly Partners Networks" facilitated by DCE Ben Freudenburg, Director of the Concordia Center for the Family and Family Ministry Professor at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, trains teams from congregations to provide such encouragement and assistance; and

Whereas, nineteen congregations of the Indiana District (listed below) have committed their time and resources to participate in that training; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District in convention express its support for congregations to encourage and assist the heads of households to be leaders of faith formation in the home; and be it further

Resolved, that the Indiana District in Convention encourage all congregations of the Indiana District to seek ways to emphasize the role of the head of the household in teaching the faith; and
be it finally

Resolved, that the Indiana District continue to support congregations who promote family ministry initiatives such as Family Friendly Partners Network and other family ministry initiatives. Network Congregations of the two Indiana District **Family Friendly Partners Network**s: FFPN-IN: 2011-2014: Dave Ebeling, coordinator; Faith, Bloomington; Grace, Columbus; Trinity, Crown Point; Our Savior, Louisville; Calvary, Indianapolis; Messiah, Indianapolis; Grace, Lafayette; Zion, New Palestine; St. Peter, North Judson; Zion, Seymour. FFPN-FW, 2015-2018: Brian Horning, coordinator; Ascension, Fort Wayne, Emmanuel, Fort Wayne; Holy Cross, Fort Wayne; Our Hope, Huntertown; Peace, Fort Wayne; St. John (Bingen), Decatur; St. Michael, Fort Wayne; Suburban Bethlehem, Fort Wayne; Zion (Friedheim), Decatur.

Resolution 3-05 is moved by the floor committee
Discussion: "Family" in the resolution means every family unit in the congregation (two parent, single parent, etc.)

The friendly amendment adding "…who promote family ministry initiatives such as family friendly partners network…" to the final resolve was accepted by the committee. This wording is included in the resolution printed above.
Action on Resolution 3-05: Adopted (177 of 190 votes; 93.2%)

Dr. David Ebeling gave a report on the Ministerial Excellence Fund.

Omnibus Resolution B
President May brought Omnibus Resolution B before the delegates.

OMNIBUS B

Whereas, The Synod has created many offices, boards, commissions and departments and

Whereas, Proposals related to the responsibilities of such administrative units should ordinarily be directed to them; therefore be it

Resolved, that the following overtures be referred to the listed administrative unit.

Overture or Report	Subject	Board or Commission
Overture 1-02	To Revise the Dispute Resolution Process	Synod Handbook specifies timeline for dispute process
Overture 1-03	To Encourage Calling Congregations to Consider and Call Ministers of Religion on Inactive Status	2013 Synod Convention Resolution 3-10A
Overture 1-04	To Publish the Names of All Ministers of Religion on Inactive Status	Listed in Lutheran Annual and available through District President by request
Overture 2-07	To Encourage and Support the Christians Abroad Who Suffer on Account of Their Faith	Office of International Missions
Overture 2-08	To Urge Peace and To Support Christians in South Sudan	Office of International Missions

Motion to Remove Overture 1-02 from Omnibus B
It was moved and seconded to remove Overture 1-02 from Omnibus B

Call the question on motion to remove Overture 1-02
Action on To Call the Question: 165 votes (82.9%) were cast to cease debate.

The motion to remove Overture 1-02 from Omnibus Resolution B came before the delegates for action.
Action on the motion to removed Overture 1-02: Adopted (120 of 196 votes)

Overture 1-02 becomes Resolution 1-11

Resolution 1-11: To Revise the Dispute Resolution Process
(Overture 1-02)

Resolved, that the Indiana District in Convention petition the Synod in the 2016 LCMS Convention that the synod revise the dispute resolution and expulsion processes to be more expedient in dealing with cases of false doctrine.

Motion to amend Resolution 1-11
It was moved and seconded to add "…and expulsion processes…" after "…dispute resolution…"
Action on the amendment to Resolution 1-11: Adopted (180 of 203 votes; 88.7%)

The amendment is included in the resolution as printed above.

Resolution 1-11 came before the delegates.
Action on Resolution 1-11: Adopted (170 of 190 votes; 89.5%)

Discussion of Omnibus B resumed.

Motion to remove Overture 2-07 from Omnibus B
It was moved and seconded to remove Overture 2-07 from Omnibus B.
Discussion: none
Action on motion to remove Overture 2-07 from Omnibus B: motion decline (99 of 193 votes: 51.3%)

Motion to remove Overture 2-08 from Omnibus B
It was moved and seconded to removed Overture 2-08 from Omnibus B.
Action on motion to remove Overture 2-08 from Omnibus B: motion declined (135 of 199 votes; 67.8%)

Discussion of Omnibus B resumed.

Motion to remove Overture 1-04 from omnibus B
It was moved and seconded to remove Overture 1-04 from Omnibus B.

During discussion Vice President Pastor David Shadday assumed the chair as President May replied to a question about Overture 1-04.

Call the Question.
President May resumed the chair.

The delegates were reminded that the motion to call the question would cease debate of the Omnibus Resolution B and that a two-thirds vote was required to cease debate.

Action to cease debate on Omnibus Resolution B: Adopted (158 of 203 votes; 77.8%)

Debate ceased, amended Omnibus Resolution B came before the delegates.

Omnibus Resolution B (amended)

Whereas, The Synod has created many offices, boards, commissions and departments and

Whereas, Proposals related to the responsibilities of such administrative units should ordinarily be directed to them; therefore be it

Resolved, that the following overtures be referred to the listed administrative unit.

Overture or Report	**Subject**	**Board or Commission**
Overture 1-03	To Encourage Calling Congregations to Consider and Call Ministers of Religion on Inactive Status	2013 Synod Convention Resolution 3-10A
Overture 1-04	To Publish the Names of All Ministers of Religion on Inactive Status	Listed in Lutheran Annual and available through District President by request
Overture 2-07	To Encourage and Support the Christians Abroad Who Suffer on Account of Their Faith	Office of International Missions
Overture 2-08	To Urge Peace and To Support Christians in South Sudan	Office of International Missions

Action on Omnibus Resolution B (amended) (as printed above): Adopted (172 votes; 88.7%)

Unfinished Business

President May replied to the question about Resolution 1-05 and the use of the Behnken Rule.

Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege (Vice President) referred the delegates to the Missionary-at-Large Project for Kentucky in the Outreach Report since time did not allow for the full presentation during the convention session.

Rev. Dr. Richard Koehneke was invited to the dais to give a report on the Caring for the Called project.

4:16 pm President May officially closed the 21st Convention of the Indiana District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

The closing devotion was led by Pastor Lepley - 4:18 p.m.

Pastor Douglas M. Christian
Secretary

Resolution 1-01: To Celebrate the 500TH Anniversary of the Reformation

(Overture 1-06, Supplement to the Workbook, page 198)

Whereas, the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation will occur in 2017 and

Whereas, we remember the nailing of the 95 these on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany not so much for historic reasons, but primarily for theological reasons and

Whereas, the theology developed and espoused in the Lutheran Reformation culminated in the Book of Concord of 1580 (U.A.C.) which all pastors and teachers of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod pledge to adhere to in their commissioning or ordination vow, and

Whereas, this pledge is done because we believe that the Book of Concord is a true exposition of Holy Scripture, and

Whereas, in the Book of Concord is stated that the Holy Scriptures are the sole, rule and norm for our faith and life, and

Whereas, this is the faith that we live and are enjoined by God to teach our families and also to share with the world of unbelievers, and

Whereas, we believe that Lutheran theology shares the Gospel of Christ in the purest form, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District in convention encourage all congregations and circuits to partake of the various activities and celebratory events marking this 500th anniversary; and be it further

Resolved, that the Indiana District in Convention encourage the study of the Lutheran Symbols contained in the Book of Concord of 1580 and Christian Apologetics within our congregations; and be it further

Resolved, that the convention instruct the Executive Staff of the district to prepare bulletin fliers, Sunday school activities, plays, bumper stickers, signs etc., and regional events to celebrate this 500th anniversary; and be it further

Resolved, that congregational education and outreach activities be offered to all congregations of the Indiana District LCMS, and be it further

Resolved, that these educational and outreach activities be prepared by the appropriate department of the Indiana District Executive Staff, and be it finally

Resolved, that a district wide celebratory rally be considered to occur on October 31, 2017, in which we celebrate the pure teaching of the Gospel of Christ through preaching and teaching.

A friendly amendment to the second resolve was accepted by the committee which adds the word "these Lutheran Symbols contained in the Book of Concord." So the paragraph will read: "Resolved, that the Indiana District in Convention encourage the study of ***these Lutheran Symbols contained in the Book of Concord of 1580 and*** Christian Apologetics within our congregations;"

Resolution 1-01: Adopted – June 26, 2015

Resolution 1-02: To Encourage Concordia (Overture 1-05, Workbook page 142)

Whereas, LCMS Lutherans have loved Concordia in the past as evidenced by the fact that both of our LCMS seminaries have in their names Concordia, the official archives of our church body has the name Concordia Historical Institute, our ten universities have Concordia in their name, our Lutheran high school in Fort Wayne is named Concordia Lutheran High School, many of our overseas missions have Concordia in their names and numerous churches have Concordia in their names, in effect Concordia is an LCMS moniker; and

Whereas, "*Concordia* comes from two Latin words meaning 'with' and 'heart.' It describes a commitment to the truth so strong and so deep, it is as if those who share it have a single heart beat."[1]; and

Whereas, there is only one absolute book of truth found in the world, namely, the Holy Scriptures; and

Whereas, these Scriptures are the sole, rule and norm for faith and life; and

Whereas, all pastors and congregations of the Indiana District – LCMS have sworn their commitment to uphold the teachings of Holy Scripture as expounded in the Book of Concord of 1580 (U.A.C.); therefore be it

Resolved, that pastors and members of the congregations be encouraged to continue to study God's Word diligently; and be it further

Resolved, that the pastors and members of the congregations of the Indiana District – LCMS be encouraged to actively seek ways to share this Word of God with their communities through intentional outreach as well as in their daily vocations; and be it further

Resolved, that pastors and their congregational members be encouraged to work together in furthering the Mission of God locally, and corporately as members of the Indiana District – LCMS; and be it further

1 Paul Timothy McCain, ed., *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions -- A Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord*, 2nd edition (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing, 2007), xiii.

Resolved, that collectively we rejoice in the cooperation that is ongoing in the Indiana District – LCMS and that we thank the congregations of the Indiana District – LCMS for their support of mission work throughout the district; and be it finally

Resolved, that pastors and members of the congregations of the Indiana District – LCMS be encouraged to support the Indiana District – LCMS in a robust way through their prayers, fraternal comments and financial offerings so that the Word of God might be proclaimed loudly and boldly in new areas within the Indiana District – LCMS.

Resolution 1-02: Adopted – June 26, 2015

Resolution 1-03: To Encourage Communion Statements Faithful to the Scriptural and Confessional Position of the LCMS

(Overture 1-08, Supplement, page 200)

Whereas, The official position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod regarding admission to Holy Communion is: "That pastors and congregations of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, except in situations of emergency and in special cases of pastoral care, commune individuals of only those Lutheran synods which are now in fellowship with us." (1967 Resolution 2-19); and

Whereas, The position of the LCMS regarding admission to Holy Communion is Biblical (1 Corinthians 10:21; 11:26-29), taught by our Lutheran Confessions (AC XXIV), and affirmed by the Synod in Convention (1969 Resolution 3-16 "To Refrain from Selective Fellowship"; 1986

Resolution 3-08 "To Maintain Practice of Close Communion"; 1995 Resolution 3-08 "To

Reaffirm the Practice of Close[d] Communion"; 2007 Resolution 3-09 "To Address

Administration of the Lord's Supper"; and

Whereas, LCMS President Matthew Harrison has reported to the Synod, through the April 2015 *Reporter* Supplement, that he has seen a variety of Communion Statements across the LCMS that do not always reflect the official position of the LCMS; and

Whereas, President Harrison requested the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) to provide guidance on formulating congregational Communion Statements that reflect the scriptural and confessional position of the LCMS; and

Whereas, The guidelines prepared by the CTCR were mailed to all LCMS congregations and also printed in the April 2015 *Reporter* Supplement; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Indiana District commend President Harrison for his diligence and desire to "maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3); and be it further

Resolved, That the Indiana District express its appreciation for the work of the CTCR in preparing "Guidelines for congregational, district, and Synod Communion statements;" and be it finally

Resolved, That the Indiana District encourage the pastors and congregations of the Indiana District to use the CTCR Guidelines to re-examine their Communion Statements and make whatever changes may be necessary in order that all Communion Statements of Indiana District congregations properly reflect the scriptural and confessional position of the LCMS.

Resolution 1-03: Adopted – June 26, 2015

Resolution 1-05B (Overture 1-01): To Publicly Call Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker to Repentance

Whereas, Holy Scripture warns, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matt. 7:15 ESV); and

Whereas, Holy Scripture warns "I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naïve." (Rom. 16:17-18 ESV); and

Whereas, Holy Scripture warns "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths." (2 Tim. 4:3-4); and

Whereas, Holy Scripture declares, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every god work." (2 Tim. 3:16-17); and

Whereas, Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker has stated on his own blog, Transverse Markings: One Theologian's Notes (http://matthewlbecker.blogspot.com/2013/10/what-is-he-trying-to-accomplish.html), that he has three goals for the LCMS all of which are contrary to the Scriptures and the positions of Synod:

1. To encourage members within the synod to think differently about two issues, namely, (a) the synod's understanding of Scripture that insists that only qualified men may serve as pastor in the synod; and (b) the synod's understanding of Scripture that requires one to interpret the creation accounts in Genesis to be literal, historical descriptions of what God did in the not-too-distant past over the course of six actual 24-hr. days ("six-day creationism");

2. To have the synod change its position that restricts the office of pastor only to men;

3. To have the synod reject "creationism" in favor of "a more robust doctrine of creation, one that sets forth a theological understanding that better accords with the language and genre of these Genesis texts and that better accords with what people today know to be true and valid about the natural history of our planet"; and

Whereas, Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker has filed dissent yet continues to publicly teach and promote false doctrine including woman's ordination, having published articles on his own blog, and on Daystar where he published an article titled "An Argument for Female Pastors and Theologians" in which he states: "There is no legitimate biblical or dogmatic rationale for why

the LCMS should now prohibit women from serving as theologians and pastors in the church" (http://thedaystarjournal.com/an-argument-for-womenpastors-and theologians/); and

Whereas, Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker continues to publicly teach and promote false doctrine including by his participation, while vested, in the installation of Charlene Rachuy Cox at Valparaiso University; and

Whereas, Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker continues to publicly teach and promote false doctrine including, acceptance of homosexuality and homosexual marriage, having written to such effect on his blog Transverse Markings: One Theologian's Notes in an article/a post titled "Further Signs of LCMS Times"; and

Whereas, Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker continues to publicly teach and promote false doctrine including promoting a figurative interpretation of Genesis 1 and 2 stating in his post "The Scandal of the LMCS Mind"…"Scientific data about the reality of physical death in the animal and plant kingdoms prior to origin of human beings (e.g., fossils of animals that lived long before the origin of human beings) must lead those who interpret the Bible in light of scientific knowledge to restate the nature of God's good creation prior to the advent of human sin (e.g., such a good creation must have included the reality of death prior to the existence of human beings) and the character of the historical origin of sin (e.g., the advent of sin is to be traced to the first hominids who disobeyed God's will but not necessarily to their having eaten from a tree in an actual place called the Garden of Eden several thousand years ago)." ; and

Whereas, the LCMS Committee on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has ruled, "While the filing of dissent does not constitute a case for removal, the member is required to teach and practice in accord with Synod's stated confessional position during the dissent process. If the member fails to honor and uphold the stated confessional position of Synod during the dissent process, the member becomes subject to disciplinary action due both to the violation of the doctrinal position of Synod and the offense against the other members of Synod created by such failure (Constitution Art. XIII 1). In such case it is incumbent upon the ecclesiastical supervisor of the member to exercise disciplinary action against the member who fails to teach and act within Synod's stated confessional position, whether apart from or during the dissent process (Bylaws 2.14.4; 2.15.4; 2.16.4)"; and

Whereas, the LCMS Constitution and Bylaws define the responsibilities of the LCMS President to include:

(c) [the President] shall call up for review any action by an individual officer, executive, or agency that, in his view, may be in violation of the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod. [LCMS Bylaw 3.3.1.2 c.]; also

2. It is the President's duty to see to it that all the aforementioned [officers, employees, individual districts, and district presidents of Synod] act in accordance with the Synod's

Constitution, to admonish all who in any way depart from it, and, if such admonition is not heeded, to report such cases to the Synod.

3. The President has and always shall have the power to advise, admonish, and reprove. He shall conscientiously use all means at his command to promote and maintain unity of doctrine and practice in all the districts of the Synod. [LCMS Constitution, Article XI, B. Duties of the President]; and

Whereas, President Matt Harrison stated on the "Witness Mercy Life Together" blog: "When a public teacher on the roster of Synod can without consequence publicly advocate the ordination of women (even participate vested in the installation of an ELCA clergy person), homosexuality, the errancy of the Bible, the historical-critical method, open communion, communion with the Reformed, does not change its inability to call such a person to repentance and remove such a teacher where there is no repentance, then we are liars and our confession is meaningless. I do

not want to belong to such a synod, much less lead it. I have no intention of walking away from my vocation. I shall rather use it and, by the grace of God, use all the energy I have to call this Synod to fidelity to correct this situation."; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District in Convention commend President Harrison in his diligence to uphold the teachings of Holy Scripture and also the Constitution and Bylaws of the LCMS: and be it further

Resolved, that the Indiana District encourage President Harrison to provide a full report to the synod of this matter involving Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker; and be it further

Resolved, that the Indiana District in Convention request the Synod in convention to publicly call Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker to repent and recant or remove him from the clergy roster of Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Indiana District in Convention encourage everyone throughout the Indiana District to pray fervently to the Lord of the Church that His Holy Spirit, working through the holy and inerrant Word of God, would lead Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker to repentance and to confess once again with us in doctrinal unity what we believe, teach, and confess.

Resolution 1-05B (Overture 1-01): Adopted – June 26, 2015

Resolution 1-10 To Encourage the Synod to Bear Witness to What We Believe,

Teach, and Confess Regarding Marriage

(Overture 1-10, Today's Business, page 348)

Whereas, relying upon the Holy Scriptures, we believe, teach, and confess that marriage as instituted by God is a lifelong union of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6); and

Whereas, marriage is to be honored by all and kept pure (Hebrews 13:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:2-5); and

Whereas, children are the most obvious, natural gift of marriage, for God blessed the first married couple—and all married couples—by saying, "Be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:28); and

Whereas, St. Paul describes marriage as a type of the relationship existing between Christ and His bride: "This mystery [of marriage] is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:32); and

Whereas, on its own, the church can do nothing; but if the church abides in Christ and Christ in the church, it bears much fruit (John 15:5); and

Whereas, it is thus with marriage—only a union of a man and a woman can be fruitful and multiply; and

Whereas, marriage thus understood also blesses children by giving them a father and a mother to nurture and care for them—making it the optimal setting for the child; and

Whereas, sexual complementarity is therefore the foundation of the Biblical view of marriage as God intended it; and

Whereas, though solidly grounded in a Scriptural understanding of God's design, this "conjugal view" of marriage is not unique in the world to Christian cultures, as nearly every culture has recognized this view of marriage, and it has been foundational to the ordering of civil society from time immemorial; and

Whereas, the left-hand kingdom's subscription to the conjugal view of marriage should come as no surprise, because St. Paul also tells us that God's invisible attributes, including His views of what is ungodly or unrighteous, may be clearly seen as reflected in His creation (Romans 1:18-20); and

Whereas, the Holy Scriptures also explicitly teach that same-sex attraction is a manifestation of sin. (Leviticus 18:22 ["abomination"]; Romans 1:26-27 ["dishonorable" and "shameless"]; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:8-11 ["contrary to sound doctrine"]); and

Whereas, the official position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as set forth in 1998 Resolution 3-21 ("To Affirm the Sanctity of Marriage and to Reject Same-Sex Unions"), is that homosexual unions come under categorical prohibition in the Old and New Testaments (Leviticus 18:22,

24; 20:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:9-10) as contrary to the Creator's design (Romans 1:26-27); and

Whereas, St. Paul also cautions us that sexual sins are no greater and no lesser than any other sins (Romans 1:26-32), as all sins separate us from God and are deserving of eternal death (Romans 1:32, 6:23); and

Whereas, in recent years, our culture has seen a shift in attitudes about marriage, with same-sex "marriage" and civil unions now considered by many to be morally acceptable and legally desirable; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court of the United States decided on June 26, 2015 that the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States requires the states to licenses marriages between two people of the same sex, and to recognize such marriages contracted elsewhere; and

Whereas, the Solicitor General of the United States has declared that, if the Supreme Court compels states to recognize same-sex relationships as marriages, "it is going to be an issue" for groups and individuals who object to same-sex marriage on religious grounds, including but not limited to the possible revocation of tax-exempt status for such groups and the legal requirement that such individuals act contrary to the dictates of conscience; and

Whereas, at the Diet of Worms (on April 18, 1521), Martin Luther declared, "I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe"; and

Whereas, our consciences also are captive to the Word of God; and

Whereas, the Word of God teaches that, as citizens of God's left-hand kingdom, we must obey our government (Romans 13:1-4; LC III 141-42, 150; AC XVI 1); however, when the government interferes with the rights of conscience and the clear commands of Scripture, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29; AC XVI 6-7); and

Whereas, it is the role of the universal Church to boldly proclaim the Gospel of forgiveness, and to boldly teach and confess the truths revealed in the Scriptures; therefore be it

Resolved, that the 2015 Indiana District Convention affirm its adherence to 1998 LCMS Resolution 3-21 ("To Affirm the Sanctity of Marriage and to Reject Same-Sex Unions"), as a faithful exposition of the Scripture passages cited therein; and be it further

Resolved, that the 2015 Indiana District Convention thank LCMS President Matthew C. Harrison and the LCMS's "Free to be Faithful" campaign for standing up for religious freedom and the rights of conscience, including but not limited to the right to boldly teach and confess the Scriptural truth concerning the institution of marriage, and encourage them to continue in their bold witness; and be it further

Resolved, that the Indiana District reaffirm our commitment to teaching both the Law and Gospel concerning marriage, both calling our nation and those struggling with same-sex attraction to repentance and proclaiming the Gospel of Christ's forgiveness to all who call upon Christ's name; and be it finally

Resolved, that the 2015 Indiana District Convention memorialize the 2016 LCMS Convention to develop a comprehensive response to recent court decisions concerning marriage that will comport with the Holy Scriptures and the traditional Lutheran understanding of marriage, including but not limited to the role of LCMS pastors acting as agents of the state and conducting a marriage ceremony.

Resolution 1-10: Adopted – June 26, 2015

Resolution 1-11: To Revise the Dispute Resolution Process

(Overture 1-02)

Resolved, that the Indiana District in Convention petition the Synod in the 2016 LCMS Convention that the synod revise the dispute resolution and expulsion processes to be more expedient in dealing with cases of false doctrine.

Resolution 1-11: Adopted as amended (180 of 203 votes; 88.7%)

Resolution 2-01 Amended: To Establish a Task Force for Ministry to and with People with Disabilities

(Overture 2-01, Workbook, page 145)

Whereas, our Lord ministered to the needs of all people and asks His followers to emulate His example; and

Whereas, "all people" includes individuals with disabilities (those who are blind or visually impaired, deaf or hearing impaired, have developmental disabilities, live with severe mental illnesses, [currently about 16 percent of the total population]) which significantly limit major life activities; and

Whereas, the Son of God embarked on a ministry of mercy and restoration for those who live on the margins of life, that they too might hear that their sins are forgiven by Him who shows mercy and restores body, soul and spirit, and thus "all people" were welcomed and participated in the Body of Christ; and

Whereas, people with disabilities are often faced with physical and attitudinal barriers to full participation in worship, education, fellowship and service activities, with many church members having difficulty in accepting people with disabilities, identifying their needs, and providing ways to welcome them into their congregations; and

Whereas, the removal of physical and attitudinal barriers significantly enhances the spiritual, emotional and social life of people with disabilities, and is a sign of Christian love and hospitality to all; and

Whereas, people with disabilities are able to make positive contributions to parish life lived under the cross; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District establish a Disability Ministry Task Force modeled after the

LCMS Disability Ministry Task Force, and under the supervision of the President of the Indiana District; and be it further

Resolved, that the President of the Indiana District appoint members to the DTF from members of the Indiana District with representation by people with disabilities, and including professionals in the areas of spiritual life supports, medical care, education, building design, law, as others are needed, to give pertinent information to congregations and church workers that they may provide excellent services to people with disabilities; and be it finally

Resolved, that the DTF address the following (including but not limited to):

1. A mission statement for the work of the task force;

2. A congregational self-assessment tool to assess the needs of people with disabilities;

3. Plans and guidelines to address physical, attitudinal, and other barriers in churches;

4. Suggestions whereby people with disabilities can ore fully participate in the life and ministry of the congregation;

5. Provide a list of available resources which will help individuals with disabilities, their families, and congregation members network with nearby agencies and other families with disability;

6. Request financial support from LCEF and other synodical auxiliaries (e.g. LWML's mission mite grants) to provide funds necessary to make physical changes to existing buildings to improve services for meeting the needs of people with disabilities.

Resolution 2-01: Adopted as amended-June 25, 2015

Resolution 2-02: To Support the Well-being of All the Church's Workers in the Indiana District (Overture 2-02, Workbook, page 146)

Whereas, the well-being of the church's workers is vital to the ministry and mission of the church; and

Whereas, those who are called to serve the church in various capacities are well advised to care for themselves so that they can carry out their ministries to the best of their ability; and

Whereas, congregations, schools, and other agencies are vital to the well-being of their ministers as they support those ministers in pursuit of their well-being; and

Whereas, major challenges to the well-being of the church's ministers are known and documented, along with effective strategies to deal with those challenges to enhance their wellbeing; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District in convention express its support for all efforts of congregations, schools, and agencies to care for our workers and support them in their wellbeing, including the following components of holistic well-being: spiritual, financial, vocational, intellectual, relational, emotional, and physical; and be it further

Resolved, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to do all they can to support the holistic well-being of their ministers, focusing on intentional, strategic, practical efforts at preventing problems before they develop and resolving them before they become crises; and be it further

Resolved, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to support the holistic well-being of all their other workers as well; and be it finally

Resolved, that the church's workers of the Indiana District be encouraged to care for themselves in every aspect of holistic well-being so that they can continue to serve to the best of their ability with the gifts and strength that God supplies.

Resolution 2-02: Adopted – June 25, 2015

Resolution 2-03: To Develop Guidelines for Responsible Use of Social Media by Professional Church Workers

(Overture 2-03, Workbook, page 147)

Whereas, the prevalence of social media in the 21st century has introduced a new blend of both private and public discourse; and

Whereas, many professional church workers in the LCMS utilize social media; and

Whereas, we are called by the Gospel and enlightened with God's gifts to be His witnesses in both private and public settings;, and

Whereas, the Eighth Commandment (Exodus 20:16) commands us to "not give false testimony against your neighbor," and

Whereas, Martin Luther's explanation of the Eighth Commandment in the *Small Catechism* exhorts us to "Explain everything in the kindest way"; and

Whereas, the Apostle Peter's words in 1 Peter 3:15 instruct us to witness in both word and action "with gentleness and respect;" and

Whereas, employers throughout the United States are developing systems to safeguard the integrity of their organizations through professional agreements with their workers regarding their personal and public use of social media; and

Whereas, as servant leaders, professional church workers are called to live as examples both for the Christian church and for the secular world; and

Whereas, the public witness of the LCMS to the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ can be either helped or hindered by professional church workers' use of social media; therefore be it

Resolved, that the President of the Indiana District, in coordination and cooperation with all appropriate commissions and task forces, review the social media policy for the Indiana District office to be modified for congregational use. This will be completed by the end of 2015; and be it further

Resolved, that the President of the Indiana District will equip all Circuit Visitors to utilize this agreement for the blessing of all professional church workers and congregations they serve; and be it further

Resolved, that the President of the Indiana District will address the issue of responsible use of social media with all professional church workers at their respective conferences in 2016; and be it finally

Resolved, that the 2015 Indiana District Convention memorialize the 2016 LCMS Convention to develop a comprehensive "Social Media Agreement for Professional Church Workers" that will be studied and implemented throughout the LCMS.

Resolution 2-03: Adopted as amended – June 25, 2015

Commissioned Advisory and Alternate Delegates for the 2016 LCMS Convention.

Advisory Delegates
Karol Ketcher – Trinity, Crown Point IN
Sara Cunningham – Immanuel, Valparaiso
Gary Truwe – Trinity, Indianapolis IN
Paul Johnson – St John, Indianapolis IN
George Denholm – St Peter's Columbus IN
Marvin Brandt – St Peter's, Columbus IN
Mark Schallhorn –Bethlehem, Ossian IN
Vicki Schallhorn – Bethlehem, Ossian IN
Brian Horning – St John Bingen, Decatur IN
Darin Koenemann – Ascension, Fort Wayne IN
Richard Schwantz – Concordia, Fort Wayne IN

Peter Meyer – Peace, Fort Wayne IN
Elizabeth Moeller – Zion, Wabash IN

Alternate Advisory Delegates

John Weber - St. Paul (Gar Creek), New Haven IN
Sarah Weber – St. Paul (Gar Creek), New Haven IN
Krista Nagy – Bethlehem, Fort Wayne IN
Lance Hoffman – Zion, Corunna IN
Dr. Jon Mielke – Emmaus, Fort Wayne, IN

Action on Motion to adopt list of Commissioned Advisory Delegates: Adopted

Resolution 3-01: To Commend, Affirm, and Encourage the Christian Educational Outreach Efforts in the Gary Community

(Overture 3-01, Workbook, page 149)

Whereas, in the early 60's through the mid-1970's an association Lutheran school once existed and was operated by multiple LCMS congregations in the Gary community to teach young adults and children about Jesus; and

Whereas, changing demographics, declining membership, and socioeconomic status of and around the Gary area made it more challenging for these congregations to sustain Christian instruction through the operation of a Lutheran school; and

Whereas, Word and Sacrament ministry continues to exist and continues to be made available to congregational members that embody these LCMS congregations in the Gary community; and,

Whereas, schools of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have been established to encourage, support, equip, and empower parents in their duty and responsibility to bring their children up "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4); and

Whereas, the Indiana District has and continues to have a strong presence in the Gary community and surrounding areas with Word and Sacrament ministry and, now with the beginnings of an After School Initiative, have an opportunity for Christian education at Our Saviour Lutheran; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District continue to affirm, encourage, and strengthen the After School Initiative that currently exists at Our Saviour Lutheran; and be it further

Resolved, that the Indiana District, plus congregations and schools that embody the Indiana District, continue to invest financial resources in efforts to start a new school and support the After School Initiative currently in operation; and be it

Resolved, that thanks be given to those who have faithfully and continue to faithfully serve our Heavenly Father in the Gary community.

Resolution 3-01: Adopted (193 of 200 votes; 96.5%)

Resolution 3-02: To Commend Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod Lutheran Schools and All those Who Serve in them

(Overture 3-02, Workbook, page 149)

Whereas, schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have predated some congregations within our own Indiana District; and

Whereas, Christian teachers in our schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod strive to teach young adults and children about Jesus through instruction and witness; and

Whereas, schools of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have been established to encourage, support, equip, and empower parents in their duty and responsibility to bring their children up "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4); and

Whereas, schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod strive to connect the congregation to the community they serve through daily instruction, activities, and programs; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District thank our Heavenly Father for the blessings of schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and those who serve therein; and be it further

Resolved, that thanks be given to those who have faithfully served and continue to faithfully serve the church in these LCMS schools; and be it

Resolved, that the member churches, schools, and recognized service organizations of the Indiana District encourage church workers and parents to embrace the responsibility and privilege of nurturing the lambs He has placed into their care with joy and thanksgiving as they do so with the study of His Word and prayer at the forefront of all they think, say, and do.

Resolution 3-02: Adopted (197 of 203; 97%)

Resolution 3-03: To Affirm and Encourage Use of Multiple Colloquy Programs for Parish Workers

(Overture 3-03, Convention Workbook, page 150)

Preamble: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has established multiple Colloquy programs to provide the necessary class work for those serving in our Lutheran congregations to obtain Lutheran doctrinal training and be eligible for roster status in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The Indiana District affirms and acknowledges these multiple Colloquy programs.

Whereas, more congregations are raising up workers from amidst their membership; and

Whereas, most of these lay parish workers are teaching doctrine directly and indirectly in many aspects of their ministry; and

Whereas, the Colloquy programs provide opportunity for contracted lay parish workers to receive doctrinal training and be on the Commissioned Minister roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

Whereas, two Directors of Christian Education (DCE's) and one Director of Family Life Ministry (DFLM) have completed the Colloquy Program and are commissioned and one Director of Parish Ministry (DPM) is currently enrolled during this triennium; and

Whereas, a number of lay parish workers have enrolled since the inception of the program; and

Whereas, the Indiana District has made it a priority to support the LCMS Colloquy programs through scholarship money; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District continue to affirm and support the Colloquy programs through scholarship funds for lay parish workers who desire to enroll and graduate from these programs; and be it further

Resolved, that the Indiana District congregations and association schools continue to encourage the use of these Colloquy programs for their lay parish workers.

Resolution 3-03: Adopted (194 of 201 votes; 92.4%)

Resolution 3-04: To Affirm and Encourage Use of the Teacher Colloquy Program

(Overture 3-04, Workbook, page 151)

Preamble: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has established a teacher Colloquy program to provide the necessary class work for those teaching in our Lutheran schools to obtain Lutheran doctrinal training, to receive their Lutheran teacher diploma and be eligible for roster status in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The Indiana District affirms and acknowledges this teacher Colloquy program.

Whereas, the Colloquy program provides opportunity for teachers to receive their Lutheran teaching diploma and be on the roster of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; and

Whereas, a significant number of teachers have enrolled in the Colloquy program since the inception of the program; and

Whereas, approximately one third of the teachers in the schools of the Indiana District are eligible for the Colloquy program; and

Whereas, over the past three trienniums, fifty-seven (57) servants have enrolled into the Colloquy program, forty (40) teachers have completed all course work and twenty-eight (28) of those forty (40) have been commissioned and are now on the roster of The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod; and

Whereas, the Indiana District has made it a priority to support the Colloquy program through scholarship money; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District continue to affirm and support the Colloquy program through scholarship funds for teachers who desire to enroll and graduate from this program; and be it further

Resolved, that Indiana District congregations and association schools continue to encourage the use of the Colloquy program for their teachers.

Resolution 3-04: Adopted (198 of 208 votes; 95%)

Resolution 3-05: To Encourage Support of "Family Friendly" Ministries

(Overture 3-05, Convention Workbook, page 152)

Whereas, the teaching of the faith is a necessary responsibility and function of the family, in partnership with the congregation; and

Whereas, Luther's Small Catechism exhorts the heads of households to teach each chief part and section to their family in a simple way; and

Whereas, a role of the congregation is to encourage and assist the heads of households in their responsibility and task of leading their family in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and

Whereas, the "Family Friendly Partners Networks" facilitated by DCE Ben Freudenburg, Director of the Concordia Center for the Family and Family Ministry Professor at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, trains teams from congregations to provide such encouragement and assistance; and

Whereas, nineteen congregations of the Indiana District (listed below) have committed their time and resources to participate in that training; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District in convention express its support for congregations to encourage and assist the heads of households to be leaders of faith formation in the home; and be it further

Resolved, that the Indiana District in Convention encourage all congregations of the Indiana District to seek ways to emphasize the role of the head of the household in teaching the faith; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Indiana District continue to support congregations who promote family ministry initiatives such as Family Friendly Partners Network and other family ministry initiatives. Network Congregations of the two Indiana District **Family Friendly Partners Network**s: FFPN-IN: 2011-2014: Dave Ebeling, coordinator; Faith, Bloomington; Grace, Columbus; Trinity, Crown Point; Our Savior, Louisville; Calvary, Indianapolis; Messiah, Indianapolis; Grace, Lafayette; Zion, New Palestine; St. Peter, North Judson; Zion, Seymour. FFPN-FW, 2015-2018: Brian Horning, coordinator; Ascension, Fort Wayne, Emmanuel, Fort Wayne; Holy Cross, Fort Wayne; Our Hope, Huntertown; Peace, Fort Wayne; St. John (Bingen), Decatur; St. Michael, Fort Wayne; Suburban Bethlehem, Fort Wayne; Zion (Friedheim), Decatur.

Resolution 3-05: Adopted as amended (177 of 190 votes; 93%)

Resolution 4-01: To Realign Columbus (Circuit 16) and Aurora (Circuit 19) Circuits (Overture 4-01, Convention Workbook, page 153)

Whereas, "The Synod divides itself into districts and authorizes its districts to create circuits" (Bylaws: 1.3.2); and

Whereas, an Electoral Circuit "…shall consist either of one or two adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors on the basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an aggregate communicant membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000" (Bylaws: 3.1.2a); and

Whereas, the Aurora Circuit, although having eight congregations, has less than 1,500 communicant members in these eight congregations; and

Whereas, merging the Columbus and Aurora Circuits would exceed the maximum number of congregations for an electoral circuit (22 congregations); and

Whereas, St. Paul (Clifty) Evangelical Lutheran Church, Columbus, Indiana, is less than ten miles from Decatur County, the present boundary of the Columbus and Aurora circuits; and

Whereas, the addition of St. Paul (Clifty) Evangelical Lutheran Church to the Aurora Circuit would increase the Aurora Circuit's communicant membership above 1,500; and

Whereas, it is an amicable arrangement of St. Paul (Clifty) Evangelical Lutheran Church that she become a member of the Aurora circuit; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District in convention realign the Columbus and Aurora Circuits, moving St. Paul (Clifty) Evangelical Lutheran Church from the Columbus Circuit (Circuit 16) into the Aurora Circuit (Circuit 19).

Resolution 4-01: Adopted – June 26, 2015

Resolution 4-06: To Transfer St. Augustine Lutheran Church from Fort Wayne South (8) Circuit to Fort Wayne (7) Circuit

Whereas, "The Synod divides itself into districts and authorizes its districts to create circuits and authorizes its districts to create circuits" (Bylaws: 1.3.2); and

Whereas, St. Augustine Lutheran Church has moved from the Southeast part of Fort Wayne and now conducts worship, education, and administrative matters from the campus of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in the Northeast section of Fort Wayne; and

Whereas, St. Augustine Lutheran Church has requested to be placed in the geographical circuit in which it conducts its congregational activities; and

Whereas, both Fort Wayne South (8) Circuit and Fort Wayne North (7) Circuit approve St. Augustine's request; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District in convention transfer St. Augustine Lutheran Church from Fort Wayne South (8) Circuit to Fort Wayne North (7) Circuit.

Resolution 4-06: Adopted – June 26, 2015

Resolution 4-02: To Petition Synod Regarding District Membership of Those Rostered Workers Teaching in any Geographical District

(Overture 4-04, Convention Workbook, page 154)

Whereas, for the sake of harmony and unity it is desirable for proper ecclesiastical supervision of all rostered workers of the LC-MS; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District in convention petition the LC-MS in convention (2016) TO clarify the ecclesiastical supervision of rostered workers (ordained and commissioned) who are serving in areas outside of the geographical district in which they hold membership.

Resolution 4-02: Adopted – June 26, 2015

Resolution 4-03: To Adopt the Proposed Changes in Indiana District Bylaws

(Overture 4-05, Convention Workbook, page 155)

Whereas, Synod Bylaw 4.1.1.2 (see especially ".a") requires that the bylaws of the districts of the Synod not conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod; and

Whereas, the LCMS in convention (2013) adopted several changes to the LCMS Bylaws; and

Whereas, the LCMS in convention (2013) adopted a resolution to change the terminology of "Circuit Counselor" to "Circuit Visitor" requiring the approval of the congregations of the Synod; and

Whereas, the congregations of the LCMS adopted this terminology change which now require the terminology change in the District Bylaws at 2.15.c; 2.17.b; 2.35.a; 2.67.b; 2.71.d; 2.75.7; 7.23; 7.37.j; 7.65); and

Whereas, the District B.O.D. submitted to the Synod CCM for prior approval (in accordance to Synod Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3 and 4.1.1.2) proposed changes to the District Bylaws 7.05 and 7.51 to clarify the transition procedures for newly elected officers of the District; and

Whereas, the Synod CCM approved the proposed District Bylaw changes and upon review of the current District Bylaws provided a list of required changes to bring the District Bylaws into conformity with the LCMS Bylaws, specifically to correct references to the Synod Constitution and Bylaws in the following District Bylaws: 2.01; 2.05; 2.67; 7.23; and to correct the wording in the bylaws as follows:

Bylaw 1.13

b. The Synod/District expects every member congregation to respect it's resolutions and to consider them of binding force if they are in accordance with the Word of God, and if they appear ~~expedient~~ applicable as far as the condition of the congregation is concerned. The Synod/District, being an advisory body, recognizes the right of the congregation to be the judge of the ~~expediency~~ applicability of the resolution as applied to its local condition. However, in exercising such judgment, a congregation must not act arbitrarily, but in accordance with the principles of Christian love and charity.

Bylaw 2.09 One-third of the voting congregations represented by at least one of their respective delegates (~~Minister of Religion - Ordained~~ Pastor or lay delegate) shall constitute a quorum

Bylaw 2.14

b. The electoral circuit forum shall be made up of ~~a Ministry of Religion - Ordained~~ the Pastor of each congregation and one lay member of each congregation designated by the congregation.

Bylaw 2.17

c. To elect the ~~Minister of Religion - Ordained~~ Pastor and lay delegate and their alternates to the national convention of the Synod according to the bylaws of the Synod, provided the visitation circuit forum is an electoral circuit forum (see 2.14). The delegates shall upon their election serve a term of three years as advisory members of the circuit forum. (H.B. 5.3.3)

d. To ~~elect~~ select the circuit ~~counselor~~ visitor following the bylaws of the Synod (H.B. 5.2.2)

Bylaw 2.35

a. The following officers shall be elected by the Indiana District in Convention, each for a three-year term of office: a) The District President, nominated from the Minister of Religion - Ordained roster of the Synod; b) four Regional VicePresidents, one from each region, nominated from the Ministry of Religion – Ordained roster of the region; c) a Circuit Visitor for each circuit established by the District, selected by the Circuit Forum and ratified by the District Convention; and d) a District Secretary, nominated from the Minister of Religion – Ordained roster of the District. ~~for three year terms of office: The~~

~~District President, four~~ ~~Vice-Presidents, the Secretary and a Circuit Counselor~~ Visitor ~~for each circuit established by the District.~~

Bylaw 2.81 Nomination of the Vice Presidents

a. Vice-Presidents shall be nominated and elected from the roster of Ministers of Religion – Ordained of the ~~Synod~~ District (H.B. 4.3.1), giving consent to serve upon nomination, including consent to relocate as necessary to fulfill the expectations of the office (H.B. 4.3.3)

Bylaw 2.91 Duties of the Secretary

c. He along with the President of the district shall prepare and sign official papers and documents of the District as may be required by government entities or corporations with which the District conducts business. Bylaw 2.107 Duties of the B.O.D

The B.O.D. represents ~~the congregations of~~ the District, and shall have power to conduct and transact all business necessary to carry out the purposes of the District. The B.O.D. defines the general sphere of duties for each council or committee. The authority to carry out the purposes of the District is vested in this B.O.D. as limited by the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod, the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and resolutions of the District.

Bylaw 7.11 Nomination of Vice Presidents

a. Six months prior to the District Convention the district office shall notify each congregation of its privilege to nominate candidates for the office of Regional Vice President from the ~~Synod's~~ District's roster of Ministers of Religion – Ordained. The notification will include a current list of Ministers of Religion – Ordained currently members of congregations of each region of the District. ~~The notification will include information that nominees must give consent to relocate as necessary in order to fulfill the office of Regional Vice President.~~ (H.B. 4.3)

Bylaw 7.15 Ranking of Vice Presidents

After the Vice-Presidents have been elected, the voting delegates will rank the VicePresidents in the following manner. The first ranking-ballot will include the names of all four Vice-Presidents in random order; the first of the Vice-Presidents to receive a majority of the ~~Vice-President receiving the most~~ votes cast will be the First VicePresident. The second ranking-ballot for the Second Vice-President position will follow the same procedure with the three remaining Vice-President names. ~~will list the three remaining Vice-Presidents; the Vice-President receiving the most votes cast will be the Second Vice-President.~~ The third ranking-ballot for the Third Vice-President position will follow the same procedure with the two remaining Vice-President names. For each ranking-ballot run-off ranking-ballots will continue until a Vice-President receives a majority of votes cast. ~~will list the remaining Vice-Presidents; the Vice-President receiving the most votes cast will be the Third Vice-President. In the event of a tie in receiving the most votes cast on any ranking-ballot, the name receiving the fewest votes cast will be removed from the run-off ranking-ballot.~~

Bylaw 7.37 Nomination Committee Function and Procedures

j. Nominations for positions held by laity are to be members of member congregations of the District, and if the position requires, residents of the appropriate region of the District. Nominees for positions held by Ministers of Religion – Commissioned are to be members of a District congregation, and if the position requires, residents of the appropriate region of the District. Nominees for District President~~,~~ are to be from the Synod's roster of Ministers of Religion – Ordained. Nominees for Regional Vice Presidents are to be from the District's roster of Minister of Religion – Ordained from that region. Nominees for Secretary are to be from the District's roster of Ministers of Religion – Ordained. ~~and~~ Circuit ~~Counselors~~ Visitors are selected by the Circuit Forum from the roster of

Ministers of Religion – Ordained of that circuit. ~~to be from the Synod roster of Ministers of Religion – Ordained;~~ ~~all~~ All other positions (councils, committees, etc.) that are to be filled by Ministers of Religion – Ordained shall be filled with members of the District roster of Ministers of Religion – Ordained, and if the position requires, residents of the appropriate region of the District. Therefore be it

Resolved, that the 2015 Indiana District Convention approve the change in terminology for the Circuit Visitor, and the corrected Synod Bylaw references and wording as presented in whereas six (above), and be it further

Resolved, that the 2015 Indiana District Convention adopt the proposed change to the District Bylaws 7.05 and 7.51 in order to clarify the transition for newly elected officers of the District:

7.05 Transition

a. When there is a change in the presidency, a period of ninety days shall be allowed for the orderly transfer of duties to the new president. ~~During this period of time the successor may continue in his previous activity, and in that case shall be given additional salary by the District. His combined salaries shall equal the amount he will receive as President.~~ The new president will assume office at the time of his induction on or before September 1 following the District convention. The incumbent president shall serve until his successor is inducted during which time he will bring his administration to a close and assist the newly elected president as requested to become acquainted with the responsibilities of the office. The new president may continue in his previous Call responsibilities during the time of transition (up to 90 days from the close of the District convention) during which the combined salaries shall equal the amount the successor will receive as District President.

b. ~~A~~ An incumbent District President who is not reelected~~, or elects to resign his position,~~ shall receive his full salary (and benefits package) for ninety (90) days following the close of the District convention at which a new president was elected. ~~during the period of transition.~~ Thereafter, the B.O.D. shall determine his stipend until such time as he receives a Call, or until other permanent arrangements for his future are made. The B.O.D. shall also determine for what length of time it seems advisable for the District to provide for his sustenance. And

7.51 Induction

a. ~~All elected officers and members of the elected B.O.D, Councils, and Committees~~
The newly elected and re-elected, except for the District President, Regional Vice-Presidents and Secretary, shall be inducted into office in a special service following the final session of the District Convention. The incumbent President shall officiate at the induction.

b. Those who are not present at the Convention shall be inducted into office at the Orientation Meeting or the first meeting of the B.O.D., Council, or Committee to which they have been elected, following the Convention.

e. The District President, Regional Vice-Presidents and Secretary shall assume office following the District convention. The induction shall take place no later than September 1 during a worship service held at the time of the Orientation Meeting for the elected members of District Boards, Councils and Committees. The President of the Synod or his representative shall install the District President, and the newly elected President shall induct all other elected persons.

f. Incumbents shall serve until their successors assume office.

and, be it finally

Resolved, that the 2015 Indiana District Convention authorize the Indiana District Board of Directors, with the recommendation of the District Committee on Constitutional Matters, to make minor changes in grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization and format to ensure internal consistency of the bylaws prior to formal publication of the District Bylaws.

Resolution 4-03 moved by the floor committee

Discussion: it was clarified that the proposed changes regarding induction of the District President, etc. were not in effect for the 21st Convention of the Indiana District.

Resolution 4-03: Adopted – June 26, 2015

Resolution 4-04: To Preserve Histories of the Indiana District LCMS Congregations and Other Entitites of the Indiana District

(Overture 4-03, Convention Workbook, page 154)

Whereas, the Indiana District Archives is a collection of historical records from the congregations of the Indiana District; and

Whereas, once it is not written down, and once it is gone, it's gone forever; and

Whereas, in the past, records from some congregations that have closed have not been submitted to the Indiana District archives; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Indiana District LCMS in convention encourage congregations and other entities to preserve all historical records; and be it finally

Resolved , to encourage congregations at times of celebration (anniversaries, maturing mortgages, expansions, etc.) to submit documents of historical value to the Indiana District archives.

Resolution 4-04: Adopted – June 26, 2015

Resolution 4-05: To Send District Salary Guidelines to Congregational Leaders and Pastors (Overture 4-02, Convention Workbook, page 153)

Whereas, District Salary Guidelines for professional church workers are prepared yearly and provided on the District web site; and

Whereas, such guidelines are not always accessed by district pastors, rostered church workers and those congregation and school leaders who make budgetary decisions; be it

Resolved, that the District make every effort to make all congregations and school associations aware that these guidelines are available and that congregations and schools be strongly encouraged to give prayerful consideration to these guidelines in caring for their professional church workers; and be it

Resolved, that to this end the District Salary Guidelines are to be sent via electronic means to District pastors, congregations, schools and their treasurers with the encouragement that they discuss them within their congregation and schools; and be it finally

Resolved, for those congregations who are unable to receive by electronic means a single printed copy of salary guidelines will be sent via "surface mail."

Resolution 4-05: Adopted – June 26, 2015

Omnibus Resolution B (amended)

Whereas, The Synod has created many offices, boards, commissions and departments and

Whereas, Proposals related to the responsibilities of such administrative units should ordinarily be directed to them; therefore be it

Resolved, that the following overtures be referred to the listed administrative unit.

Overture or Report	**Subject**	**Board or Commission**
Overture 1-03	To Encourage Calling Congregations to Consider	2013 Synod Convention Resolution 3-10A

	and Call Ministers of Religion on Inactive Status	
Overture 1-04	To Publish the Names of All Ministers of Religion on Inactive Status	Listed in Lutheran Annual and available through District President by request
Overture 2-07	To Encourage and Support the Christians Abroad Who Suffer on Account of Their Faith	Office of International Missions
Overture 2-08	To Urge Peace and To Support Christians in South Sudan	Office of International Missions

Omnibus Resolution B (amended) (as printed above): Adopted

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(Terms expire June, 2018)

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INDIANA DISTRICT
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
BYLAW

I. PREAMBLE

The Indiana District is a district created by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (hereafter Synod) and is a component part of the Synod. The District serves to assist congregations and their members in conserving and promoting the unity of the faith and in carrying out their mission and ministry. The District also serves as the structure through which congregations carry out certain functions that can be performed more effectively and efficiently together with other member congregations.

The District is obligated to carry out resolutions of the Synod and is the structure for congregations to review decisions of the Synod, to motivate one another to action, and to shape and suggest new directions for the Synod.

1.01 Name

The name of this corporation is "The Indiana District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc." (hereinafter referred to as "The District").

1.03 Confession and Objectives

The confession and objectives of the District are the same as for the Synod (LCMS Handbook Articles II and III).

1.05 Corporate Seal

The corporate seal of the District shall be a circular disk bearing the words, "The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc." in the upper part of the outer circle. Paralleling these words in smaller type shall be the following: "I am the Vine, ye are the branches – St. John 15:15." In the center of the disk shall be the symbol of a cross and vine, and along the lower part of the outer circle shall be the words, "The Indiana District."

1.07 District Boundaries

The District is empowered to carry out its work within the geographic boundaries determined by the parent organization, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, viz, the State of Indiana, and those counties in the north portion of the State of Kentucky: Henderson, Daviess, Hancock, Breckinridge, Meade, Hardin, Trimble, Carroll, Gallatin, Oldham, Henry, Owen, Jefferson, Shelby, Franklin, Scott, Bullitt, Spencer, Anderson, Woodford, Fayette, Bourbon, Nelson, Washington, Mercer, Jessamine, Clark, Montgomery, Larue, Marion, Boyle, Garrard, Madison, Estill, Powell, Lincoln and Grayson.

1.09 Constitution and Bylaws

a. The Constitution of the Synod is also the constitution of the District. The Bylaws of the Synod shall be primarily the bylaws of the District. The District shall adopt additional bylaws, regulations and resolutions that are necessary or proper for its own administration for the effective carrying out of the work of the Synod in this place; these shall not conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod. (H.B. 4.1.1.2)

b. The Bylaws of the District shall be maintained by the District's Committee on Constitutional Matters. Changes to the District bylaws shall be submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod for review and approval. (H.B. 4.1.1.2.b)

c. The Policy Manual of the District shall contain operational guidelines and job descriptions established for the various councils and committees as established by the Board of Directors (B.O.D.).

1.11 Membership

a. Membership in the District shall be determined by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod. (H.B. Article V., Article VI, Article XII, Article XIII, and Bylaws Chapter 2.)

b. Membership in the District consists of all those members of The Lutheran—Missouri Synod (congregations, Ministers of Religion-Ordained and Ministers of Religion-Commissioned) who have been received into the District at the time of joining the Synod, who have transferred from another district, or who have been assigned to the District by the Synod.

1.13 Relationship between Members and the Synod/District (H.B. 1.3 – 1.4, 4.1 and 1.7)

a. The Constitution, Bylaws, and all other rules and regulations of the Synod apply to all members of the Synod/District, i.e., to all congregations, Ministers of Religion-Ordained, and Ministers of Religion-Commissioned. The Synod/District expects such congregations as have not yet been received into membership, but as are served by the Synod/District, and whose Ministers of Religion-Ordained and Ministers of Religion-Commissioned hold membership in the Synod/District to honor its rules and regulations.

b. The Synod/District expects every member congregation to respect its resolutions and to consider them of binding force if they are in accordance with the Word of God, and if they appear applicable as far as the condition of the congregation is concerned. The Synod/District, being an advisory body, recognizes the right of the congregation to be the

judge of the applicability of the resolution as applied to its local condition. However, in exercising such judgment, a congregation must not act arbitrarily, but in accordance with the principles of Christian love and charity.

c. Membership in the District gives the District no equity in the property of the congregation.

II. ORGANIZATION

A. DISTRICT MEETINGS

1. Conventions

2.01 Regular conventions of the District are held in those years immediately preceding the regular convention of the Synod (Constitution of Synod, Article XII 13).

2.03 The regular conventions of the District shall be held at such place as may be designated by the B.O.D. or the District in convention.

2.05 In cases of urgent necessity the District President is empowered to convene special sessions of the District. He must, however, previously have obtained consent of at least a majority of the voting members of the District after having informed them and the President of the Synod of the purpose of the intended special session. (Constitution of Synod, Article XII 15).

2.07 Notice of all regular conventions shall be given by the secretary six weeks prior to the meeting date. Such notices are to be printed in the Supplement of the official Church Periodicals, THE LUTHERAN WITNESS, or such other official publications as may be designated.

2.09 One-third of the voting congregations represented by at least one of their respective delegates (pastor or lay delegate) shall constitute a quorum.

2.11 The conventions of the District are governed in part by the Bylaws of the Synod. The District President shall conduct the sessions according to accepted parliamentary procedure, and shall so arrange the schedule of business that the sessions do not extend beyond six days.(H.B. Art. XII and 4.2.1).

2.13 The Secretary shall always have the most recent copy of Robert's Rules of Order, the District Bylaws, and the most recent edition of the LCMS Handbook as a ready reference at the conventions.

2. Circuit Forums (H.B. 5.3)

2.14 Electoral Circuit Forums (H.B. 3.1.2)

Electoral Circuit Forums are established by the District following the guidelines outlined in the Synod Bylaws. Ordinarily the electoral circuit and visitation circuit is co-terminus. In situations where electoral circuits are established combining more than one visitation circuit, the electoral circuit will be established by the B.O.D. and announced in sufficient time for the proper election of electoral circuit delegates for the national convention of the Synod.

a. The electoral circuit forum shall be made up of the pastor of each congregation and one lay member of each congregation designated by the congregation.

b. Election of voting delegates shall follow the guidelines of the Synod Bylaws as outlined in H.B. 3.1.2.1.

c. Voting delegates shall serve according to the prescribed guidelines of the position as outlined in H.B. 3.1.2.2.

2.15 Visitation Circuit Forums (H.B. 5.3)

The visitation circuit forum serves the purpose as outlined in H.B. 5.3, in particular to aid the process in which lay leaders of the congregations, Ministers of Religion-Ordained and Ministers of Religion-Commissioned remain supportive of one another in their common confession and mutually active in developing programs for the good of member congregations. The forum also provides the avenue for members of the circuit to participate in the triennial process of suggesting, developing and attaining the Synod's priorities and goals.

a. The visitation circuit forum consists of the pastor of each congregation and one lay member of each congregation designated by the congregation;

b. Additional representation from each congregation as determined by each circuit;

c. The circuit visitor shall ordinarily serve as chairman of the circuit forum, having the primary responsibility to set the agenda and date for the circuit forum; additional officers may be chosen by the circuit forum in session.

2.17 Functions

a. To elect the pastor and lay delegate and their alternates to the national convention of the Synod according to the Bylaws of the Synod, provided the visitation circuit forum is an electoral circuit forum (see 2.14). The delegates shall upon their election serve a term of three years as advisory members of the circuit forum. (H.B. 5.3.3)

b. To select the circuit visitor following the Bylaws of the Synod (H.B. 5.2.2)

c. To develop and adopt within existing policies of the District complementary and sometimes joint plans for mission outreach in the Circuit area;

d. To devise and develop programs and services relevant to the needs of Circuit congregations, lay leaders, Ministers of Religion-Commissioned, and Minister of Religion-Ordained;

e. To receive and respond as appropriate to advice, guidance, resolutions, and programs in other sections of the Synod as such may be addressed to it from other Circuits, the District and the general Synod;

f. To serve as a setting to review and evaluate programs, plans, and long-range directions of the District and participate in the triennial process of suggesting, developing and attaining the Synod's priorities and goals. (H.B. 5.3.4);

g. To submit overtures to Synod and District conventions.

3. Convocations (H.B. 5.4)

2.27 Functions

Each Circuit may arrange for a Circuit Convocation, which is a large gathering of members for Circuit congregations held during a year in which there is no Synod or District convention. The Circuits are encouraged to meet in convocation each year to gather support for circuit work. Its purpose is to provide a setting in which congregational members may know and celebrate the ministry pursued by each congregation, may review and discuss the work of the circuit forum, and may receive information on various phases of the work pursued through District and the Synod. As such, its emphasis should be on inspiration, education, and motivation. (See H.B. 5.4.2)

4. Conferences (H.B. 4.8)

2.29 Ministers of Religion – Ordained Conferences

a. A District-wide conference shall be held in the fall of each year for all members of the District's Ministers of Religion-Ordained roster; attendance is expected.

b. The Conference shall be convened by the Presidium of the District.

c. The Conference agenda shall be prepared by the Presidium of the District. Committees shall be elected/appointed as required.

d. Regional conferences for Ministers of Religion-Ordained may be held in the spring of each year, and shall be planned and convened by the elected officers of the regional conference.

2.31 Ministers of Religion-Commissioned Conferences

a. A District-wide conference for Ministers of Religion-Commissioned shall be held annually unless an alternate conference is arranged. All Ministers of Religion-Commissioned on the District roster are expected to attend.

b. The Minister of Religion-Commissioned conference shall be convened by the officers of the Conference(s), who shall also cause the agenda to be prepared in consultation with the District Executive of Congregational Services.

B. GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS (B.O.D.), COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

1. Elected Officers and B.O.D.

2.35 Elected Officers (H.B. 4.3 and 4.5)

a. The following officers shall be elected by the Indiana District in Convention, each for a three-year term of office: a) The District President, nominated from the Minister of Religion-Ordained roster of the Synod; b) four Regional Vice-Presidents, one from each region, nominated from the Ministers of Religion-Ordained roster of the region; c) a Circuit Visitor for each circuit established by the District, selected by the Circuit Forum and ratified by the District Convention; and d) a District Secretary, nominated from the Minister of Religion-Ordained roster of the District.

b. A layman shall be elected to serve as the Treasurer for a three-year term of office.

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.

2.41 Elected B.O.D., Councils and Committees

a. The Board of Directors (B.O.D.)

b. Council for Congregational Outreach
c. Council for Congregational Services
d. Council for Congregational Resources
e. The Committee on Constitutional Matters
f. The Committee for Worship and Spiritual Care
g. The Committee for Convention Nominations

2.43 General Provisions for the elected B.O.D., Councils and Committees

a. They shall seek to carry out the program and the resolutions of the Synod and promote the Synod's triennial mission and ministry emphases within the District.

b. They shall publicize their plans and activity among all the members of the District.

c. The Councils and Committees shall report regularly regarding their work to the B.O.D.

d. The Councils and Committees shall present their budget requests to the B.O.D. through the Council for Congregational Resources and shall work with the B.O.D. and operate within the budget as adopted by the B.O.D.

e. They shall seek to coordinate their work and activities with the other Councils and Committees of the District.

f. They shall perform such functions and duties as are outlined in the District Bylaws or as may be assigned to them by the District Convention or the B.O.D.

2.45 Membership of Elected B.O.D., Councils and Committees

Unless otherwise indicated:

a. Voting members shall be one Minister of Religion-Ordained, one Minister of Religion-Commissioned and one lay person elected from each region of the District. No more than one person from one congregation may serve on the B.O.D. or any one council at the same time.

b. Advisory members of each council and committee shall be the respective Executive or other staff person and a representative of the B.O.D.

c. Others with special expertise may be invited to attend as advisors.

2.47 Organization of Elected Councils and Committees

Unless otherwise indicated:

a. Each Council and Committee shall elect a chairman and a secretary in the meeting following the District Convention. It shall organize itself in any manner it deems advisable to carry out its functions and duties.

b. Each Council and Committee shall normally meet at least three times a year. Special meetings may be called by the Council/Committee chairman or by the District President acting on behalf of the B.O.D.

c. Two consecutive unexcused absences from any District Council or Committee, by a member, means automatic removal and he/she shall be informed in writing by the secretary of the District.

2. Appointments

2.51 Appointments by the B.O.D.

a. The Legal Counsel
b. The Assistant Secretary
c. The Auditor
d. Reconcilers

2.55 Appointments by the District President

a. The Committee on Ministerial Health
b. Floor Committees and any necessary personnel for the District Convention

3. Term and Tenure

2.61 Terms of Office (H.B. 4.7.4)

a. All members of the B.O.D., Councils and Committees shall be elected for three year terms of office.

b. All appointed positions shall be for three years, except for reconcilers which shall be a six year term.

2.67 Tenure

a. The District President may be reelected without limitation to the number of terms.

b. Regional Vice-Presidents, Circuit Visitors and all elected members of the B.O.D. (with the exception of the District President), Councils and Committees shall be limited to three successive three-year terms of office.

c. Appointment to fill one-half or more of a term shall be regarded as a full term under limited tenure rules (H.B. 3.2.4.2 b)

d. There shall be no limitation upon the number of terms a person may serve in an appointed position. (H.B. 1.10.10.1)

C. OFFICERS

1. District President

2.71 Powers and Duties

a. The District President shall serve as the full time chief executive officer of the District. He shall have all the powers and shall discharge all the duties and responsibilities given to the office of District President by the Constitution, Bylaws, and Resolutions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and by the Bylaws of the District and the Resolutions of the District Convention. (H.B. XI.B and XII 6-9).

b. He shall report to the President of the Synod, and shall represent the Synod in the District and shall represent the District in the church-at-large.

c. He shall serve as Chairman of the B.O.D. He or his representative shall serve, ex officio, as an advisory member of all Councils and Committees.

d. He shall draw upon his Vice-Presidents, Circuit Visitors and Staff to help him carry out his duties and responsibilities.

e. He shall report to each District Convention concerning his activities and the state of the District.

2.75 Areas of Responsibility (H.B. Art. XII, and 4.4)

a. As Ecclesiastical Supervisor

1. He shall supervise the doctrine and life of all members of the District.

2. He shall be a student of the Word, aware of world affairs and developments affecting the life of the church. He shall make suitable recommendations to meet these challenges.

3. He shall stimulate theological study of issues facing the church.

b. As Counselor

1. He shall maintain a pastoral relationship with called and appointed workers of the District and bring them strength and encouragement for their tasks. He will always remember that he is the Lord's servant to his brethren, a strengthener of strengtheners.

2. He shall use the conferences of Ministers of Religion-Ordained and Ministers of Religion-Commissioned to provide leadership in such matters that pertain to the church.

c. As Administrator

1. He shall be responsible for the organization, delegation, and supervision of District work.

2. He shall be responsible for the supervision of staff officers and shall help coordinate their activities.

3. He shall be responsible for the execution of both Synod and District Convention Resolutions.

4. He shall perform in person or delegate the ordination of candidates for the ministry who are assigned to the District and the installation of all called workers in the District.

5. He shall sign all certificates of ordination, and in general, all ecclesiastical papers and documents of the District.

6. He shall be responsible for the official rosters of member congregations, Ministers of Religion-Ordained and Ministers of Religion-Commissioned of the District.

7. He shall be responsible for the orientation and training of Circuit Visitors, so they may understand their responsibilities and carry them out more effectively.

8. He shall prepare a list of candidates for the pastoral office where vacancies exist in congregations of the District. He shall be assisted by the Executive Counselor of Congregational Services in the preparation of lists for congregations and schools where vacancies exist in offices held by Ministers of Religion-Commissioned.

2 Vice Presidents

2.81 Provisions and Duties

a. Vice-Presidents shall be nominated and elected from the roster of Ministers of Religion-Ordained from their region of the District (H.B. 4.3.1), giving consent to serve upon nomination.

b. Upon the request of the District President, they shall represent him in any of his functions.

c. The Vice-Presidents, in the order in which they have been ranked, shall perform the duties of the President in the event the President's office is vacated or if he becomes unable to serve.

d. According to their rank, the Vice-Presidents may be directed by the President to assume certain duties of his office during his absence.

e. They shall be voting members of the B.O.D.

3 Secretary

2.91 Duties

a. The Secretary of the District shall serve as the secretary of the B.O.D.

b. He shall serve as an ex officio member (without vote) of the Committee on Constitutional Matters.

c. He along with the President of the District shall prepare and sign official papers and documents of the District as may be required by government entities or corporations with which the District conducts business.

d. He shall perform such other duties as the District may enjoin upon him through its Bylaws or by special resolutions.

e. He shall call for nominations from the congregations for District President no later than six months prior to the first day of the District Convention.

f. He shall record the proceedings of the District Convention with the assistance of the Assistant Secretary.

g. He shall prepare and arrange for the publication of District Convention Proceedings.

h. He shall transmit resolutions to the Synod which have been adopted at District Conventions concerning matters relating to the Synod.

2.93 Assistant Secretary

An assistant secretary shall be appointed by the B.O.D., and shall assist the Secretary at the District Convention, and otherwise as needed.

4 Treasurer

2.95 Duties

a. The District Treasurer shall be the trust officer of the District, and shall sign all documents required of him.

b. He or the President shall sign all checks in the absence of the Executive for Finance.

c. He shall be aware of the financial condition of the district and provide recommendations to the Board to safeguard the assets of the District.

d. He shall assist the President as requested in the annual performance review of the Executive for Finance.

e. He shall be an advisory member of the Council for Congregational Resources.

f. He shall be a member of the District B.O.D.

g. He shall perform such other duties as assigned by the B.O.D.

5 Board of Directions (B.O.D.)

2.101 Purpose

The B.O.D. shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the District's business affairs that all be done to the glory of God and in the best interest of the Church.

2.103 Membership

Voting members shall be the District President, the four Regional Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer and one Minister of Religion-Commissioned and one lay person elected from each Region of the District.

2.105 Organization

The District President shall be the Chairman of the B.O.D. The District Secretary shall be the secretary of the B.O.D.

2.107 Power and Authority

The B.O.D. represents the District, and shall have power to conduct and transact all business necessary to carry out the purposes of the District. The B.O.D. defines the general sphere of duties for each council or committee. The authority to carry out the purposes of the District is vested in this B.O.D. as limited by the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod, the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and Resolutions of the District.

2.109 Functions and Duties

a. The B.O.D. shall be the legal representative of the District and the custodian of the District's property. It shall be custodian of and keep on file an accurate inventory of all properties, legacies, and valuable documents.

b. The B.O.D. shall have authority to borrow money and to issue, sell or pledge not its own but the corporation's obligations and evidence of indebtedness, and to mortgage and pledge the corporation's property to secure payment thereof.

c. The B.O.D. shall appoint and employ an Executive For Finance who shall be responsible to the District President.

d. The B.O.D. shall nominate a person to serve as Vice President for the District program of Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

e. The B.O.D. shall place the Treasurer and the Executive for Finance under bond in an adequate amount. It shall cause annual audits of the financial records of the District to be made by a certified public accounting firm.

f. The B.O.D. shall have charge of all matters that deal with District finances.

g. The B.O.D. shall review the proposed annual budget prepared by the Executive for Finance and adopt a final budget for each fiscal year.

h. The B.O.D. shall supervise the establishment and maintenance of a Policy Manual governing the functions of all officers, councils, and committees of the District.

i. The B.O.D. shall elect and/or Call all executive staff and personnel as required. A list of candidates for the Calling of executive staff shall be supplied by the congregations or individuals of the District. It shall outline the duties in accordance with the objectives as stated in the Bylaws and Policy Manual.

j. The B.O.D. shall be responsible to the District Convention for implementing the District's resolutions and program, in accordance with the District's Bylaws and regulations.

k. The B.O.D. shall review annually the salaries and benefits of all District-paid (Called and contracted by the District) workers and arrange for appropriate recognition of special anniversaries.

D. DISTRICT STAFF

2.135 Annual Review

Executives/Counselors and other staff persons shall be called/elected/appointed to their office, and shall be subject to regular annual review by the B.O.D.

2.137 Accountability

Executive/Counselors and other staff persons shall report regularly and/or be responsible to the District President for the exercise of their duties, as set forth in the Policy Manual of the District, and as assigned to them from time to time.

III. COUNCIL FOR CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH

3.01 Purpose

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.

3.02 Membership

The Council for Congregational Outreach shall consist of twelve members [one Minister of Religion-Ordained, one Minister of Religion-Commissioned and one lay person from each of the four Regions of the District] elected by the District Convention to three-year terms of office. Advisory members of the Council will be the Executive Counselor and any invited members of duly constituted Task Forces that are under the jurisdiction of this Council.

3.03 Meetings

The Council for Congregational Outreach shall meet a minimum of three times a year, as scheduled by its chairperson. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson or the District President. The Executive Counselor shall provide minutes of all council meetings to the B.O.D. through the District President.

3.04 Organization

The Council for Congregational Outreach shall elect a chairperson and a recording secretary. The chairperson shall work together with the Executive Counselor to develop an agenda.

3.05 Function

The Council for Congregational Outreach shall maintain working relationships with a number of Task Forces which shall have the primary responsibility of developing and implementing programs and plans to accomplish those goals established by and in accordance with the policies of the B.O.D. These Task Forces are concerned with church planting, evangelism, ethnic ministry, deaf and campus ministry and other outreach ministries.

IV. COUNCIL FOR CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

4.01 Purpose

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 and Worship and Spiritual Care.

4.02 Membership

The Council for Congregational Services shall consist of twelve members [one Minister of Religion-Ordained, one Minister of Religion-Commissioned and one lay person from each of the Four Regions of the District] elected by the District Convention to three-year terms of office. Advisory members of the Council will include members of the District Staff who have duties pertinent to the purposes of this Council and any invited members of duly constituted Task Forces that are under the jurisdiction of this Council.

4.03 Meetings

The Council for Congregational Services shall meet a minimum of three times a year, as scheduled by its chairperson. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson or the District President. The Executive Counselor shall provide minutes of all Council meetings to the B.O.D. through the District President.

4.04 Organization

The Council for Congregational Services shall elect a chairperson and a recording secretary. The chairperson shall work together with the Executive Counselor to develop an agenda.

4.05 Functions

The Council for Congregational Services shall maintain working relationships with a number of Task Forces which shall have the primary responsibility of developing and implementing programs and plans to accomplish those goals established by and in accordance with the policies of the B.O.D. These Task Forces are concerned with such things as Social Ministry, Christian Education, Youth Ministry, and Worship and Spiritual Care.

V. COUNCIL FOR CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES

5.01 Purpose

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.

5.02 Membership

The Council for Congregational Resources shall consist of twelve members [one Minister of Religion-Ordained, one Minister of Religion-Commissioned and one lay person from each of the four Regions of the District] elected by the District Convention to three-year terms of office. Advisory members of the Council will include members of the District Staff who have duties pertinent to the purposes of this Council and any invited members of duly constituted Task Forces that are under the jurisdiction of this Council.

5.03 Meetings

The Council for Congregational Resources shall meet a minimum of three times a year, as scheduled by its chairperson. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson or the District President. The Executive Counselor shall provide minutes of all Council meetings to the B.O.D. through the District President.

5.04 Organization

The Council for Congregational Resources shall elect a chairperson and a recording secretary. The chairperson shall work together with the Executive Counselor to develop an agenda.

5.05 Functions

The Council for Congregational Resources shall maintain working relationships with a number of Task Forces which shall have the primary responsibility of developing and implementing programs and plan to accomplish those goals established by and in accordance with the policies of the B.O.D. These Task Forces may be concerned with such areas as Stewardship Education, Financial Planning, LCEF, Gift Planning Services, Financial Aid, and others as deemed appropriate by the Council.

VI. SPECIAL SERVICES

A. Dispute Resolution

6.01 Purpose, Function, Duties and Membership

The purpose, function, duties and membership of reconcilers and dispute resolution panels shall be in accordance with the Bylaws of the Synod. (H.B. 1.10-10.10.18.1)

B. Committee on Constitutional Matters

6.21 Purpose

The Committee on Constitutional Matters shall provide guidance and direction to the District and to the congregations regarding their organization, constitution, and bylaws. It shall assure 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. (H.B. 2.2.1 and 2.4.1)

6.23 Membership

Two Ministers of Religion-Ordained, two Ministers of Religion-Commissioned, and two laymen shall be elected for three-year terms of office. At least one layman shall be a lawyer. The Secretary of the District shall be an ex officio (without vote) member.

6.25 Organization

The Committee shall elect a chairman and secretary and shall organize itself as it deems necessary. Three of its members may be designated as a "Congregational Constitution and Bylaw Committee."

6.27 Function and Duties

a. The Committee shall update the Bylaws of the District following each District Convention.

b. The Committee shall propose additions and corrections to the Bylaws as mandated by the Synod in convention. Approval for additions and corrections to the District Bylaws must be approved by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters prior to presenting them to the District Convention for vote.

c. The Committee shall be responsible for interpreting the Bylaws of the District when this is necessary.

d. The Committee shall examine and review all new and revised constitutions and bylaws of congregations, and shall report its approval of such constitutions and bylaws to the District President who in turn will take the approved documents to the B.O.D. for approval (H.B. 2.4.1)

C. Committee on Ministerial Health

6.31 Purpose

The Committee on Ministerial Health will seek to assist full time workers and their families within the District in handling stress and strain in their lives.

6.33 Membership

The Committee shall consist of one Minister of Religion-Ordained and one Minister of Religion-Commissioned from each region of the District, and at least one lay person at large, The District President and the Executive Counselor of Congregational Services. The Ministers of Religion-Ordained and the Ministers of Religion-Commissioned and layperson(s) at large shall be appointed by the District President in consultation with the District Vice-Presidents and the Executive Counselor of Congregational Services.

6.35 Organization

The Committee shall elect a chairman and a secretary and shall organize itself in any way it deems advisable to carry out its responsibilities. Members shall be appointed to three-year terms, and are not subject to limitation of terms.

6.37 Functions and Duties

a. The Committee shall identify and publicize the names of those who can provide professional assistance to those who need help.

b. The committee shall use conferences and workshops to provide understanding and to suggest preventive strategies.

c. The Committee shall work with and through the Council for Congregational Services and the Worship and Spiritual Care Committee, to make services known and available.

d. The Committee shall report to the B.O.D. through the District President concerning its activities and plans, and shall submit appropriate budget requests to the Council for Congregational Resources.

D. Committee on Worship and Spiritual Care

6.41 Purpose

The Committee shall promote and encourage meaningful worship in all congregations of the District and shall provide leadership for worship services at major gatherings within the District, for example, the District Convention. The Committee shall promote and encourage a strong sense of responsibility and spiritual concern for all members of all congregations.

6.42 Membership

The committee on Worship and Spiritual Care shall consist of twelve members [one Minister of Religion-Ordained, one Minister of Religion-Commissioned and one lay person from each of the four Regions of the District], elected by the District Convention to three-year terms of office. Non-voting advisory members of the Committee will include the District President or his representative.

6.43 Meetings

The Committee on Worship and Spiritual Care shall meet a minimum of three times a year, as scheduled by its chairperson. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson or the District President. The chairperson shall provide minutes of all Committee meetings to the Council for Congregational Services to which it reports.

6.44 Organization

The Committee on Worship and Spiritual Care shall elect a chairman and a recording secretary. The chairperson shall provide an agenda.

6.45 Functions and Duties

The Committee on Worship and Spiritual Care shall develop principles and guidelines for congregational use; develop material resource centers; conduct workshops and institutes for worship leaders of the congregations, such as pastors, organists and choir directors. The Committee shall also conduct 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.

VII. NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES

A. Nomination and Election of District President

7.01 Nomination

a. Each congregation of the District may nominate two persons from the Minister of Religion-Ordained roster of the Synod for the office of President. Nominations shall be mailed to the District Secretary and postmarked no later than sixty days prior to the first day of the Convention.

b. Candidates for the office of the President shall be the five persons who receive the largest number of nominations, even if one candidate receives a majority.

c. A ballot containing the slate shall be prepared for the District Convention by the Election Committee under the supervision of the District Secretary.

7.03 Election

a. Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates.

b. The candidate receiving a majority of votes cast shall be declared elected.

c. If no candidate receives a majority of votes cast on the first ballot, the four candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be retained on the ballot, and another vote shall be taken. Thereafter, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of votes cast. (H.B. 4.7.3)

7.05 Transition

a. When there is a change in the presidency, a period of ninety days shall be allowed for the orderly transfer of duties to the new president. The new president will assume office on September 1 following the District Convention. The incumbent president shall serve until September 1 during which time he will bring his administration to a close and assist the newly elected president as requested to become acquainted with the responsibilities of the office. The new president may continue in his previous Call responsibilities during the time of transition (90 days) during which the combined salaries shall equal the amount the successor will receive as District President.

b. An incumbent District President who is not reelected shall receive his full salary (and benefits package) for ninety (90) days following the close of the District Convention at which a new president was elected. Thereafter, the B.O.D. shall determine his stipend until such time as he receives a Call, or until other permanent arrangements for his future are made. The B.O.D.

shall also determine for what length of time it seems advisable for the District to provide for his sustenance.

B. Nomination and Election of Vice-Presidents

7.11 Nominations for Vice-Presidents

a. Six months prior to the District Convention the district office shall notify each congregation of its privilege to nominate candidates for the office of Regional Vice President from the District's roster of Ministers of Religion-Ordained from their region. The notification will include a current list of Ministers of Religion-Ordained currently members of congregations of each region of the District (H.B.4.3)

b. Each congregation of the region has the authority to nominate two candidates. Nominations shall be mailed to the District Secretary and postmarked no later than sixty days prior to the first day of the Convention.

c. The two individuals receiving the greatest number of nominations from each region shall be placed on the Convention ballot.

d. Information about each of the nominees shall be published along with other election information prior to the Convention.

7.13 Election

a. A slate containing the names of the two nominees selected by the nominating procedure shall be prepared for convention election by the Election Committee under the supervision of the District Secretary.

b. Each delegate may cast a vote for one candidate on each regional slate. Candidates receiving a majority of votes cast shall be declared elected.

7.15 Ranking

After the Vice-Presidents have been elected, the voting delegates will rank the Vice-Presidents in the following manner. The first ranking ballot will include the names of all four Vice-Presidents in random order; the first of the Vice-Presidents to receive a majority of the votes cast will be the First Vice President. The second ranking ballot for the Second Vice-President position will follow the same procedure with the three remaining Vice-President names. The third ranking ballot for the Third Vice-President position will follow the same procedure with the two remaining Vice-President names. For each ranking ballot run-off ranking ballots will continue until a Vice-President receives a majority of votes cast.

C. Nomination and Election of Circuit Visitors

7.23 Nomination and Election

The nomination and election of Circuit Visitors, as well as their function and duties, shall be in accordance with the Bylaws of the Synod. (H.B. 5.2)

D. Committee for Convention Nominations

7.31 Purpose

The Committee for Convention Nominations shall solicit names and prepare a slate of well qualified candidates for each position to be filled at the District Convention, in accordance with the District and Synod Bylaws.

7.33 Membership

One Minister of Religion-Ordained, one Minister of Religion-Commissioned and one layman shall be elected from each region of the District for a three-year term of office, and may serve no more than three successive terms of office.

7.35 Organization

a. The Committee shall meet nine months before the District Convention for organization and orientation purposes. This meeting shall be convened and conducted by the District President and the District Secretary.

b. The Committee shall elect a chairman and a secretary, and shall organize itself otherwise as it deems necessary to accomplish its function.

7.37 Function and Procedures

a. The names of the members of the Committee and the positions to be filled by election shall be published at least nine months in advance of the District Convention in an official District publication. Qualified candidates shall be solicited for each position.

b. The Committee shall prepare and provide appropriate forms for recommending candidates for nomination, for indicating a willingness to serve if elected, and for evaluating candidates.

c. The Committee shall solicit names of qualified candidates for all positions to be filled. All names to be considered shall be received at least sixty days prior to the election.

d. The Committee shall prepare a slate of at least two nominees for each position to be filled from among the names of those persons recommended. The Committee shall have received the consent to serve of each person placed on the slate for election.

e. The Committee shall provide the delegates with the slate of nominees together with their biographical sketch and qualifications prior to the Convention.

f. Biographical information and qualifications of persons added to the slate on the floor of Convention shall be published in "Today's Business" prior to the election.

g. The Chairman of the Committee shall submit the Committee's report in person to the Convention during one of the first sessions.

h. Additional names may be added to the slate on the floor of Convention only from among the persons already recommended for nomination during the nominating process.

i. Incumbents who are eligible for reelection must be proposed for reelection.

j. Nominations for positions held by laity are to be members of member congregations of the District, and if the position requires, residents of the appropriate region of the District. Nominees for positions held by Ministers of Religion-Commissioned are to be members of a District congregation, and if the position requires, residents of the appropriate region of the District. Nominees for District President are to be from the Synod's roster of Ministers of Religion-Ordained. Nominees for Regional Vice Presidents are to be from the District's roster of Minister of Religion-Ordained from that region. Nominees for Secretary are to be from the District's roster of Ministers of Religion-Ordained. Circuit Visitors are selected by the Circuit Forum from the roster of Ministers of Religion-Ordained of that circuit. All other positions (councils, committees, etc.) that are to be filled by Ministers of Religion-Ordained shall be filled with members of the District roster of Ministers of Religion-Ordained, and if the position requires, residents of the appropriate region of the District.

E. Election Regulations

7.41 The Elections Committee

a. An Elections Committee shall be appointed by the District President prior to the District Convention.

b. The Committee shall acquaint itself with Bylaw regulations regarding nominating and election processes.

c. The Committee shall make necessary arrangements for the election; shall prepare the ballots in consultation with the Chairman and the Secretary of the Committee for Convention Nominations; and shall supervise the elction.

7.43 Procedures

a. A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all positions.

b. When more than one ballot is required, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the succeeding ballot. Balloting shall continue until a majority vote is achieved.

c. The Chairman shall announce the results of each election promptly to the Convention, and shall file with the District Secretary and the District President a written report of the tabulation of all votes cast for each election, signed by himself and the Secretary of the Elections Committee.

d. Any paper ballots shall remain in the possession of the Chairman of the Elections Committee until the Convention has been adjourned. They shall then be destroyed.

7.45 Holding More than One Office (H.B. 1.5.1.2)

a. No one, either in the Synod or in the District, or between the Synod and the District, shall hold more than one elective office; or 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.

b. An office shall be regarded as elective only if it is an office filled through election by a Synod or District Convention, even though a vacancy in such an office may be filled by appointment.

c. This rule, however, does not apply to persons elected to serve on the Committee for Convention Nominations for the District or for the Synod.

d. If a member serving in one elected position consents to serve in another position if elected, that person shall forfeit his/her position if elected to the other position.

F. Induction into Office

7.51 Induction

a. The newly elected and reelected, except for the District President, Regional Vice-Presidents and Secretary, shall be inducted into office in a special service following the final session of the District Convention. The incumbent President shall officiate at the induction.

b. Those who are not present at the Convention shall be inducted into office at the Orientation Meeting or the first meeting of the B.O.D., Council, or Committee to which they have been elected, following the Convention.

c. The District President, Regional Vice-Presidents and Secretary shall assume office on September 1 following the District Convention and shall be inducted into office on a date prior to September 1 following the Convention. The induction shall take place during a worship service held at the time of the Orientation Meeting for the elected members of District Boards, Councils and Committees. The President of the Synod or his representative

shall install the District President, and the newly elected President shall induct all other elected persons.

d. Incumbents shall serve until their successors assume office.

G. Organization

7.53 Organization of the B.O.D., Councils and Committees

The B.O.D., Councils and Committees shall organize within ninety days after their election or appointment. Their organization shall be reported to the District President, and shall be published without delay in an official publication of the District.

H. Vacancies

7.61 Office of the President

a. In the event of the death, retirement or resignation of the District President, the Vice-Presidents, in the order in which they have been ranked, shall serve as Acting President, until the next regular Convention elects and inducts a new President. His duties may be on a part-time basis only.

b. In the event of prolonged illness or disability, the ranking Vice President shall serve as the Acting President on a part-time basis until the B.O.D. determines that the President is able to resume his duties, or until the next District Convention.

7.63 Office of the Vice-Presidents

In the event of a vacancy in the Vice-Presidency, the remaining Vice –Presidents shall advance in rank as required. The vacancy shall then be filled by the President after consultation with the B.O.D.

7.65 Office of Circuit Visitor

In the event of a vacancy in the office, the District President shall appoint a Circuit Visitor to fill the unexpired term.

7.67 Office of the Secretary

In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary shall serve as Secretary until the next District Convention. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Assistant Secretary, the B.O.D. shall be empowered to fill the vacancy.

7.69 Office of the Treasurer

In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Treasurer, the B.O.D. shall be empowered to fill the vacancy until the next regular District Convention.

7.71 Members of the B.O.D.

In the event of a vacancy on the B.O.D., the B.O.D. shall be empowered to fill this vacancy for the unexpired term.

7.75 Members of Councils and Committees

In the event of a vacancy in any other elected Council or Committee, such Council or Committee shall be authorized to appoint a successor for the unexpired term, with the approval of the B.O.D. Consideration should be given to alternate candidates on the ballot.

7.77 Vacancy Because of a Move

Any office, the election or appointment to which is contingent upon residence in a given region, shall be considered vacant when the incumbent moves to another region. This office shall be filled according to the manner prescribed.

VIII. AMENDMENTS

8.01 Amendments

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made, provided:

a. They are not contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod;

b. They are specified as Bylaw amendments and are submitted in writing to the District Constitution Committee prior to presentation to the Convention;

c. They are approved by the Synod's Commission on Constitution Matters prior to the action by the District Convention;

d. They are presented as overtures to the District Convention in the Convention Workbook and/or in Today's Business;

e. They are approved by a majority of the voting delegates at the District Convention.

Footnote:

Abbreviations/References

H.B. 1.01 – Reference to the Synod's Handbook 7.11 – Reference to the District's Bylaws.