INDIANA DISTRICT – LCMS CONVENTION

Proceedings

TWENTY-FOURTH CONVENTION

JUNE 19-20, 2025

GRAND WAYNE CONVENTION CENTER
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Contents

ATTENDING VOTING DELEGATES

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ELECTION RESULTS

MINUTES

2025-2028 INDIANA DISTRICT BYLAWS

Attending Voting Delegates

Congregations (by city)

ANDERSON

Christ

- None Attending
- Tony Dunn

ARCADIA

Emanuel

- Rev. Jerrell Simmerman
- Joe Mares

AUBURN

Trinity

- Rev. Jonathan Nack
- Leonard Baughman

AURORA

St. John

- Rev. Mark Hesse
- Dr. Harley Robinson

AVILLA

Immanuel

- Rev. Patrick Kuhlman
- None Attending

AVON

Our Shepherd

- None Attending
- None Attending

BARDSTOWN, KY

Good Shepherd

- None Attending
- None Attending

BEDFORD

Calvary

- Rev. Grant Sorenson
- Carl Koehlinger

Emmanuel – Leesville

- Rev. Kenneth "Ken" Keily
- Marvin Huffman

BEECH GROVE

Ascension

- None Attending
- None Attending

BERNE

Peace

- Rev. Russell Fuhrmann
- Greg Werich

BLOOMINGTON

Faith

- Rev. Eric Edwards
- Barry Martin

University

- None Attending
- Caleb Abshire

BREMEN

St. Paul's

- Rev. Neil Wonnacott
- Rick Napper

BROWNSBURG

Christ

- Rev. Chris Truelsen
- Jack Underwood

BROWNSTOWN

St. Paul – Wegan

- None Attending
- David Otte

St. Peter's

- Rev. Ryan Schneider
- Matthew Rohr

CARMEL

Cornerstone

- Rev. Max Murphy
- Todd Hornsby

CHESTERTON

St. Paul

- Rev. Erich Fickel
- Gerhard Mundinger

CHURUBUSCO

Faith

- Rev. Adam Sorenson
- Jeremy Hammel

COLUMBIA CITY

St. John

- Rev. Gino Marchetti, II
- Michael Ianucilli

Zion

- None Attending
- None Attending

COLUMBUS

Faith

- Rev. Josiah Fitch
- Mike Walz

Grace

- Rev. Todd Riordan
- Coleman McLeod

St. John's – White Creek

- Rev. Jim Haugen
- D. Logan Fowler

St. Paul – Clifty

- Rev. Daniel Fickenscher
- Wiley Umphress

St. Peter – Waymansville

- Rev. Erik Sorenson
- Barbara "Barb" Minor

St. Peter's

- Rev. Adam Rodriguez
- Dan Lienhoop

CONNERSVILLE

Bethany

- None Attending
- None Attending

CORUNNA

Zion

- None Attending
- None Attending

CRAWFORDSVILLE

Holy Cross

- None Attending
- None Attending

CROSS PLAINS

*St. Paul – Dewberry (*dual)*

- *(Rev. Jared Tucher *)*
- *See St. John's – FR, Dillsboro **

CROWN POINT

Trinity

- Rev. Alan "Hal" Toenjes
- Erik Hildebrandt

CULVER

Trinity

- Rev. Timothy "Tim" Anderson
- None Attending

DANVILLE, KY

Our Savior

- None Attending
- None Attending

DECATUR

Immanuel

- Rev. David Koeneman
- Derryl Grote

St. John - Bingen

- Rev. Peter Brock
- Don Gresley

St. Paul - Preble

- Rev. Andrew Yeager
- Mark Bulmahn

St. Peter

- Rev. Leonard Tanksley
- Allen Franz

Zion

- None Attending
- Les Marckel

Zion - Friedheim

- Rev. Matthew Ulmer
- Sam Conrad

DELPHI

St. Matthew's

- Rev. Paul Norris
- None Attending

DEMOTTE

Faith

- Rev. Brett Satkowiak
- Dale Halaburt

DILLSBORO

*St. John-Farmer's Retreat (*dual)*

- Rev. Jared Tucher
- Jonathan Benham

Trinity

- Rev. Richard Kolaskey
- John Miller

DYER

Grace

- Rev. Dale Hetherington
- None Attending

ELIZABETHTOWN, KY

Gloria Dei

- None Attending
- Charlotte Campbell

ELKHART

Trinity

- Rev. Mason Vieth
- None Attending

ELLETTSVILLE

Trinity

- None Attending
- None Attending

EVANSTON

St. John

- None Attending
- None Attending

EVANSVILLE

Concordia

- Rev. David Wiist
- Jonathan Ehmen

Immanuel

- Rev. Kirk Horstmeyer
- None Attending

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

- Rev. Thomas Wenig
- Scott Kempin

St. Paul's

- Rev. Chad Eckels
- G. Lee Turpen II

Trinity - Darmstadt

- Rev. James Glowinski
- None Attending

FISHERS

Journey

- Rev. Jonathan Van Sliedrecht
- None Attending

FORT WAYNE

Aboite

- None Attending
- None Attending

Ascension

- Rev. Dr. Gary Zieroth
- Tom Koeneman

Bethlehem

- None Attending
- Glenn Emley

Concordia

- Rev. Joseph Reineke
- None Attending

Emmanuel

- Rev. Daniel Sheafer
- Charles Pratt

Emmanuel - Soest

- Rev. Josef Henning
- Ed Fifer

Emmaus

- Rev. Roy Olsen III
- Ed Steinbacher

Gloria Dei

- None Attending
- None Attending

Holy Cross

- Rev. Thomas Ahlersmeyer
- None Attending

Mount Calvary

- None Attending
- Susan Mittelstaedt

New Life

- Rev. James Keller
- Deborah Russ

Peace

- Rev. Kevin Mann
- Mike Nowling

FORT WAYNE (cont.)

Praise
- None Attending
- None Attending

Promise
- Rev. Scott Hedtke
- None Attending

Shepherd of the City
- None Attending
- None Attending

Southwest
- Rev. Joe Ferry
- None Attending

St. Augustine
- None Attending
- None Attending

St. Michael
- Rev. Shawn Davis
- Denice Beights

St. Paul's
- Rev. Josemon "Joe" Hoem
- David Hawk

FORT WAYNE (cont.)

St. Peter's
- Rev. Adam McDowell
- None Attending

Suburban Bethlehem
- Rev. William Mueller
- Ryan Schroeder

Trinity – Decatur Rd.
- Rev. Michael Trombley
- None Attending

Trinity – St. Mary's
- Rev. David Griebel
- None Attending

Zion
- Rev. Douglas Punke
- Zachary Muehl

FRANKLIN

Good Shepherd
- None Attending
- Johanna Pollert

FREMONT

Clear Lake
- None Attending
- Roger Dammeier

Lake George
- Rev. Paul Shoemaker
- None Attending

GARRETT

Zion
- Rev. Keaton Christiansen
- Christine "Christie" Herrick

GARY

Good Shepherd
- None Attending
- None Attending

St. John
- None Attending
- None Attending

GEORGETOWN, IN

Shepherd of the Hills
- Rev. Dale "Andrew" Becker
- Charles "Charlie" Stephens

GEORGETOWN, KY

Bread of Life
- None Attending
- None Attending

GOODLAND

*Trinity (*dual)*
- *Rev. David Mueller*
- *(See St John's, Rensselaer)*

GOSHEN

Prince of Peace
- Rev. Andrew Wollman
- None Attending

GRABILL

Prince of Peace
- None Attending
- None Attending

GREENCASTLE

Peace
- Rev. William "Bill" Winter
- None Attending

GREENFIELD

Faith

- Rev. William "Dan" O'Connor
- Shawn Houser

GREENSBURG

Holy Trinity

- Rev. Aaron West
- Jack Reynolds

GREENWOOD

Concordia

- None Attending
- Mike Finger

HAMLET

Immanuel - Tracy

- None Attending
- None Attending

St. Matthew

- None Attending
- None Attending

HAMMOND

Trinity

- Rev. Patrick Gumz
- None Attending

HANNA

First

- Rev. Kendall Schaeffer
- Karen Schaeffer

HARTFORD CITY

Prince of Peace

- None Attending
- Jennifer Holst

HENDERSON, KY

Trinity

- Rev. Michael Liese
- Mark Lutz

HIGHLAND

Redeemer

- Rev. Eric Kleinschmidt
- Michael Drysch

HOBART

Trinity

- Rev. Nathan Kramer
- Megan Kramer

HUNTERTOWN

Our Hope

- Rev. Roger James
- James (Jim) Fortman

HUNTINGTON

St. Peter

- Rev. Timothy "Tim" Lorenz
- Randall "Randy" Prange

INDIANAPOLIS

Calvary

- Rev. Kurt Ebert
- Steve Vandivier

Christ

- None Attending
- None Attending

Emmaus

- None Attending
- Gary Strakis

First Timothy

- Rev. Cleveland Lewis
- Betty Lewis

Holy Cross

- Rev. Dan Hauser
- Bob Meister

Messiah

- None Attending
- None Attending

Our Savior

- None Attending
- None Attending

St. John

- Rev. Collin Duling
- Noah Schroeder

St. Paul

- Rev. David Shadday
- Nathaniel "Nate" Shadday

St. Peter's

- Rev. Seth Mierow
- Lee Amstutz

Trinity

- None Attending
- None Attending

JONESVILLE

St. Paul's

- Rev. Matthew Jung
- Caroline Sims

KENDALLVILLE

St. John

- Rev. Dr. Philip Rigdon
- None Attending

KNOX

Our Redeemer

- None Attending
- None Attending

KOKOMO

Good Shepherd

- Rev. John Kolb
- Mark Hartman

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

- Rev. Carl Hingst
- Mark Pearson

KOUTS

St. Paul

- Rev. Brian Westgate
- None Attending

LA CROSSE

*St. John (*dual)*

- Rev. Joel Zipay
- None Attending

LAFAYETTE

Grace

- None Attending
- None Attending

St. James

- Rev. John Bombaro
- Mark Bowman

LA GRANGE, KY

Holy Trinity

- Rev. Jason Reed
- Craig Retzlaff

LANESVILLE

St. John

- Rev. Mike Terkula
- None Attending

LA PORTE

St. John

- Rev. John Albers
- Dale Fischer

LEITCHFIELD, KY

Holy Trinity

- None Attending
- None Attending

LEXINGTON, KY

Good Shepherd

- Rev. John Hallock
- Carri Hallock

Our Redeemer

- None Attending
- None Attending

St. John

- Rev. Micah Schmidt
- Andrew Quick

LOGANSPORT

St. James

- Rev. Scott Woodhouse
- Teresa Josephson

LOUISVILLE

Concordia

- Rev. Eric Estes
- Aaron Silletto

Faith

- None Attending
- None Attending

Our Savior

- None Attending
- Robert "Bob" Schwarz

*Peace (*dual)*

- Rev. Jonathan Mueller
- None Attending

Redeemer

- None Attending
- None Attending

Resurrection

- None Attending
- None Attending

LOWELL

Trinity

- Rev. Rich Heinz
- Michael Dobbs

MADISON

Faith

- None Attending
- None Attending

MARION

St. James

- Rev. Fredrick Hearn
- Joseph "Joe" Chambers

MARTINSVILLE

Prince of Peace

- Rev. Nathan Janssen
- Dennis Eickhoff

MEDARYVILLE

*St. Mark (*dual)*

- None Attending
- Gene Spencer

MEDORA

*Good Shepherd (*dual)*

- *(Rev. Janis Mikits*)*
- *See Faith, Salem**

MERRILLVILLE

Trinity Memorial

- Rev. Brian Nygaard
- Greg Kamplain

MICHIGAN CITY

Immanuel

- Rev. David Solum
- Mary Hoppe

MISHAWAKA

St. Paul - Woodland

- Rev. Raymond "Ray" Salemink
- Randall "Randy" Smith

St. Peter

- Rev. Dr. Adam Clark
- Dr. Andrew Deliyannides

MONROEVILLE

St. John - Flatrock

- Rev. Doug Christian
- James (Jim) Hoffman

MONTICELLO

*Luth. Church of Our Savior (*dual)*

- Rev. Jeff Zell
- Ken Roemke

MOORESVILLE

Christ the King

- Rev. Jefferson "Jeff" Arnold
- Joel Holcombe

MORGANTOWN

Shepherd of the Hills

- None Attending
- None Attending

MUNCIE

Grace

- Rev. Danny Mackey
- David Heinkel

MUNSTER

St. Paul's

- None Attending
- Michael Hawkins

NEW ALBANY

Grace

- Rev. Matthew Woods
- Kenny Morris

NEW HAVEN

Emanuel

- Rev. Scott Zeckzer
- Al Schumm

Martini

- Rev. Kyle Brown
- Tom Jackson

St. Paul – Gar Creek

- Rev. Michael Blodgett
- Michael Koeneman

NEW PALESTINE

Zion

- Rev. Jason Taylor
- Nic Elizondo

NEW SALISBURY

Epiphany

- None Attending
- None Attending

NOBLESVILLE

Christ

- Rev. Jacob Hercamp
- David "Dave" Mees

NORTH JUDSON

St. Peter

- Rev. Daniel Speckhard
- Dylan Bailey

NORTH VERNON

Lord of Life

- None Attending
- Rodney Kaser

OSSIAN

Bethlehem

- Rev. Samuel Wirgau
- Stan Meyer

New Hope

- Rev. Raymond Doubrava
- Larry Burfiend

OWENSBORO, KY

Peace

- Rev. Adam Sternquist
- None Attending

PERU

St. John's

- Rev. Joshua Dub
- Ann Larimer (Thursday Only)
- Judy Titus (Friday Only)

PLAINFIELD

Living Christ

- Rev. Steven Latzke
- Kathie Latzke

PLYMOUTH

Calvary

- Rev. Eric Ahlemeyer
- Eugene Matzat

PORTAGE

St. Peter

- Rev. Brian Doel
- Brad Hughes

RENSSELAER

*St. John (*dual)*

- Rev. David Mueller
- Nathan Knochel

*St. Luke (*dual)*

- *(Rev. Jeff Zell*)*
- *See Our Savior, Monticello**

REYNOLDS

St. James

- Rev. Andrew Keller
- Michael Liebner

ROANOKE

Faith

- Rev. Shayne Jonker
- None Attending

ROCHESTER

St. John

- None Attending
- None Attending

SALEM

*Faith (*dual)*

- Rev. Janis Mikits
- Benjamin "Ben" Dowen

SEYMOUR

Emanuel - Dudleytown

- Rev. Kenneth Davidson
- Alice Davidson

Immanuel

- Rev. William Fredstrom
- Jed Strange

Peace

- Rev. Alarik Morris
- Lance Onken

Redeemer

- Rev. Zachary Huffman
- JB Royer

St. John - Sauers

- Rev. Craig Muhlbach
- Brian Hessong

Zion

- Rev. Bradley Akey
- Robert "Bob" Ryan

SHELBYVILLE, IN

St. Mark

- None Attending
- Robert "Bob" Dieckman

SHELBYVILLE, KY

Holy Cross

- Rev. Andrew "Daniel" Guagenti
- None Attending

SHEPHERDSVILLE, KY

Divine Savior

- Rev. Thomas Elbert
- Steven Linn

SOUTH BEND

Emmaus

- Rev. Ronald Stephens
- Jacob Tomaw

Our Redeemer

- None Attending
- None Attending

St. Paul

- Rev. Matthew Schiemann
- Scott Rowsell

SYRACUSE

Shepherd by the Lakes

- Rev. Dr. Jerry Winegarden
- None Attending

TAYLORSVILLE, KY

*Risen Lord (*dual)*

- *(Rev. Jonathan Mueller*)*
- *(See Peace, Louisville)*

TELL CITY

Emmanuel

- Rev. Nathan Rusert
- Doug Knepper

TERRE HAUTE

Immanuel

- Rev. Kurt Cockran
- Trent Daenzer

TIPTON

Emanuel

- Rev. Dr. Robb Roloff
- Brian Kottlowski

VALLONIA

Trinity

- Rev. Jordan McKinley
- Frank Wolka, Jr.

VALPARAISO

Faith Memorial

- Rev. Eric Schoech
- Paul Nord

Heritage

- Rev. Dr. Stan Temme
- Linda Temme

Immanuel

- Rev. Andrew Fields
- Douglas Watkins

Prince of Peace

- Rev. William Foy
- Jerry Bohacik

VINCENNES

St. John

- Rev. Ron Maxwell
- Beth Maxwell

St. Peter

- Rev. Nathan Rastl
- None Attending

WABASH

Zion

- Rev. Nathan Schieber
- None Attending

WANATAH

*St. John (*dual)*

- *(Rev. Joel Zipay*)*
- *(See St John, La Crosse)*

WARSAW

Redeemer

- Rev. William (Bill) Carney
- Gary Diekelmann

St. Peter's

- None Attending
- None Attending

WEST LAFAYETTE

Redeemer

- None Attending
- None Attending

University

- Rev. Jared DeBlieck
- Christian Lange

WESTFIELD

Epiphany

- None Attending
- Ron Felzke

Lord of Life

- Rev. Ethan Spira
- Shelby Fiscus

WHEATFIELD

Emmanuel

- None Attending
- None Attending

WINAMAC

St. Luke (dual)*

- *(None Attending *)*
- *See St. Mark, Medaryville **

St. Paul - Denham

- Rev. Mark Fakih
- Julie Hanus

WOLCOTTVILLE

Messiah

- Rev. Anthony Appel
- Al Bearman

WOLF LAKE

Living Water

- Rev. Lynn Hanson
- Jim Wacker

WOODBURN

Christ

- None Attending
- None Attending

Zion – Bull Rapids

- Rev. Mark Peters
- Kevin Hirsch

Advisory Delegates—Ordained

Rev. Steve Ahlersmeyer—Concordia, Fort Wayne
Rev. Tim Benzinger—Lutheran High, Indianapolis
Rev. Dr. Ralph Blomenberg—Immanuel, Seymour
Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege—St Paul, Preble, Decatur
Rev. Peter Cage—St Paul's, Fort Wayne
Rev. Daniel Dahling—Emeritus (Emmanuel, Fort Wayne)
Rev. Dr. Paul Dancy—Emeritus (St Michael, Fort Wayne)
Rev. KC Dehning—Emeritus (Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Kokomo)
Rev. John Dryer—Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Kokomo
Rev. Gregory Fiechtner—Emeritus (St Paul, South Bend)
Rev. Karl Frincke—Emeritus (Concordia, Fort Wayne)
Rev. James Fundum—Emeritus (Immanuel, Decatur)
Rev. Robert Gullion—Emeritus (Zion, Garret)
Rev. Brady Gurganious—Zion, New Palestine
Rev. Douglas Irmer—Emeritus (St Peter's, Indianapolis)
Rev. Channing Kearney—Candidate (St Peter's, Indianapolis)
Rev. Ed Keinath—Ministerial Health, Indiana District
Rev. Martin Keller—Emeritus (St Paul-Wegan, Brownstown)
Rev. George Lange—Emeritus (Zion, Fort Wayne)
Rev. Weldon Leimer—Emeritus (Epiphany, Westfield)
Rev. Gilbert Meseke—Emeritus (Martini, New Haven)
Rev. Martin Moehring—Emeritus (Bethlehem, Ossian)
Rev. Dr. Timothy Quill—Emeritus (St Paul's, Fort Wayne)
Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Robinson—Indiana District Office
Rev. James Rodriguez—Immanuel, Seymour
Rev. Dr. Thomas Sabel—Emeritus (St Paul's, Fort Wayne)
Rev. Ralph Schmidt—Emeritus (St Paul's, Fort Wayne)
Rev. Robert Schneider—Emeritus (St Paul's, Evansville)
Rev. Robert Smith—Emeritus (Our Hope, Huntertown)
Rev. Mark Steiner—Emeritus (Emmaus, Fort Wayne)
Rev. Dr. D. Richard Stuckwisch—Indiana District Office
Rev. Steven Voelker—Emeritus (Suburban Bethlehem, Fort Wayne)
Rev. James Voorman—Lutheran Life Villages, Fort Wayne
Rev. Tom Zimmerman—Emeritus (Ascension, Fort Wayne)
Rev. Roland Ziegler—Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

Advisory Delegates—Commissioned

Jarred Burns—St Paul's, Indianapolis
Grace Conrad—Concordia, Louisville
Keven Creutz—The Lutheran Schools Partnership
George Denholm—St Peter's, Columbus
Ken Eichinger—Emeritus (St Paul's, Bremen)
Patrick Frerking—Concordia High, Fort Wayne
Jenna Hicks—The Lutheran Schools Partnership
Connie Hoyer—Emeritus (Emmanuel, Fort Wayne)
Dex Hoyer—Emeritus (Emmanuel, Fort Wayne)
Darin Koenemann—St Paul-Preble, Decatur
Alicia Levitt—The Lutheran Schools Partnership
John March—Woodburn Lutheran School Association
Mark Muehl—LCMS Foundation
Dcs. Dawn Pasche—Siberian Lutheran Mission Society, Fort Wayne
Dcs. Jana Peters—Shepherd's Hand Community Outreach Ctr., Fort Wayne
Martha Peters—Indiana District Office
Doug Reynolds—Emanuel, New Haven
Natalie Reynolds—Lutheran South Unity School, Fort Wayne
Amy Ruse—Ascension Lutheran School, Fort Wayne
Mark Schallhorn—Emeritus (St John-Bingen, Decatur)
Carl Schulenburg—Emeritus (Zion, New Palestine)
Linda Schulenburg— Emeritus (Zion, New Palestine)
Scott Schumacher—Lutheran SGO
Dr. Ben Stellwagen—Emmanuel-St Michael, Fort Wayne
Paul Wendt—St John, Kendallville
Nathan Wingfield—Indiana District Office

Election Results

DISTRICT PRESIDENT:

Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch

DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENTS:

1st Vice-President: Rev. Peter Brock (Northeast Region; St John-Bingen, Decatur)
2nd Vice-President: Rev. David Mueller (Central Region; Trinity, Goodland/ St John, Rensselaer)
3rd Vice President: Rev. Douglas Bauman (Southern Region; St Paul-Clifty, Columbus)
4th Vice President: Rev. Erich Fickel (Northwest Region; St Paul, Chesterton)

DISTRICT SECRETARY:

Rev. Keaton Christiansen

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Rhonda Reimers (Northwest-Commissioned)
Darin Koenemann (Northeast-Commissioned)
Carl Schulenburg (Central-Commissioned)
Larry Tews (Southern-Commissioned)
Eugene Matzat (Northwest-Lay)
Dennis Herman (Northeast-Lay)
David Heinkel (Central-Lay)
James Claybourn (Southern-Lay)

DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Rev. Joel Zipay (Northwest-Ordained)
Rev. Keaton Christiansen (Northeast-Ordained)
Rev. Seth Mierow (Central-Ordained)
Rev. Robert Schneider (Southern-Ordained)
Michele Doel (Northwest-Commissioned)
Vacant (Northeast-Commissioned)
Vacant (Central-Commissioned)
Dave Ebeling (Southern-Commissioned)
James Skibbe (Northwest-Lay)
Dennis Hermann (Northeast-Lay)
Nathaniel Prather (Central-Lay)
Rick Snyder (Southern-Lay)

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS:

Rev. Nathan Janssen (Ordained)
Rev. Leonard Tanksley (Ordained)
Peter Meyer (Commissioned)
David Schlie (Commissioned)
Mary Hoppe (Lay)
Michael Dobbs (Lay)

INDIANA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Minutes of the Twenty-Fourth Convention
of
Indiana District
of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

June 19-20, 2025
Grand Wayne Convention Center
120 West Jefferson Boulevard
Fort Wayne, Indiana

"I Am the Vine, Ye Are the Branches" (John 15:5)

Thursday, June 19, 2025

+ + +

9:50 a.m. Welcome

President Stuckwisch invited the delegates to take their seats. He welcomed the delegates with the words of 1 John 1:1–3. He exhorted the attendees to conform themselves to God's Word and to do everything to the glory of His Name. In particular, he prayed that God give us wisdom by His Word and Spirit, that our working be pleasing in God's sight and to the edification of God's people. President Stuckwisch spoke about the convention theme: "I Am the Vine, Ye Are the Branches," based on John 15:5.

10:00 a.m. Matins

President Stuckwisch invited Conference Chaplain Rev. Douglas Punke of Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, to the dais to conduct the Office of Matins (*LSB* 219), including the reading Acts 15 and the hymn "I Bind unto Myself Today" (*LSB* 604). Pastor Punke offered a homily on the gathering of the Church to address issues of theology and practice, directing his hearers to the examples provided for us in Acts 15 and the Council of Nicaea 1,700 years ago—as godly people who know the grace of God in Christ Jesus.

President Stuckwisch thanked both Pr. Punke and the convention's organist, Michael Hollman.

10:26 a.m. Purpose / Need for a District Convention

President Stuckwisch spoke of the purpose and need for a District Convention, emphasizing the following:

- Mutually attend to the Word of God and prayer.
- Share reports on—and rejoice in—our work together.
- Direct the use of gifts—in love—for the common good.

10:33 a.m. Call to Order

Call to Order

President Stuckwisch called the Convention to order. He then introduced Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy (President of the Concordia University System) as the convention parliamentarian, Rev. Danny Mackey as the District Secretary, and Douglas Reynolds as the convention timer. He also gave in particular thanks for his administrative assistance, Lisa Slack.

Quorum

Per IN District Bylaw 8.1.1.5 "One-third of the voting congregations represented by at least one of their respective delegates (pastor or lay delegate) shall constitute a quorum." Therefore, there must be 68 congregations represented with a voting delegate. President Stuckwisch reported that we have significantly exceeded this requirement, and the exact registration numbers will be announced later.

Credentials Report

President Stuckwisch informed the convention that the current tally of registered voting delegates is 135 ordained and 133 lay, totaling 268 voting delegates. An additional 55 advisory delegates (ordained: 29; commissioned: 26) were present.

2025 Convention Motion – 1 To Accept the Credentials Report

It was moved and seconded to accept the credentials report.

Action: Passed unanimously by voice vote.

Election Voting Instructions

President Stuckwisch introduced the voting delegates to the handheld voting devices, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding them. The delegates were instructed in the use of the devices and were given opportunity to practice with them.

Acceptance of the Agenda

President Stuckwisch drew to the delegates attention the agenda as printed in the Supplement, pages 112-113.

2025 Convention Motion – 2 To Approve the Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve the Convention agenda.

Action: Passed unanimously by voice vote.

Acceptance of Robert's Rules of Order & Standing Rules

President Stuckwisch presented the Standing Rules (*Supplement, pp. 114-115; Today's Business, Thursday, pp. 230-231*) for the delegates' consideration. Standing Rules, item 18 acknowledges the use of Robert's Rules of Order for parliamentary procedure, unless covered by the Standing Rules.

2025 Convention Motion – 3 To Accept Robert's Rules of Order and Standing Rules

It was moved and seconded to accept Robert's Rules of Order and the Standing Rules. (The motion requires a two-thirds majority.)
Action: Passed unanimously by voice vote.

Welcome to New Workers
President Stuckwisch welcomed all new ordained and commissioned church workers to the Indiana District and asked them to stand to be recognized by the delegates. Their names are included on pages 49-52 and 58-61 (and pp. 71-72) of the Convention Workbook.

Introduce Floor Committee Chairmen
President Stuckwisch introduced the chairmen of the Floor Committees.

- Committee #1: Theology, Education, & Outreach – Rev. Dr. Gary Zieroth, Ascension Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
- Committee #2: Polity, Structure, & Governance – Rev. Dr. Phil Rigdon, St. John Lutheran Church, Kendallville, Indiana.

President Stuckwisch also introduced the chairmen of two other significant committees for the functioning of the convention.

- Elections Committee – Rev. Scott Zeckzer, Emanuel Lutheran Church, New Haven, Indiana.
- Nominations Committee – Rev. Martin Keller, St. Paul Lutheran Church—Wegan, Brownstown, Indiana.

Rev. Keller gave some instructions to the convention regarding nominations from the floor.

10:51 a.m. Synod Report – Rev. Peter Lange, Synod 1st Vice President
President Stuckwisch welcomed to the dais Synod First Vice-President Rev. Peter Lange. Vice-President Lange also introduced the Synod Second Vice-President Rev. Benjamin Ball. Rev. Lange then gave the Synod Report. After sharing a video greeting from Synod President Rev. Matthew Harrison on the theme of "Book of Concord Lutherans," he commented further:

- 5,800 congregations with 1.67 million members and an average Sunday attendance of 550,000, approximately 5,500 active pastors and 3,500 emeritus pastors.
- 1,776 schools with a total 21,500 teachers (rostered and non-rostered).
- Synod is in a very good financial situation—the best shape in 40 years!—as a result of generous giving and good stewardship of our resources, which has resulted in good financial reserves.
- Office of National Mission has been very active in church planting, partnering with 24 districts to identify 66 potential sites, also active in the newly established "All Nations Ministry" to reach out to various ethnic groups within the U.S.
- Office of International Mission (OIM) is currently supporting 92 missionaries (half are ordained, a quarter commissioned, and a quarter lay) working in 32 countries. We do have some work in additional countries, too. They operate under the theme, "Spread the Gospel, Plant Lutheran Churches, and Share Mercy." Moreover, OIM is utilizing the FORO

(Spanish for "forum") program. Regarding short-term missions, OIM asks for coordination, which can be as simple as an email or phone call.

- Concordia University System is emphasizing Lutheran Identity on their campuses. They currently have 802 church work students, including 383 teacher education.
- Synod is working on a different way to identify and record pastoral vacancies, distinguishing between sole and senior pastors (470 in April 2025) and assistant and associate pastors.
- Synod is also aware of the cost on a congregation to have a pastor, including health care coverage, and the Council of Presidents (COP) is working to address the various facets of this issue.
- Through Set Apart to Serve, Synod is working on fostering a culture of church worker recruitment and formation of both pastors and teachers.
- Our seminaries had an enrollment of 566 in the pastoral formation tracks (2024), including the residential program (M.Div. and Alternate Route), SMP, SMP Espanol, General Certificate (for SMP Pastors), EIIT, and Colloquy. In April 2025, 112 candidates were placed in a Call (170 congregations requested a candidate).
- A report on Pastoral Formation is being prepared for the upcoming 2026 LCMS Convention.

Rev. Lange shared another video on the upcoming 2026 LCMS Convention theme, "Christ Is Risen Indeed!"

11:53 a.m. Announcements & Meal Prayer
No announcements. Pr. Punke offered a prayer for the meal.

11:54 a.m. Lunch
The convention recessed for lunch at 11:54 a.m.

President Stuckwisch resumed the convention's business at 12:55 p.m.

12:55 p.m. Synod Q & A – Rev. Peter Lange, Synod 1st Vice President
Rev. Peter Lange, with Rev. Benjamin Ball, responded to questions asked by the delegates.

1:22 p.m. Greetings
LWML
Sarah Rippy, Indiana District LWML President, gave greetings from LWML (also referred to as Lutheran Women in Mission) and offered additional remarks regarding the work of the RSO and grants awarded. She also referred to the resources available on lwml.org and information on the new Indiana District LWML website lwmlindiana.org. The LMWL will be having their national convention the following week. She closed with 2 Peter 3:18.

Orphan Grain Train

Rev. Ralph Schmidt gave greetings from Orphan Grain Train and founder and President Rev. Ray Wilke, and he shared information on the work of the RSO, which emphasizes work with orphans (especially in Russia), domestic disaster relief, domestic humanitarian aid (clothing, medical supplies and equipment, food), and international humanitarian aid (in 71 countries).

LLL

Rick Hoffmann gave greetings from the Lutheran Laymen's League, highlighting the work of Lutheran Hour Ministries and the new projects "Getting Restarted with Prayer" and "35 Character Building Prayers for My Grandchild," now available with Project Connect on their website lhm.org. He emphasized that LHM is there to partner with congregations and church workers of "Bringing Christ to the Nations, and the Nations to the Church."

1:45 p.m. Theological Essay – Rev. Michael Salemink, former Lutherans for Life executive director, now professor of pastoral theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne Rev. Salemink's theological essay was on the topic of adoption. He addressed the topic, employing the fourfold approach to theology and some specific encouragement:

- Exegetical (Bible): God adopts, expanding His kingdom through adoption, even starting with Adam and Eve (whom He did not beget, as He did with Jesus Christ our Lord), through Abraham and Jacob (Patriarchs), Moses, etc. unto Jesus of Nazareth and all believers.
- Historical (History): Infanticide and abortion (primarily through pharmaceuticals) was prevalent throughout the ancient world, but the Church Fathers explicitly condemned such practices and Christians actively rescued these babies and adopted them; moreover, orphanages and agencies were established, both in the Medieval Church and the modern world (including Orphan Trains).
- Systematic (Doctrine): Sinful humankind has alienated ourselves from God and His family and our human family, but God through Christ Jesus seeks to bring us back into His family as His true and dear children, which He does through the declaration of His grace, giving His name to us in Holy Baptism, which obliterates any distinction between birth or adoption ("God's own child I gladly say it, I am baptized into Christ!"), and adoption in Holy Communion, where we share in the table of the "children's bread"; adoption and fostering is a mercy and service not only to the child but also the adoptive father and mother in vocation.
- Practical (Motivation): Adoption is not only for those who struggle with infertility, but Christians in all stations to relieve and provide for vulnerable children; we foster and adopt because this is exactly what God has done for us.
- Specific encouragement regarding adoption and fostering: 1) preach, 2) identify, 3) research resources, 4) study Scripture, 5) pray, 6) donate, 7) volunteer, 8) inform others, 9) advocate, and 10) consider adopting or fostering.

Pres. Stuckwisch, with a few extra minutes…

2:40 p.m. Updated Credentials Report

President Stuckwisch informed the convention that the current tally of registered voting delegates is 148 ordained and 137 lay, totaling 285 voting delegates. An additional 59 advisory delegates (ordained: 33; commissioned: 26) were present.

2025 Convention Motion – 4 To Accept the Updated Credentials Report
It was moved and seconded to accept the updated credentials report.
Action: Passed unanimously by voice vote.

2:37 p.m. Nominations / Elections

Introduction of Nominees for District President

President Stuckwisch welcomed Rev. Scott Zeckzer, chairman of the Elections Committee, to conduct the election of the District President. President Stuckwisch introduced the following four men as nominees for District President (*Supplement, pp. 163-166*) and asked them to stand.

1. Rev. Peter Brock
2. Rev. Danny Mackey
3. Rev. David Mueller
4. Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch

Prayer

Pr. Punke offered a prayer asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance in the choosing of a district president.

Election of District President

Rev. Zeckzer explained the need for a majority and the possible need for multiple elections. Voting for District President proceeded.

First Ballot for District President:
Rev. Peter Brock – 6.35% (16)
Rev. Danny Mackey – 1.59% (4)
Rev. David Mueller – 8.73% (22)
Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch – 83.33% (210)

Having received a majority of votes cast (83.33%), Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch was re-elected to the office of District President.

President Stuckwisch, upon his re-election, addressed the delegates, thanking them first for their confidence. He asked for prayers for himself and his family. He acknowledged the work can only be accomplished with the help of the Lord.

Ratification of Circuit Visitors Elections

Rev. Zeckzer pointed to the list of Circuit Visitors that were selected and reported to the District (*Supplement, p. 97*). He asked for a vote to ratify these selections.

Circuit 1 – Hammond:	Rev. Adrian Krebs	St. Paul, Munster

Circuit 2 – Valparaiso:	Rev. David Solum	Immanuel, Michigan City
Circuit 3 – LaPorte:	Rev. Daniel Speckhard	St. Peter, North Judson
Circuit 4 – South Bend:	Rev. William Carney	Redeemer, Warsaw
Circuit 5 – Kendallville:	Rev. Anthony Appel	Messiah, Wolcottville
Circuit 6 – Fort Wayne N:	*** vacant – will be appointed by district president *****	
Circuit 7 – Fort Wayne S:	Rev. Michael Trombley	Trinity – Decatur Rd., Fort Wayne
Circuit 8 – Fort Wayne E:	Rev. Michael Blodgett	St. Paul – Gar Creek, New Haven
Circuit 9 – Decatur:	Rev. Samuel Wirgau	Bethlehem, Ossian
Circuit 10 – Lafayette:	Rev. Daniel Eggold	Grace, Lafayette
Circuit 11 – Kokomo:	Rev. Fredrick Hearn	St. James, Marion
Circuit 12 – Indianapolis E:	*** vacant – in anticipation of possible re-alignment *****	
Circuit 13 – Indianapolis W:	Rev. Chris Truelsen	Christ, Brownsburg
Circuit 14 – Indianapolis S:	Rev. Seth Mierow	St. Peter's, Indianapolis
Circuit 15 – Indianapolis N:	Rev. Scott Giger	Cornerstone, Carmel
Circuit 16 – Columbus:	Rev. Eric Edwards	Faith, Bloomington
Circuit 17 – Seymour:	Rev. James Rodriguez	Immanuel, Seymour
Circuit 18 – Brownstown:	Rev. Jordan McKinley	Trinity, Vallonia
Circuit 19 – Aurora:	Rev. Jared Tucher	St. John – Farmer's Retreat, Dillsboro / St. Paul, Cross Plains
Circuit 20 – Lexington:	Rev. John "Brad" Bowlds	Candidate
Circuit 21 – Evansville E:	Rev. Nathan Rusert	Emmanuel, Tell City
Circuit 22 – Evansville W:	Rev. Chad Eckels	St. Paul's, Evansville
Circuit 23 – Louisville W:	Rev. Andrew Becker	Shepherd of the Hills, Georgetown
Circuit 24 – Louisville E:	Rev. Daniel Guagenti	Holy Cross, Shelbyville

Action: Passed unanimously by voice vote.

The District President will appoint circuit visitors in those circuits that remain vacant.

2:48 p.m. Greetings

LHF

Rob Rahn gave greetings from Lutheran Heritage Foundation and its work in translating Luther's Small Catechism, the Lutheran Confessions, and our Lutheran hymnals into various languages. LHF exists to translate, publish, distribute, and introduce Lutheran writings and thereby spread the Gospel.

2:52 p.m. Tanzania Update – Rev. Peter Brock, District 1st Vice President

President Stuckwisch shared that a contingent from South-East of Lake Victoria Diocese of Tanzania visited Indiana and gifted him and the Indiana District with framed picture to acknowledge the district's significant support.

First Vice-President Peter Brock has been deeply involved with a mission to Tanzania, Africa. Rev. Brock was invited to the lectern to present a report and slide presentation on the Tanzania

Mission to the delegates. It includes mission work (including theological training) and mercy work (especially for vulnerable albino children).

3:33 p.m. Committee #1: Theology, Education, & Outreach

President Stuckwisch welcomed to the dais and lectern Rev. Gary Zieroth, chairman of Floor Committee #1: Theology, Education, & Outreach, to present the committee's resolutions. Rev. Zieroth introduced his fellow committee members.

Rev. Zieroth read Resolution 1-01 (*Today's Business, Thursday, p. 233*), and upon conclusion the committee moved adoption.

> **Resolution 1-01: To Continue the Indiana District's Support Within and Beyond Tanzania** *(Overture 1-01 & 1-02, Workbook pp. 99-100, Today's Business, Thursday, p. 233)*
>
> WHEREAS, The Lord Jesus Christ commands His Church to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that [He has] commanded"; and
> WHEREAS, In 1928 Jonathan Ekong came to the United States seeking a church that would teach the Word of God in its purity and also help establish good schools in Africa; and
> WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is currently active in 25 African countries, working with seven partner churches and eight seminaries; and
> WHEREAS, The Africa region of the Office of International Mission (OIM) has partnered with LCMS congregations to send short-term teams to Africa, resulting in long-term relationships; and
> WHEREAS, The Indiana District of the LCMS has partnered with LCMS districts and congregations to serve and support the mission and mercy work in Tanzania, East Africa, and beyond throughout the Africa region; and
> WHEREAS, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne has partnered with LCMS districts and congregations to serve and support the mission and mercy work in Tanzania, East Africa, and beyond throughout the Africa region; and
> WHEREAS, Theological education remains a priority and need in Tanzania and beyond throughout the Africa region, served and supported through Africa region seminaries, training centers, Bible institutes, and symposia for pastoral, deaconess, and evangelist formation; and
> WHEREAS, Human care remains a priority and need in Tanzania and beyond through the Africa region, including but not limited to those afflicted with albinism, served and supported through homes for vulnerable children and material support from local churches and church bodies in Tanzania and various LCMS entities, including the Indiana District; therefore be it
> *Resolved*, That the Indiana District in convention gives thanks to God for the Lord's mission and mercy work in Tanzania and throughout the Africa region, supported by and through our Synod, District, and congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Indiana District seeks to continue serving and supporting the Lord's mission and mercy work in Tanzania and beyond throughout the Africa region, as the Lord wills, with the gifts He has given us in this place and time.
Action: Passed (247, 97.63%).

Rev. Zieroth read Resolution 1-02 (*Today's Business, Thursday, p. 234*), and upon conclusion the committee moved adoption.

Resolution 1-02: To Affirm the Recommendations of the Task Force on Classical Lutheran Pedagogy *(Resolution from Floor Committee, based on Summary Report on Classical Lutheran Pedagogy, Workbook, pp. 36-48)*

WHEREAS, The Indiana District in Convention (June 2022), resolved to "establish a task force to study classical Lutheran pedagogy and its relationship to current practices and curricula being utilized in the schools of the Indiana District" (Resolution 1-06: "To Promote Classical Lutheran Pedagogy"); and,
WHEREAS, a Summary Report of the Task Force's work and recommendations was adopted by the Board of Directors (see Convention Workbook pgs. 36-48), including conclusions and considerations for our Indiana District schools; therefore be it
Resolved, that the District in convention give thanks for the work of the Task Force and, in consideration of their work, encourage their suggestions for use in our schools which include:

1. To implement daily liturgical worship, led by a pastor whenever possible.
2. In evaluating textbooks, prioritize Lutheran authors wherever possible.
3. Teach traditional English grammar and formal logic, and be it finally

Resolved, that the Indiana District Board of Directors and its Education Office encourage and assist congregations exploring classical education, and that a classical Lutheran education track be offered at the teachers' conferences.
Action: Passed after brief discussion (182, 71.09%).

Rev. Zieroth read Resolution 1-03 (*Today's Business, Thursday, pp. 234-235*), and upon conclusion the committee moved adoption.

Resolution 1-03: To Encourage and Assist the Proclamation of the Gospel through Distinctly Lutheran Education *(Resolution from Floor Committee, based on various Convention Workbook Reports, as indicated throughout)*

WHEREAS, The Great Commission calls us to make disciples and make them stronger by baptizing and teaching everything Christ commands (Matthew 28:19–20); and
WHEREAS, We "pray that the Lord in His mercy and providential care will continue to preserve and prosper our Lutheran schools—and our Lutheran educators—in His Word and faith, and in the faithful and fruitful exercise of their labors, which in Him are never in vain (1 Cor. 15:58)" (from the Summary Report on Classical Lutheran Pedagogy, Workbook, p. 36); and

WHEREAS, The Indiana District Office of Outreach, Human Care, and Stewardship has identified "great opportunities for evangelism" as pastors and congregational members work together in sharing the Gospel of Christ and drawing children to the waters of Baptism, proclaiming the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9) (from the Report for Outreach, Human Care, and Stewardship, Workbook, pp. 73-77); and
WHEREAS, The Indiana District Office of Education notes that "multiple churches are currently investigating the possibility of starting a new school or expanding a current school ministry" in an environment that is favorable for families desiring, seeking, or being introduced to a Christian education (from the Report for Education and Congregational Services, Workbook, p. 82); and
WHEREAS, The Indiana District Office of the President has expressed an earnest desire for a "family resemblance" and "recognizable similarity" in catechesis and confession of Christ Jesus and His Word within our Lutheran churches through conversation and encouragement for the sake of a clearer sense of our identity as Lutherans (from the President's Report, Workbook, p. 30); therefore be it
Resolved, that the Indiana District continue to explore, articulate, and celebrate the matters of faith, practice, and purpose that comprise a distinctly Lutheran education across all our school ministries; and be it finally
Resolved, that the Indiana District Board of Directors and its Education Office encourage and assist congregations seeking to start or grow Lutheran schools in their time and place and—by God's grace—when, where, and how the Spirit wills.
Action: Passed without discussion (247, 95.74%).

Rev. Tanksley (Floor Committee #1 Secretary) read Resolution 1-04 (*Today's Business Thursday, pp. 235-236*), and upon conclusion the committee moved adoption.

Resolution 1-04: To Build a Culture of Church Work Formation, Recruitment, and Retention *(Overture 1-04, Workbook, pp. 102-103)*

WHEREAS, Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Matt. 9:37–38); and
WHEREAS, Since 1847 to the present day, the LCMS adopted resolutions in nearly every convention to form and recruit pastors to preach, teach, and share the Gospel of Jesus and teachers and other commissioned church workers to teach and share the Gospel of Jesus for eternal salvation in these full-time vocations; and
WHEREAS, These convention resolutions urged that church worker formation and recruitment intentionally take place in every LCMS congregation and school by pastors, teachers, commissioned church workers, and laity (and especially parents); and
WHEREAS, These convention resolutions urged *districts and congregations* to have an active committee focused on forming and recruiting youth and adults to consider full-time church work; and

WHEREAS, The pastoral office is the one divinely mandated office by our Lord (John 20:19–23; Rom. 10:14–15; Eph. 4:11–16) and the seven LCMS commissioned church work vocations have been established in love to support the Office of the Holy Ministry (Lutheran school teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of family life ministry, deaconesses, directors of parish music, directors of church ministries, directors of Christian outreach) (*Lutheran Service Book: Agenda*, pp. 210 and 218); and

WHEREAS, In the last five years, approximately twice as many LCMS pastors have exited the pastoral office (retirement or death) as there have been newly called and ordained pastors; and

WHEREAS, In April 2024, there were 51 unfilled calls of congregations calling a seminary candidate, 406 congregations calling a sole pastor, 56 congregations calling a senior pastor, 67 congregations calling an associate pastor, and 529 non-calling congregations for various reasons; and

WHEREAS, In 2023 our LCMS schools requested 455 new teachers from our Concordia universities, but only 84 were graduating with teaching degrees; furthermore, LCMS congregations, schools, and entities requested 79 other LCMS commissioned workers for placements, but only 64 church work students were graduating from the Concordia universities; and

WHEREAS, *Set Apart to Serve (SAS)* began with the 2019 LCMS Convention (Resolution 6-01) with the overarching goal of developing a culture of church work formation and recruitment in every LCMS congregation, school, and in full partnership and collaboration across all relevant Synod entities; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS Indiana District encourage all its congregations to establish a *Set Apart to Serve* committee (working group, task force) to intentionally form, recruit, and encourage its youth (from infancy to grade 12) and adults to consider full-time church work vocation; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Indiana District encourage all its pastors, Lutheran teachers, commissioned church workers, and laity to intentionally form, recruit, and encourage youth and adults to consider a full-time church work vocation; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Indiana District encourage its congregations, schools, and entities to make use of the *SAS* resources (found at *lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve*) and the *SAS* church work recruitment curriculum (produced by Concordia Publishing House and available for download at *cph.org/set-apart-to-serve-school-resource-kit*); and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Indiana District encourage both its district and congregation leaders and committees to enhance their financial support of individuals who are enrolled in LCMS church work programs at our Concordia universities, colloquy programs, and seminaries; and be it finally

Resolved, That the LCMS Indiana District encourage both its district and congregation leaders to intentionally address the compensation of church workers, foster church worker wellness, and encourage love and appreciation for all ordained and commissioned church workers in the district's congregations, schools, and entities.

Action: Passed as amended (246, 96.47%).

Rev. Zieroth read Resolution 1-05 (*Today's Business, Thursday, p. 237*), and upon conclusion the committee moved adoption.

Resolution 1-05: To Promote Awareness of Christian Adoption and Fostering Needs
(Overture 1-03, Workbook, p. 101)

WHEREAS, Adoption figures prominently in Holy Scripture (Galatians 4:5) and the baptismal theology of salvation by grace in the evangelical Lutheran church; and
WHEREAS, Christians have a historical legacy of enacting this Gospel by undertaking and coordinating care for "widows and orphans in their affliction" (James 1:27); and
WHEREAS, In the United States The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, her congregations, and affiliated parachurch organizations have especially exemplified these concerns and embodied this mercy; and
WHEREAS, Some 115,000 children nationwide are awaiting families and homes through adoption this year; and
WHEREAS, In many jurisdictions state involvement in adoption imposes restrictions that result in a significant proportion of these children receiving placements in situations contrary to the Heavenly Father's design and intention for sexuality and marriage and without regard for their eternal welfare; and
WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention has not explicitly spoken about the connection of adoption to our doctrine and our vocation to serve these neighbors in need; therefore be it
Resolved, That the Indiana District, in grateful response to our own baptismal adoption as children of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, affirm our Christian privilege and responsibility to advocate and undertake protecting and providing for children awaiting adoption and fostering, particularly that they might enter His kingdom by baptism and belief in His saving name; and be it further
Resolved, That we encourage our District's leaders and congregations to promote awareness of Christian adoption and fostering needs, agencies, and opportunities; and be it further
Resolved, That we recognize and commend the Recognized Service Organizations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod engaged in these services with our prayers, our advocacy, and our contributions to further their labors among us and on our behalf and be it further,
Resolved, that the Indiana District in convention overture Synod in Convention to encourage our Synodical leaders and the congregations of LCMS to promote awareness of Christian adoption and its Christ-pleasing benefits and promote awareness of Christian adoption and fostering needs, agencies, and opportunities; and be it finally
Resolved, that the Indiana District in convention overture Synod in convention to recognize and commend the Recognized Service Organizations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod engaged in these services with our prayers, our advocacy, and our contributions to further their labors among us and on our behalf.
Action: Passed as amended (254, 98.82%).

Rev. Zieroth read Resolution C (*Today's Business, Thursday, p. 238*), and upon conclusion the committee moved adoption.

Resolution C: Declination of Overture 1-05

WHEREAS, the floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various reasons, that certain overtures should be declined, therefore be it

Resolved, that Overture 1-05 (Workbook 104-05): To Reclaim a Standing, Synod-wide Network for Ongoing Consensus-Building be respectfully declined in order to better understand and study the issues presented. Therefore, be it finally

Resolved, that Overture 1-05 be referred to the Indiana District Board of Directors to consider forming a task force to explore the overture.

Action: Passed (243, 94.65%)

Committee #1 has concluded its business and was dismissed by President Stuckwisch.

4:29 p.m. Committee #2: Polity, Structure, & Governance

President Stuckwisch welcomed to the dais and lectern Rev. Phil Rigdon, chairman of Floor Committee #2: Polity, Structure, & Governance, to present the committee's resolutions. Rev. Rigdon introduced his fellow committee members.

Rev. Ridgon read Resolution 2-01 (*Today's Business, Thursday, pp. 238-244*), and upon conclusion the committee moved adoption.

Resolution 2-01: To Amend the Bylaws of the Indiana District as Requested by Synod

Rationale:

1) During the review of the Indiana District—LCMS Bylaws, the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) noted items requiring the District's attention, namely:

- Throughout the Bylaws, reference Synod Bylaws as "Synod Bylaw(s) *nn*" rather than "LCMS Handbook [H.B.] *nn*," as the *Handbook* contains also the Constitution and Articles of Incorporation of the Synod.
- IN Bylaw 5.2: The District may wish to include, in addition, the possibility of amendment as described in Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 (b), as contingent on approval by the CCM.
- IN Bylaw 8.1.2.1 (b): It should be clarified that such additional representation is non-voting (Synod Bylaw 5.3.2 [a]).
- IN Bylaw 8.1.3.1: It may be better to use a word other than *convocation* (or to drop the words "in convocation") in describing the gatherings encouraged to be held in convention years (cf. Synod Bylaw 5.4.1).
- IN Bylaws 8.2.1.2–4: It may be clearer to state "…*B.O.D. and Elected Committees*" to make absolutely clear that the reference to committees in 8.2.1.3–4 is to those

specifically listed in 8.2.1.2 and not to include other committees appointed by the B.O.D. or otherwise.

- IN Bylaw 8.2.1.4: The reference in (a) to Synod Bylaw 4.1.1 should likely be to "H.B." [sic] 4.3.1, in the Synod Bylaws, where regional selections are treated. Or it may be to IN Bylaw 4.2, which notes the designation of regions by the District in convention. If the CCM correctly understands (b), it may be clearer to say: "The Board of Directors shall designate a representative to serve as an advisory member of each elected committee."
- IN Bylaws 8.2.3.1: The commission notes there are two bylaws with this number.
- IN Bylaws 8.2.3.1 (first and second): The CCM notes that, should the District ever close its convention more than four months prior to September 1, the bylaws as written may present a timing issue.
- IN Bylaw 8.2.3.1 (second): In (d) the reference to Synod Bylaw 1.10.10.1 should be removed, as not germane to any but reconciler appointments.
- IN Bylaw 8.3.1.1 (a): The District President is designated the "chief executive" of the District by Synod Bylaw 4.4.1 and is of course an officer of the District (Const. Art. XII 3) but is not identified by the Synod as "chief executive officer" of the District, which carries corporate trappings that do not entirely transfer. The term "chief executive officer" should read "chief executive" instead.
- IN Bylaws 8.3.1.2 [c][1–2], 8.3.6.5 [c], and 8.4.2: Related to the above, IN Bylaws in certain places seem to attribute general management and supervision of District business affairs to the District President when these belong clearly and finally to the Board of Directors of the District (Synod Bylaw 4.5.1) and may only be delegated in a limited and penultimate sense to an executive, perhaps the District President. It should at a minimum be made clear in these instances that any such delegation is "with the Board of Directors retaining general management and supervision."
- IN Bylaw 8.3.6.1: The B.O.D.'s responsibilities for the *legal*, as well as business, affairs of the district (cf. Synod Bylaw 4.5.1) should be noted here.
- IN Bylaw 10.1.2.3: The procedure for successive ballots in Synod Bylaw 4.7.3 (b) is obligatory. Were a tie to result in more than five candidates on the ballot for President, the District's procedure would incorrectly remove more than one in the first successive ballot.
- IN Bylaw 10.2.1.3: A tie could presumably result in inclusion of more than two (and, possibly, many more than two) candidates on the ballot. This should likely be accounted for. In any case, the procedure for successive ballots described in Synod Bylaw 4.7.3 (b) applies.
- IN Bylaw 10.2.2.3: With regard to deriving successive ballots, the procedures of Synod Bylaw 4.7.3 (b) apply to the election of Vice-Presidents. IN Bylaw presumes there will be no more than three individuals receiving the greatest number of ballots (cf. IN Bylaw 10.2.1.3). This may not be the case if a tie results in including more than three; if this happens, a reduction to two on the second ballot may reduce by more than one. IN Bylaw 10.2.2.3 needs to be replaced with the language of Synod Bylaw 4.7.3 (b): "When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a

majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the ballot." Alternatively, this could be included by reference as in IN Bylaw 10.2.3 as proposed.

- IN Bylaw 10.2.3: It should be clearer, perhaps best by direct reference, that the run-off procedure referenced here is that described in Synod Bylaw 4.7.3 (b) (or present IN Bylaw 10.5.2.2, but see next item).
- IN Bylaw 10.5.2.2: The procedure stated here is correct for President and Vice-President elections. See Synod Bylaw 4.7.3 for the correct procedure for determining successive ballots in other elections, which is not correctly reflected in the District's bylaws. It would be well to include the full text of Bylaw 4.7.3 (b–d).

2) Some minor clerical changes were needed.
3) The Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters has reviewed and approved the following amendments.

Therefore be it

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, the Bylaws be amended to change all references of "LCMS Handbook [H.B.]" to "Synod Bylaw(s)" as appropriate; and that all references to Bylaws of the Indiana District—LCMS be changed to "IN Bylaw(s)" as appropriate.

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaw 5.2 be amended to include the following as the final sentence of the bylaw:

PROPOSED WORDING

Any amendments to these bylaws shall become effective immediately upon, and only upon, the approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (Synod Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3; 4.1.1.2 [b]).

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaw 8.1.2.1[b] be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

(b) Additional representation, with voice but no vote, from each congregation as determined by each circuit.

Resolved, That, per rationale 2 above, IN Bylaw 8.1.2.2[f] be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

(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.~~ Synod Bylaw 5.3.4); and

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaw 8.1.3.1 be amended by striking the second sentence, as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

~~The Circuits are encouraged to meet in convocation each year to gather support for circuit work.~~

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaws 8.2.1.2, 8.2.1.3, 8.2.1.4 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

~~Elected~~ B.O.D. and Elected Committees

…

General Provisions for the ~~Elected~~ B.O.D. and Elected Committees

…

Membership of ~~Elected~~ B.O.D. and Elected Committees

Resolved, That, per rationale 2 above, IN Bylaw 8.2.1.3[d] be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

(d) The ~~C~~committees shall present…

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaw 8.2.1.4[b] be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

(b) ~~An advisory member of each committee shall be a representative of the B.O.D.~~ The B.O.D. shall designate a representative to serve as an advisory member of each elected committee.

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaw 8.3.1 be amended striking the word "officer" in the first sentence, as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

(a) The District President shall serve as the full-time chief executive ~~officer~~ of the District.

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaw 8.3.1.2[c][1-2] be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

(1) He shall be responsible for the organization, delegation, and supervision of District work with the B.O.D. retaining general management and supervision.

(2) He shall be responsible for the supervision of staff officers and shall help coordinate their activities with the B.O.D. retaining general management and supervision.

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaw 8.3.6.1 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

8.3.6.1 *Purpose*

The B.O.D. shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the District's business and legal affairs that all be done to the glory of God and in the best interest of the Church (Synod Bylaw 4.5.1).

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaw 8.3.6.5[c] be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

(c) The B.O.D. shall appoint and employ an Executive for Finance who shall be responsible to the District President, with the B.O.D. retaining general management and supervision.

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaw 8.4.2 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

District Executives and other staff persons shall report regularly and/or be responsible to the District President, with the B.O.D. retaining general management and supervision, 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.

Resolved, That, per rationale 2 above, IN Bylaw 9.1.1 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

9.1.1 *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.~~ Synod Bylaw ~~1.10–10.10.18.1~~ 1.10.10–1.10.18.1).

Resolved, That, per rationale 2 above, IN Bylaw 9.2.4 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

9.2.4 *Function and Duties*

…

9.2.4.2 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 or the District Board of Directors (IN Bylaw ~~14~~11.2) for vote.

9.2.4.3 …

9.2.4.4 The Committee shall examine and review all new and revised constitutions and bylaws of congregations, and it 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 (Synod Bylaw 2.4.1).

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaw 10.1.2.3 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

~~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).~~ In the election of the president, when a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the ballot (Synod Bylaw 4.7.3).

Resolved, That, per rationale 2 above, IN Bylaw 10.2.1 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

10.2.1 *Nominations ~~for Vice-Presidents~~*

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaw 10.2.2.1 and 3 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

10.2.2.1 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.

10.2.2.2 …

10.2.2.3 ~~If no candidate receives a majority of votes cast on the first ballot, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be retained on the ballot, and another vote shall be taken.~~When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the ballot.

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaw 10.2.3 be amended by adding a participial clause at the end of the last sentence as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

…For each ranking ballot run-off ranking ballots will continue until a Vice-President receives a majority of votes cast, using the procedure described in Synod Bylaw 4.7.3.

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaw 10.5.2 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

~~10.5.2.1 A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all positions.~~

~~10.5.2.2 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.~~

10.5.2.1 A majority of all votes cast by a district convention shall be required in every election to all elective offices and elective board positions. The following regulations shall apply:

(a) Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected.

(b) In the election of the president and the vice-presidents, when a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the ballot.

(c) In other elections, when a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot.

(d) In every election balloting shall continue until every position has been filled by majority vote.

10.5.2.~~3~~2 …

10.5.2.~~4~~3 …

Resolved, That, per rationale 2 above, IN Bylaw 11.1.5 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

11.1.5 They are approved by a majority of the voting delegates at the District Convention~~.~~; and

Action: Passed (233, 98.31%).

Rev. Ridgon read Resolution 2-01 (*Today's Business, Thursday, pp. 238-244*), and upon conclusion the committee moved adoption.

2-02: To Amend District Bylaws to Make the Treasurer an Appointed Officer

Rationale:

1. The office of Treasurer requires a certain skill set and expertise to perform the duties required (i.e., financial expertise, bonded, etc.), having made it a challenge to find treasurers in the past (or even candidates for the ballot). Currently, if the office of Treasurer becomes vacant, the B.O.D. is empowered to fill that vacancy (current IN Bylaw 10.7.5). The person currently filling the position was first appointed to it. The Synod Bylaws permits the position to be appointed (Const. Art. XII, 1.3[e]), which several other districts do. Making the Treasurer an appointed

officer will be an easier and more expedient way to ensure that a qualified person is in place.

2. The Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters has reviewed and approved the following amendments.

Therefore be it

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaw 8.2.1.1[b–d] be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

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

(~~c~~b) …

(~~d~~c) …

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaw 8.2.2.1[c–d] be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

8.2.2.1 Appointments by the B.O.D.

…

(c) The Treasurer

(~~c~~d) …

(~~d~~e) …

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaw 8.3.5 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

8.3.5 *Treasurer*

8.3.5.1 The District Treasurer, who shall be a layperson, shall be appointed by the B.O.D.

8.3.5.2 *Duties*

and be it finally

Resolved, That, per rationale 1 above, IN Bylaw 10.7 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

10.7 Vacancies

…

~~**10.7.5 *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.~~

10.7.~~6~~5 *Members of the B.O.D.*

…

10.7.~~7~~6 *Members of Committees*

…

10.7.~~8~~7 *Vacancy Because of a Move*

…

Action: Passed (236, 95.16%).

Rev. Ridgon read Resolution 2-03 (Today's Business – June 19, 2025, 245-247), and upon conclusion the committee moved adoption.

2-03: To Realign and Consolidate Indianapolis-area Circuits

(Overture 2-02 & 2-03, Workbook pp.108-111; * both overtures errantly listed as 2-02 in original Workbook)*

WHEREAS, Synod Bylaw 3.1.2[a] states, "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 confirmed membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000"; and

WHEREAS, A number of congregations have either left the Indiana District or closed since the previous realignment in 2018 (Christ, Indianapolis; Messiah, Indianapolis; Mt Olive, Greenwood; and Peace Deaf, Indianapolis), impacting three of the four Indianapolis-area circuits and reducing the total number of congregations in the Indianapolis-area to 27; and

WHEREAS, It is advantageous to have our circuits of a size that losing one or two congregations will not result in needing to realign again in the near future; and

WHEREAS, Circuit 15: Indianapolis, North had to be granted an exception for the 2023 LCMS Convention because it does not currently conform to Synod requirements, having one fewer congregation than the minimum—six (6); and

WHEREAS, Circuit 12: Indianapolis, East currently does not have the minimum number of congregations required to be an electoral circuit—six (6); and

WHEREAS, Circuit 14: Indianapolis, South currently has the minimum number of congregations required to be an electoral circuit—seven (7); and

WHEREAS, Circuit 13: Indianapolis, West has one more congregation than minimally required to be an electoral circuit—eight (8); and

WHEREAS, The average number of congregations in the four (4) Indianapolis-area circuits is fewer than seven (7), which is the minimum required by Synod; and

WHEREAS, Other Indianapolis-area congregations may close within the next triennium, resulting in one or more circuits no longer meeting the minimum Synod requirements; and

WHEREAS, Realigning and consolidating the Indianapolis-area circuits will result in all circuits conforming to the Synod Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, The circuits and congregations affected by the changes proposed in this overture have agreed to them; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Indiana District in convention realign and consolidate the Indianapolis-area circuits; and be it further

Resolved, That the Indiana District in convention form the Indianapolis Northeast Circuit consisting of the following eight (8) congregations:

Christ, Noblesville;
Cornerstone, Carmel;
Epiphany, Westfield;
Holy Cross, Indianapolis;
Journey Lutheran Ministries, Fishers;
Lord of Life, Westfield;
Trinity, Indianapolis; and

Zion, New Palestine; and be it further

Resolved, That the Indiana District in convention form the Indianapolis Center Circuit consisting of the following 11 congregations:

Ascension, Beech Grove;
Calvary, Indianapolis;
Concordia, Greenwood;
Emmaus, Indianapolis;
Faith, Greenfield;
First Timothy, Indianapolis;
Our Savior, Indianapolis;
St. John, Indianapolis;
St. Mark, Shelbyville;
St. Paul's, Indianapolis; and
St. Peter's Evangelical, Indianapolis; and be it further

Resolved, That the Indiana District in convention form the Indianapolis Southwest Circuit consisting of the following eight (8) congregations:

Christ, Brownsburg;
Christ the King, Mooresville;
Holy Cross, Crawfordsville;
Immanuel, Terre Haute;
Living Christ, Plainfield;
Our Shepherd, Avon;
Peace, Greencastle; and
Prince of Peace, Martinsville; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Indiana District in convention elect Circuit Visitors from these three Circuits instead of the four Circuits who held Circuit Forums previously, using the names recommended to the Convention by the congregations represented in this resolution.

Action: Passed after discussion (248, 97.64%).

Committee #2 has concluded its business and was dismissed by President Stuckwisch.

President Stuckwisch mentioned that a reception sponsored by LCEF is being held in the south lobby at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Hall C. Also, breakfast is on your own tomorrow morning. Convention will be reconvened at 8:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

4:53 p.m. Vespers

President Stuckwisch invited Conference Chaplain Rev. Douglas Punke of Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, to the dais to conduct the Office of Vespers (*LSB* 229), including a reading from Isaiah 6 and the hymn "Isaiah, Mighty Seer in Days of Old" (*LSB* 960). Pastor Punke offered a homily on the contrast between Grace (the Gospel) and the Law, and also about how the mystery of the Holy Trinity was "hidden under a veil" until the veil was pulled back by Christ Jesus, who has revealed the heavenly Father and His love for us.

INDIANA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Minutes of the Twenty-Fourth Convention
of
Indiana District
of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

June 19-20, 2025
Grand Wayne Convention Center
120 West Jefferson Boulevard
Fort Wayne, Indiana

"I Am the Vine, Ye Are the Branches" (John 15:5)

Friday, June 20, 2025

+ + +

8:00 a.m. Matins

President Stuckwisch invited Conference Chaplain Rev. Douglas Punke of Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, to the dais to conduct the Office of Matins (*LSB* 219), including the reading John 1 and the hymn "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright" (*LSB* 874). Pastor Punke offered a homily on the person and work of Jesus Christ and His relation within the Holy Trinity.

8:35 a.m. Nominations / Elections

Introduction of Nominees for Regional Vice Presidents

President Stuckwisch welcomed Rev. Scott Zeckzer, chairman of the Elections Committee, to conduct the election of the Regional Vice Presidents. The nominees for Regional Vice Presidents were the following (*Supplement, pp. 168-179*):

Northwest Region
1. Rev. Erich Fickel
2. Rev. Kendall Schaeffer
3. Rev. David Solum

Northeast Region
1. Rev. Michael Blodgett
2. Rev. Peter Brock

Central Region
1. Rev. Scott Giger
2. Rev. Nathan Janssen
3. Rev. Danny Mackey
4. Rev. Seth Mierow
5. Rev. David Mueller

Southern Region

1. Rev. Douglas Bauman
2. Rev. Andrew “Daniel” Guagenti
3. Rev. James Haugen
4. Rev. James Rodriguez
5. Rev. David Wiist

Prayer

Pr. Punke offered a prayer asking for the Holy Spirit’s guidance in the choosing of Regional Vice Presidents.

Election of Regional Vice Presidents

Rev. Zeckzer explained the need for a majority and the possible need for multiple elections. Voting devices were turned on and a test vote conducted. Voting for Regional Vice Presidents then proceeded.

First Ballot for Northwest Region

Rev. Erich Fickel 52.36% (111)
Rev. Kendall Schaeffer 27.36% (58)
Rev. David Solum 20.25% (43)

Rev. Erich Fickel was elected Northwest Region Vice President.

First Ballot for Northeast Region

Rev. Michael Blodgett 23.43% (56)
Rev. Peter Brock 76.57% (183)

Rev. Peter Brock was elected Northeast Region Vice President.

First Ballot for Central Region

Rev. Scott Giger 15.19 % (36)
Rev. Nathan Janssen 13.92% (33)
Rev. Danny Mackey 18.99% (45)
Rev. Seth Mierow 13.5% (32)
Rev. David Mueller 38.4% (91)

Second Ballot for Central Region

Rev. Scott Giger 13.5% (32)
Rev. Nathan Janssen 10.55% (25)
Rev. Danny Mackey 19.41% (46)
Rev. David Mueller 56.54% (134)

Rev. David Mueller was elected Central Region Vice President.

First Ballot for Southern Region

Rev. Douglas Bauman 34.36% (78)
Rev. Andrew "Daniel" Guagenti 12.33% (23)
Rev. James Haugen 19.82% (45)
Rev. James Rodriguez 21.59 % (49)
Rev. David Wiist 11.89% (27)

Second Ballot for Southern Region

Rev. Douglas Bauman 46.38% (109)
Rev. Andrew "Daniel" Guagenti 14.47 % (34)
Rev. James Haugen 17.02% (40)
Rev. James Rodriguez 22.13% (52)

Third Ballot for Southern Region

Rev. Douglas Bauman 56.28% (130)
Rev. James Haugen 17.32% (40)
Rev. James Rodriguez 26.41% (61)

Rev. Douglas Bauman was elected Southern Region Vice President.

Nominations from Floor for Other District Offices (BOD, CCM, Nominations)

President Stuckwisch welcomed Rev. Martin Keller, chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations, to the dais to receive nominations from the floor. Rev. Keller opened the floor for nominations. He pointed to the additional nominations that are listed on pages 251-252 in Today's Business for Friday.

- Caleb Abshire, University, Bloomington, IN – Committee on Constitutional Matters (Lay at-large)
- Rev. Keaton Christiansen, Zion Evangelical, Garrett, IN – Nominations Committee (NE Ordained)
- Rev. Jason Reed, Holy Trinity, La Grange, KY – Nominations Committee (SO Ordained)
- Michael Dobbs, Trinity, Lowell, IN – Committee on Constitutional Matters (Lay at-large)

Rev. Seth Mierow, St. Peter Evangelical, Indianapolis, IN was nominated for the Committee for Constitutional Matters, having been elected as Circuit Visitor, has withdrawn his name.

2025 Convention Motion – 5 To Accept the Floor Nominations
It was moved and seconded to accept nominations from the floor.
Action: Passed unanimously by voice vote.

Floor nominations were closed by President Stuckwisch.

9:15 a.m. Updates

Rev. Dr. James Baneck: Set Apart to Serve

Rev. Baneck shared a video on the Set Apart to Serve, the initiative on fostering a culture of forming and recruiting church workers within the Synod. He then spoke to the delegates about their efforts, emphasizing that this is a culture with the aim that the Gospel may be shared to our congregations, communities, neighbors, and all the world.

Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy: Concordia University System
Rev. Hardy addressed the convention regarding the current state of the CUS, giving statistics concerning benefits of entering church work, compared to society. The CUS has initiated a $5,000 voucher program for church work students and the response has been great. Efforts are being made to significantly reduce education costs. Visitations are in process to emphasize Lutheran identity on every campus. Rev. Hardy stated that this aspect is the strongest it has been in his 25 years as a pastor. Dr. Hardy answered questions from the floor.

9:47 a.m. Ranking of Vice Presidents
President Stuckwisch welcomed Rev. Scott Zeckzer, Chairman of the Elections Committee, back to the dais.

Pr. Punke offered a prayer asking for God's guidance in the ranking of Regional Vice Presidents.

Voting proceeded for the ranking of Vice Presidents.

First Ballot for Ranking of Vice Presidents
Rev. Douglas Bauman 13.25 % (31)
Rev. Peter Brock 49.15% (115)
Rev. Erich Fickel 9.83% (23)
Rev. David Mueller 27.78% (65)

Second Ballot for Ranking of Vice Presidents
Rev. Douglas Bauman 12.03% (29)
Rev. Peter Brock 58.92% (142)
Rev. David Mueller 29.05% (70)

Rev. Peter Brock was ranked as First Vice President.

Third Ballot for Ranking of Vice Presidents
Rev. Douglas Bauman 26.94% (66)
Rev. Erich Fickel 12.69% (31)
Rev. David Mueller 60.41 % (148)

Rev. David Mueller was ranked as Second Vice President.

Fourth Ballot for Ranking of Vice-Presidents
Rev. Douglas Bauman 62.7% (153)
Rev. Erich Fickel 37.3% (91)

Rev. Douglas Bauman was ranked as Third Vice President.

The Vice-Presidents are therefore ranked as follows:

First Vice-President – Rev. Peter Brock
Second Vice-President – Rev. David Mueller
Third Vice-President – Rev. Douglas Bauman
Fourth Vice-President – Rev. Erich Fickel

9:57 a.m. District Executive Reports

Missions / Mercy

Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Robinson, Executive of Outreach, highlighted a few items from his report (*Workbook, pp. 73-81*). He commented further.

- District congregations need to seriously consider forming multi-congregation parishes in order to afford a pastor.
- The district is blessed with opportunity to start new congregations—funding from both the district and Synod is available.
- Evangelism Conference was well received.
- Summer Evangelism Internship is still available to the seminarians at CTSFW.
- He will be meeting with Synod and Seminary leadership on how to better train our seminarians in Evangelism.
- He introduced Rev. John Hallock, who is serving Outreach Kentucky. Pr. Hallock thanked the district and asked for our prayers.

Education

Mr. Nathan Wingfield was introduced as the new Executive for Christian Education. Mr. Kevin Creutz served as the Interim Superintendent of Schools, providing a written report (*Workbook, pp. 82-84*). Mr. Wingfield addressed the delegates, sharing some brief personal history and asking the delegates in thanking those who served during the interim. He emphasized the importance of Christian education and asked for prayer for our teachers and schools.

President Stuckwisch introduced Mrs. Martha Peters, the new Christian Education Assistant.

Finance

Mr. Cody Dodson, Executive of Finance, addressed the delegates regarding his report (*Workbook, pp. 85-90; Supplement p. 226*). He commented further.

- He thanked Mrs. Diane Ottinger, the District Accountant, for her excellent work, which has resulted in a clean ("unmodified") opinion.
- He mentioned that grants are available for Student Debt Reduction for our pastors.
- He highlighted a new section on the district website (in.lcms.org) entitled "Church and School Administration."

President Stuckwisch gave a special thanks and recognition to Mrs. Lisa Slack, the District President Executive Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Ken Roemke, lay voting delegate from Monticello, IN was recognized by the chair, with a question, "When we have congregations failing, why are we looking at new starts?" President Stuckwisch and Rev. Robinson offered responses. Rev. Robinson encouraged Mr. Roemke to give his office a call.

President Stuckwisch reminded the delegates of the Closing Divine Service at 3:30 p.m.

Rev. Peter Brock, pastoral voting delegate from St. John-Bingen, Decatur, IN was recognized by the chair, who reminded the delegates of the potential situation where individuals from the same congregation are elected from the same congregation, but only one individual from a congregation can serve on a particular committee. It was also noted that if an individual is elected to more than one position, that person shall inform the convention of which office he or she will accept.

10:38 a.m. Nominations / Elections

Introduction of Nominees for Other District Offices (BOD, CCM, Nominations)

President Stuckwisch welcomed Rev. Scott Zeckzer, Chairman of the Elections Committee, back to the dais.

Prayer

Pr. Punke led the convention in prayer, asking for the Spirit's guidance in our elections.

Election of District Secretary, Treasurer, BOD, and committees*

Rev. Zeckzer presented the following nominees for District Secretary (*Supplement, pp. 183-198*).

Rev. Keaton Christiansen
Rev. Leonard Tanksley

Ballot for District Secretary

Rev. Keaton Christiansen 56.81% (121)
Rev. Leonard Tanksley 43.19% (92)

Rev. Keaton Christiansen was elected District Secretary.

President Stuckwisch announced to the delegates that Beth Maxwell will be appointed as Treasurer.

Rev. Zeckzer presented the following nominees for the Board of Directors (*Supplement, pp. 183-198*).

Northwest Region–Commissioned

Michele Doel 45.37% (93)

Rhonda Reimers 54.63% (112)

Rhonda Reimers was elected to the District Board of Directors.

Northeast Region–Commissioned
Darin Koenemann (unopposed)

Darin Koenemann was elected to the District Board of Directors by unanimous voice vote.

Central Region–Commissioned
Brian Krohmer 35.21% (75)
Carl Schulenburg 64.79% (138)

Carl Schulenburg was elected to the District Board of Directors.

Southern Region–Commissioned
George Denholm 45.07% (96)
Larry Tews 54.93% (117)

Larry Tews was elected to the District Board of Directors.

Northwest Region–Lay
Debra Albers 41.67% (95)
Eugene Matzat 58.33% (133)

Eugene Matzat was elected to the District Board of Directors.

Northeast Region–Lay
First Ballot
Jon Dize 27.8% (62)
Dennis Herman 36.77% (82)
Jared Lengerich 35.43% (79)
Second Ballot
Dennis Herman 55.45% (122)
Jared Lengerich 44.55% (98)

Dennis Herman was elected to the District Board of Directors.

Central Region–Lay
David Heinkel 61.93% (135)
Bob Hingst 38.07% (83)

David Heinkel was elected to the District Board of Directors.

Southern Region–Lay
First Ballot
James Brock 23.42% (52)
James Claybourn 40.09% (89)
Ronald Rieckers 36.49% (81)
Second Ballot
James Claybourn 56.68% (123)
Ronald Rieckers 43.32% (94)

James Claybourn was elected to the District Board of Directors.

Rev. Zeckzer presented the following nominees for the Nominating Committee (*Supplement, pp. 183-198*).

Northwest Region–Ordained
Rev. Joel Zipay (unopposed)

Rev. Joel Zipay was elected to the Nominating Committee by unanimous voice vote.

Northeast Region–Ordained
Rev. Keaton Christiansen (unopposed)

Rev. Keaton Christiansen was elected to the Nominating Committee by unanimous voice vote.

Central Region–Ordained
Rev. Seth Mierow (unopposed)

Rev. Seth Mierow was elected to the Nominating Committee by unanimous voice vote.

Southern Region–Ordained
Rev. Jason Reed 38.89% (84)
Rev. Robert Schneider 61.11% (132)

Rev. Robert Schneider was elected to the Nominating Committee.

Northwest Region–Commissioned
Diane Cruz 42.31% (88)
Michele Doel 57.69% (120)

Michele Doel was elected to the Nominating Committee.

Northeast Region–Commissioned
(vacant)

Central Region–Commissioned
(vacant)

Southern Region–Commissioned
Dave Ebeling (unopposed)

Dave Ebeling was elected to the Nominating Committee by unanimous voice vote.

Northwest Region–Lay
James Skibbe (unopposed)

James Skibbe was elected to the Nominating Committee by unanimous voice vote.

Northeast Region–Lay
Dennis Hermann (unopposed)

Dennis Hermann was elected to the Nominating Committee by unanimous voice vote.

Central Region–Lay
Nathaniel Prather (unopposed)

Nathaniel Prather was elected to the Nominating Committee by unanimous voice vote.

Southern Region–Lay
Beth Maxwell 45.33% (102)
Rick Snyder 56.67% (123)

Rick Snyder was elected to the Nominating Committee.

Rev. Zeckzer presented the following nominees for the Committee on Constitutional Matters (*Supplement, pp. 183-198*).

Ordained–At Large *(Elect 2)*
First Ballot
Rev. Nathan Janssen 58.68% (142)
Rev. Brian Nygaard 20.66% (50)
Rev. Leonard Tanksley 20.66% (50)
Second Ballot
Rev. Brian Nygaard 49.36% (114)
Rev. Leonard Tanksley 50.64% (115)

Rev. Nathan Janssen and Rev. Leonard Tanksley were elected to the Committee on Constitutional Matters.

Commissioned–At Large *(Elect 2)*
First Ballot
Jeff Huntington 27.44% (59)
Peter Meyer 38.14% (82)
David Schlie 34.42% (74)
Second Ballot
Peter Meyer 55.91% (123)
David Schlie 44.09% (97)
Third Ballot
Jeff Huntington 32.43% (72)
David Schlie 67.57% (150)

Peter Meyer and David Schlie were elected to the Committee on Constitutional Matters.

Lay–At Large *(Elect 2)*
First Ballot
Caleb Abshire 26.34% (59)
Michael Dobbs 33.93% (76)
Mary Hoppe 39.73% (89)
Second Ballot
Michael Dobbs 48.91% (112)
Mary Hoppe 51.09% (117)
Third Ballot
Caleb Abshire 30.28% (66)
Michael Dobbs 69.72% (152)

Mary Hoppe and Michael Dobbs were elected to the Committee on Constitutional Matters.

Open positions will be filled by appointment.

11:13 p.m. Greetings

Mark Muehl: LCMS Foundation

Mark Muehl, Indiana District Gift Planning Counselor, addressed the delegates and made a slide presentation on the work of LCMS Foundation. His report may be found in the Convention Workbook, pages 93-94.

T.J. Mattick: LCEF

T.J. Mattick, Indiana District Lutheran Church Extension Fund Vice-President, addressed the delegates and made a slide presentation on the work of LCEF. His report may be found in the Convention Workbook, pages 91-92. He made particular mention of LCEF's rebrand and adoption of a new mission statement.

11:35 p.m. Announcements & Meal Prayer

President Stuckwisch reminded the delegates that the District Executives will be available during the lunch break, asked the current Board of Directors to meet immediately after recess, and shared how one can make an offering via check for St. John-Bingen Home for Children. Pr. Punke led the delegates in the hymn "We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God" (*LSB* 941) and offered a prayer for the meal.

11:41 a.m. Lunch

The convention recessed for lunch at 11:41 a.m.

President Stuckwisch resumed the convention's business at 1:20 p.m.

1:20 p.m. "Local" Higher Education Greetings

CUC

President Stuckwisch welcomed to the dais Rev. Dr. Russell Dawn, President of Concordia University, Chicago, who greeted the delegates and updated them about the work of the university to train church workers and other laborers in the church. In particular, he spoke of CUC having a strong Lutheran identity and also the new initiative Prepared to Serve: Church Professional Guarantee—maximum tuition $5,000 per year, including all mandatory fees, for all new students.

CTSFW / CSL

President Stuckwisch welcomed to the dais Rev. Dr. Roland Ziegler, professor and representative of President Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Rev. Ziegler greeted the delegates and thanked the Indiana District for our partnership with CTSFW. He highlighted that our seminaries are unique among Protestant seminaries, providing pastoral formation for only our church. One of our seminaries' emphases is residential education in contradistinction to online programs. They remain committed to fidelity to Holy Scripture and the right administration of the Sacraments. He concluded by showing a video about CTSFW and CSL entitled "We Are Your Seminaries."

CUWAA

President Stuckwisch welcomed to the dais Dr. Josh LaFeve, who gave greetings from Concordia University, Wisconsin and Concordia University, Ann Arbor. He greeted the delegates and reminded them of the joint work of the universities and their joint values.

1:44 p.m. President Stuckwisch offered concluding comments. He reminded the delegates of the Divine Service at St. Paul's at 3:30 p.m. with Synod 2nd Vice President Rev. Benjamin Ball preaching. The Divine Service will include the installation of all those elected at this convention (with the exception of the District President, Regional Vice-Presidents, and District Secretary) and a memorial for St. John-Bingen Home for Children in Tanzania. Any newly elected members that are unable to be installed today will be installed in a service in September, yet to be scheduled. He gave thanks for all the delegates, the district staff and executives, and—above all—Jesus Christ, the true Vine. A basket is in the back for those wishing to make an offering for St. John-Bingen Home for Children.

1:48 p.m. Having completed all convention business, President Stuckwisch called for a motion to adjourn.

2025 Convention Motion – 6 To Adjourn
It was moved and seconded to adjourn the 2025 Indiana District—LCMS Convention.
Action: Passed unanimously by voice vote.

1:49 p.m. Responsive Prayer
President Stuckwisch invited Conference Chaplain Rev. Douglas Punke of Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, to the dais to conduct the Responsive Prayer 1 (*LSB* 282) and the hymns "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" (*LSB* 909) and "Lord of Our Life" (*LSB* 659).

Soli Deo Gloria

BYLAWS OF
THE INDIANA DISTRICT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

2025

PREAMBLE

The Indiana District is a district created by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (hereafter the 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. NAME

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

2. CONFESSION AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The confession and objectives of the District are the same as for the Synod (LCMS Constitution [Const.], Articles II and III).

3. CORPORATE SEAL

3.1 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."

4. DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

4.1 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.

4.2 The District is divided into regions consisting of designated circuits of the District. The District in convention establishes and emends the circuits that comprise the regions.

5. CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

5.1 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 (Synod Bylaw 4.1.1.2).

5.2 The Bylaws of the District (IN Bylaws) 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 prior to presentation to the District convention. Any amendments to these bylaws shall become effective

immediately upon, and only upon, the approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (Synod Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3; 4.1.1.2 [b]).

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

6. Membership

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

6.2 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.

7. Relationship between Members and the Synod/District (Synod Bylaws 1.3 – 1.4, 1.7 and 4.1)

7.1 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.

7.2 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.

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

8. Organization

8.1 District Meetings

8.1.1 Conventions

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

8.1.1.2 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.

8.1.1.3 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 (Const., Article XII.15).

8.1.1.4 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.

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

8.1.1.6 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 (Const., Article XII and Synod Bylaw 4.2.1).

8.1.1.7 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.

8.1.1.8 Electoral Circuits (Synod Bylaw 3.1.2)

Electoral Circuits are established by the District following the guidelines outlined in the Synod Bylaws. Electoral Circuits are established in order "to elect circuit voting delegates to the Synod's national conventions." A visitation circuit meeting bylaw requirements for congregation count and confirmed membership may itself be an electoral circuit. 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 (Synod Bylaw 3.1.2 [a]).

(a) Each electoral circuit shall meet at the call of the Circuit Visitor(s) in order to elect its voting delegates for the Synod's national convention.

(b) The privilege of voting shall be exercised by one pastor and one layperson designated by each member congregation or multi-congregation parish of the circuit.

(c) Congregations of a multi-congregation parish that are not contributing a lay voter may send an advisory representative, with voice but no vote. A pastor serving a congregation in an assisting capacity (Synod Bylaws 2.5.6, 2.13.1) is not eligible to cast that congregation's pastoral vote.

(d) Election of voting delegates shall follow the guidelines of the Synod Bylaws as outlined in Synod Bylaw 3.1.2.1.

(e) Voting delegates shall serve according to the prescribed guidelines of the position as outlined in Synod Bylaws 3.1.2 [d] and 3.1.2.2.

8.1.2 Circuit Forums (Synod Bylaw 5.3)

8.1.2.1 The Circuit Forum serves the purpose as outlined in Synod Bylaws, 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 Circuit Forum consists of one pastor and one layperson from each member congregation or multi-congregation parish designated by the congregation or parish. Congregations of a multi-congregation parish that are not contributing a lay voter may send an advisory representative, with voice but no vote.

(b) Additional representation, with voice but no vote, 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.

8.1.2.2 Functions

(a) To act as an electoral circuit in electing delegates to the Synod's national convention, provided the congregations of the visitation circuit meet the eligibility requirements (Synod Bylaw 3.1.2 (a), IN Bylaw 8.1.1.8);

(b) To select the Circuit Visitor following the Bylaws of the Synod (Synod Bylaw 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 Ministers 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 (Synod Bylaw 5.3.4); and

(g) To submit overtures to Synod and District conventions.

8.1.3 Convocations (Synod Bylaw 5.4)

8.1.3.1 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. 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.

8.1.4 Conferences (Synod Bylaw 4.8)

8.1.4.1 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.

8.1.4.2 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 Ministers 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 Executive of Congregational Services.

8.2 General Provisions for Officers, Board of Directors (B.O.D.), and Committees

8.2.1 Elected Officers and B.O.D.

8.2.1.1 Elected Officers (Synod Bylaws 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:

(1) The District President, nominated from the Ministers of Religion—Ordained roster of the Synod;

(2) Four Regional Vice-Presidents, one from each region, nominated from the Ministers of Religion—Ordained roster of the District with membership in a congregation of the respective region;

(3) A Circuit Visitor for each circuit established by the District, selected by the Circuit Forum and ratified by the District Convention; and

(4) A District Secretary, nominated from the Ministers of Religion—Ordained roster of the District.

(b) All officers and members of the B.O.D. and committees shall be members of member congregations of the District upon assuming office and, when appropriate, be members of congregations of designated regions of the District, during the course of their tenure.

(c) All officers and members of the B.O.D. and committees who are elected to represent a region of the District shall forfeit their position should they cease to hold membership in a congregation of the region to which elected.

8.2.1.2 B.O.D. and Elected Committees

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

(b) The Committee on Constitutional Matters

(c) The Committee for Convention Nominations

8.2.1.3 General Provisions for the B.O.D. and Elected 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 committees shall report regularly regarding their work to the B.O.D.

(d) The committees shall present their budget requests to the B.O.D. 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 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.

8.2.1.4 Membership of B.O.D. and Elected 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. The region of an individual is determined by the region of the congregation in which an individual holds membership (IN Bylaw 4.2). Members must maintain this regional membership "during the course of their tenure" (Synod Bylaw 4.3.3). No more than one person from one congregation may serve on the B.O.D. at the same time.

(b) The B.O.D. shall designate a representative to serve as an advisory member of each elected committee.

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

8.2.1.5 Organization of Elected Committees

Unless otherwise indicated:

(a) Each 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 committee shall normally meet at least three times a year. Special meetings may be called by the committee chairman or by the District President acting on behalf of the B.O.D.

(c) Two consecutive unexcused absences from any District committee, by a member, means automatic removal and he shall be informed in writing by the Secretary of the District.

8.2.2 Appointments

8.2.2.1 Appointments by the B.O.D.

(a) The Legal Counsel

(b) The Assistant Secretary

(c) The Treasurer

(d) The Auditor

(e) Reconcilers

8.2.2.2 Appointments by the District President

(a) Floor Committees and any necessary personnel for the District Convention

8.2.3 Term and Tenure

8.2.3.1 Terms of Office (Synod Bylaw 4.7.4)

The term of office of all elected officers of the District and all appointed positions, except of reconcilers, shall be three years. The term of office of reconcilers shall be six years.

(a) The 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 subsequent to September 1 following the convention. The Synod President or his representative shall induct the District President. The newly installed District President shall induct the regional Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and any other officers still to be inducted into office.

(b) In the interim, the newly elected President shall meet with the reelected and newly elected Vice-Presidents to assess the state of the District, to plan for the communication and carrying out of the resolutions adopted at the convention, and to assign areas of responsibility to the Vice-Presidents; he shall meet with the chairman and the staff supporting the committees to discuss their convention reports, to assess with them the financial support they will need; and he shall meet with the financial and administrative officers to assess the financial status of the District and the estimate of the financial resources available for the coming year.

(c) The newly elected officers, 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. Those who are not present at the Convention shall be inducted into office at a subsequent meeting, e.g. the orientation meeting or the first meeting, following the convention, of the B.O.D. or committee to which they have been elected.

(d) Incumbents shall serve until their successors assume office.

(e) No appointments shall be made and no new programs shall be initiated by the outgoing President or the B.O.D. or elected or appointed committees during the interim.

(f) Emergency action that demands immediate attention may be taken in consultation with and with the consent of the newly elected President.

8.2.3.2 Tenure and Transition

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

(1) If the President is not reelected or does not stand for re-election, he shall continue to receive full salary until the President-elect assumes office or up to a period of four (4) months following the close of the District Convention while rendering transitional service or until he accepts another full-time position or is no longer assisting the newly elected and inducted President as requested to become acquainted with the responsibilities of the office.

(2) After the four months following the close of the District Convention, the B.O.D. may allocate a stipend for the outgoing President until he accepts a full-time position or other arrangements for his future are made. The B.O.D. shall specify how long any such stipend may be received by the outgoing President.

(3) Before his successor assumes office, the outgoing President shall use the intervening time to settle the affairs of his administration and assist the newly elected President as requested to become acquainted with the responsibilities of the office.

(4) The newly elected President may continue to fulfill the responsibilities of his current call and receive his salary for that call during the four (4) months of transition. If the salary for that call is less than the amount the newly elected President will receive as District President, the District shall pay the newly elected President the difference so that his total salaries equal the amount he will receive as President.

(b) Regional Vice-Presidents, Circuit Visitors, and all elected members of the B.O.D. (with the exception of the District President) 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 (Synod Bylaw 3.2.4.2 [b]).

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

8.2.4 Removal of Officers of the District from Office

8.2.4.1 Cause for Removal from Office

Officers of the District shall discharge the duties of office in good faith. The following are considered cause for removal from office of an officer of the District pursuant to this Bylaw, but not from membership in the Synod:

(a) Incapacity

(b) Breach of fiduciary responsibilities to the District

(c) Neglect or refusal to perform duties of office

(d) Conviction of a felony

8.2.4.2 Procedure for Removal from Office

Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, the procedure for removal of an officer of the District from office shall be as follows:

(a) Action for removal of an officer of the District other than the District President shall require written notice to each member of the District's Board of Directors at least 30 days prior to a special meeting of the board called for that purpose. A copy of such notice shall be sent to the President and the Secretary of the Synod and to the ecclesiastical supervisor, if applicable (Synod Bylaw 1.5.8.1 [a]).

(b) The special meeting provided for herein shall be held no later than 60 days after the provision of the written notice, unless extended by the mutual agreement of the parties.

(c) Removal from office of an officer of the District, other than the District President, shall be effected by a vote in favor of removal by at least three-fourths of all current members of the District Board of Directors (excluding the officer in question if a member of the board).

(d) Removal pursuant to this bylaw may be appealed by the officer who has been removed from office through the use of the Synod's Dispute Resolution process as provided in Handbook section 1.10.

8.3 Officers

8.3.1 District President

8.3.1.1 Powers and Duties

(a) The District President shall serve as the full-time chief executive 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 (Const., Articles 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 a member of the B.O.D. He or his representative shall serve, ex officio, as an advisory member of all 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.

8.3.1.2 Areas of Responsibility (Const., Art. XII, and Synod Bylaw 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 with the B.O.D. retaining general management and supervision.

(2) He shall be responsible for the supervision of staff officers and shall help coordinate their activities with the B.O.D. retaining general management and supervision.

(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 for Christian Education in the preparation of lists for congregations and schools where vacancies exist in offices held by Ministers of Religion—Commissioned.

8.3.2 Vice-Presidents

8.3.2.1 Provisions and Duties

(a) Vice-Presidents shall be nominated and elected from the roster of Ministers of Religion—Ordained of the District with membership in a congregation in the respective region of the District (Synod Bylaw 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.

8.3.3 Secretary

8.3.3.1 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.

8.3.4 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.

8.3.5 Treasurer

8.3.5.1 The District Treasurer, who shall be a layperson, shall be appointed by the B.O.D.

8.3.5.2 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 a member of the District B.O.D.

(f) He shall perform such other duties as assigned by the B.O.D.

8.3.6 Board of Directors (B.O.D.)

8.3.6.1 Purpose

The B.O.D. shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the District's business and legal affairs that all be done to the glory of God and in the best interest of the Church (Synod Bylaw 4.5.1).

8.3.6.2 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.

8.3.6.3 Organization

The B.O.D. shall elect its own chair and vice-chair. The District Secretary shall be the secretary of the B.O.D.

8.3.6.4 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 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.

8.3.6.5 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, with the B.O.D. retaining general management and supervision.

(d) The B.O.D. shall coordinate with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund to secure the services of a Vice-President for the Fund's District program.

(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 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.

(l) The B.O.D. shall appoint any such committees, groups, task forces, and/or individuals mandated by the Synod and/or District Convention and those deemed necessary by the B.O.D. to accomplish the mission of the District. These shall include but are not limited to a committee, group, task force, and/or individual(s) responsible for stewardship, for ministerial health, for worship and spiritual care, and for pastoral care.

8.4 District Staff

8.4.1 Annual Review

District Executives 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.

8.4.2 Accountability

District Executives and other staff persons shall report regularly and/or be responsible to the District President, with the B.O.D. retaining general management and supervision, 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.

9. Special Services

9.1 Dispute Resolution

9.1.1 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 (Synod Bylaws 1.10.10–1.10.18.1).

9.2 Committee on Constitutional Matters

9.2.1 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 (Synod Bylaws 2.2.1 and 2.4.1).

9.2.2 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.

9.2.3 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."

9.2.4 Function and Duties

9.2.4.1 The Committee shall update the Bylaws of the District following each District Convention.

9.2.4.2 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 or the District Board of Directors (IN Bylaw 11.2) for vote.

9.2.4.3 The Committee shall be responsible for interpreting the Bylaws of the District when this is necessary.

9.2.4.4 The Committee shall examine and review all new and revised constitutions and bylaws of congregations, and it 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 (Synod Bylaw 2.4.1).

10. Nominations, Elections, Vacancies

10.1 Nomination and Election of District President

10.1.1 Nomination

10.1.1.1 Each congregation of the District may nominate two persons from the Ministers 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.

10.1.1.2 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.

10.1.1.3 A ballot containing the slate shall be prepared for the District Convention by the Election Committee under the supervision of the District Secretary.

10.1.2 Election

10.1.2.1 Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates.

10.1.2.2 The candidate receiving a majority of votes cast shall be declared elected.

10.1.2.3 In the election of the president, when a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the ballot (Synod Bylaw 4.7.3).

10.2 Nomination and Election of Vice-Presidents

10.2.1 Nomination

10.2.1.1 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 (Synod Bylaw 4.3).

10.2.1.2 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.

10.2.1.3 The three individuals receiving the greatest number of nominations from each region shall be placed on the Convention ballot. If one of the three nominees on a regional ballot shall have been elected District President at the same convention, the remaining two nominees shall constitute the ballot for Regional Vice-President for that region.

10.2.1.4 Information about each of the nominees shall be published along with other election information prior to the Convention.

10.2.2 Election

10.2.2.1 A slate containing the names of the nominees selected by the nominating procedure shall be prepared for convention election by the Election Committee under the supervision of the District Secretary.

10.2.2.2 Each delegate may cast a vote for one candidate on each regional slate. Candidates receiving a majority of votes cast shall be declared elected.

10.2.2.3 When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the ballot.

10.2.3 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 alphabetical 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, using the procedure described in Synod Bylaw 4.7.3.

10.3 Nomination and Election of Circuit Visitors

10.3.1 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 (Synod Bylaw 5.2).

10.4 Committee for Convention Nominations

10.4.1 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 (excluding the District President, Vice-Presidents, and Circuit Visitors), in accordance with the District and Synod Bylaws.

10.4.2 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.

10.4.3 Organization

10.4.3.1 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.

10.4.3.2 The Committee shall elect a chairman and a secretary and shall organize itself otherwise as it deems necessary to accomplish its function.

10.4.4 Function and Procedures

10.4.4.1 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.

10.4.4.2 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.

10.4.4.3 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.

10.4.4.4 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.

10.4.4.5 The Committee shall provide the delegates with the slate of nominees together with their biographical sketch and qualifications prior to the Convention.

10.4.4.6 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.

10.4.4.7 The Chairman of the Committee shall submit the Committee's report in person to the Convention during one of the first sessions.

10.4.4.8 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.

10.4.4.9 Incumbents who are eligible for re-election must be proposed for re-election.

10.4.4.10 Nominations for positions held by laity are to be members of member congregations of the District, and if the position requires, members of congregations 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, members of congregations 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 Ministers of Religion—Ordained roster of the District with membership in a congregation of the respective 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 committee positions 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, members of congregations of the appropriate region of the District.

10.5 Election Regulations

10.5.1 The Elections Committee

10.5.1.1 An Elections Committee shall be appointed by the District President prior to the District Convention.

10.5.1.2 The Committee shall acquaint itself with Bylaw regulations regarding nominating and election processes.

10.5.1.3 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 election.

10.5.2 Procedures

10.5.2.1 A majority of all votes cast by a district convention shall be required in every election to all elective offices and elective board positions. The following regulations shall apply:

(a) Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected.

(b) In the election of the president and the vice-presidents, when a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the ballot.

(c) In other elections, when a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot.

(d) In every election balloting shall continue until every position has been filled by majority vote.

10.5.2.2 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.

10.5.2.3 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.

10.5.3 Holding More than One Office (Synod Bylaw 1.5.1.2)

10.5.3.1 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.

10.5.3.2 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.

10.5.3.3 This rule, however, does not apply to persons

(a) elected to serve on the Committee for Convention Nominations for the District or for the Synod (Synod Bylaw 3.12.3)

(b) District reconcilers (Synod Bylaw 1.10.11)

(c) Hearing facilitators (Synod Bylaw 1.10.12.1)

10.5.3.4 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.

10.6 Organization

10.6.1 Organization of the B.O.D. and Committees

The B.O.D. and committees shall organize within four (4) months 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.

10.7 Vacancies

10.7.1 Office of the President

10.7.1.1 In the event of the death, retirement, resignation, or removal of the District President, the Vice-Presidents, in the order in which they have been ranked, advance to the President's place, with full power, until the next regular Convention elects and inducts a new President. His duties may be on a part-time basis only.

10.7.1.2 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.

10.7.2 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.

10.7.3 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.

10.7.4 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.

10.7.5 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.

10.7.6 Members of Committees

In the event of a vacancy in any other elected committee, such 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.

10.7.7 Vacancy Because of a Move

Any office, the election or appointment to which is contingent upon congregational membership in a given region, shall be considered vacant should the incumbent cease to hold membership in a congregation of that region. This office shall be filled according to the manner prescribed.

11. AMENDMENTS

11.1 Amendments to these Bylaws may be made, provided:

11.1.1 They are not contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod;

11.1.2 They are specified as Bylaw amendments and are submitted in writing to the District Constitution Committee prior to presentation to the Convention;

11.1.3 They are approved by the Synod's Commission on Constitution Matters prior to the action by the District Convention;

11.1.4 They are presented as overtures to the District Convention in the Convention Workbook and/or in Today's Business;

11.1.5 They are approved by a majority of the voting delegates at the District Convention; and

11.1.6 If adopted in a further amended, not pre-approved form, their adoption is subject to the procedure of LCMS Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 [b].

11.2 When necessitated by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise expressly directed by a resolution of the Synod in convention, amendments may be made by a two-thirds majority of the District Board of Directors. Such amendments shall be drafted by the District Secretary, in consultation with the District Committee on Constitutional Matters, and shall be approved in advance by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amendments shall be reported to the voting members of the District within one month of their adoption by the District Board of Directors and to the next District Convention.