

2018 CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS

78th Convention of the
Minnesota South District

“But you are a **chosen** race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may **proclaim** the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

1 Peter 2:9



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Minnesota South District

Cultivating leaders intentionally engaged in the mission of God

1	CONVENTION CHAIR.....	Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy
2		<i>President</i>
3		<i>Minnesota South District</i>
4		
5	CONVENTION SECRETARY.....	Rev. William Otte
6		<i>Secretary</i>
7		<i>Minnesota South District</i>
8		
9		
10	CONVENTION MANAGER	Mr. Rick Marko
11		<i>Treasurer / Business Manager</i>
12		<i>Minnesota South District</i>
13		
14		
15	SYNODICAL REPRESENTATIVE.....	Rev. Dr. Herb Mueller
16		<i>First Vice President</i>
17		
18	CONVENTION CHAPLAIN.....	Rev. Tom Stoebig
19		<i>Senior Pastor</i>
20		<i>Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Plymouth, MN</i>
21		
22		
23	BIBLE STUDY LEADER.....	Dr. Phillip Johnson
24		<i>Assistant to the President for Mission Formation</i>
25		<i>Minnesota South District</i>
26		
27		
28	CONVENTION ESSAYIST.....	Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz
29		<i>Executive Director</i>
30		<i>The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty</i>
31		<i>Washington, DC</i>
32		
33		
34	HOST CONGREGATION.....	Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
35		<i>Plymouth, MN</i>
36		
37	CONVENTION PARLIAMENTARIAN.....	Mrs. Darleen Harens
38		<i>Lakeville, MN</i>
39		
40		
41		
42		
43		
44		
45		
46		
47		
48		
49		
50		

1 **Thursday, June 21, 2018**

2 **SESSION 1**

3

4 **Registration (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)**

5 LCEF Hospitality Reception (1:00-5:00)

6 Display Booths Open

7 Convention and Floor Committee Hearings were held as needed from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00
8 a.m.

9

10 **Interest Centers**

11 The first round of Interest Centers was held from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Topics
12 presented were:

13 How a District Convention Works (Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, leader)

14 Planting New Churches (Rev. Dr. William Utech, leader)

15 ReVitality (Dr. Phil Johnson, leader)

16 Public Policy Advocacy (Rev. Fred Hinz, leader)

17

18 The second round of Interest Centers was held from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Topics
19 presented were:

20 Planting New Churches (Rev. Dr. William Utech, leader)

21 ReVitality (Dr. Phil Johnson, leader)

22 Public Policy Advocacy (Rev. Fred Hinz, leader)

23 Prison Ministry (Dr. James Seemann, leader)

24

25 **CONVENTION SESSION 1**

26

27 **Call to Order**

28 The seventy-eighth convention of the Minnesota South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
29 Synod was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by the President, Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, in the name of the Father
30 and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. He briefly explained the convention theme and logo.

31

32 **Opening Devotion (Rev. Tom Stoebig, Convention Chaplain)**

33 Rev. Stoebig led the devotion adapted from LSB p. 296, Daily Prayer. The devotion centered around 1
34 Peter 2:1-12

35

36 **Welcome and Report: Concordia University, St. Paul (Rev. Dr. Thomas Ries, President)**

37 President Nadasdy introduced Rev. Dr. Tom Ries, President of Concordia University, St. Paul, who
38 welcomed those attending the convention and reported on the status of the University. He noted that the
39 University is celebrating its 125th year of operation during the 2018-2019 academic year, with the theme
40 “Leading in Legacy.” Jane Wilke was invited to share information about Concordia’s activities. She
41 quoted CSP’s mission and promise statements.

42

43 **Constitution and Membership Committee (Rev. Harold Storm, Chair)**

44 15 District congregations had documents under review at the beginning of this triennium. The Committee
45 reviewed documents from 89 congregations during the past triennium, 17 of which were not
46 recommended for approval. There were 52 resubmissions. 12 documents are still in the review process.
47 Congregations should know how they are organized (315 or 317A). Documents should be reviewed and
48 updated as needed.

49

50 **Welcome of New Workers, Congregations, Church Starts, and Schools**

1 New workers and congregations were introduced,
2 pastors first, then commissioned workers, then
3 churches.

4
5 New Congregations:

6 River of Life Lutheran Church, St. Peter;
7 Rev. Tom Braun
8 Japanese Fellowship Church—Lutheran,
9 Minneapolis; Rev. Gen Hashimoto
10 The WHEREhouse Lutheran Church, St. Paul;
11 Rev. Aaron Unseth

12
13

14 New Ordained Ministers

15 (Candidate and Colloquy):

16 Rev. Thomas V. Aadland (Colloquy)
17 Peter T. Adelsen (Candidate)
18 Andrew A. Audette (Candidate)
19 Daniel E. Bodin (Candidate)
20 Adam E. Carnehl (Candidate)
21 Keaton G. Christiansen (Candidate)
22 Chuck S. Fenton (SMP)
23 John C. Hendrickson (Colloquy)
24 Richard X. Her (Candidate)
25 Nickolas Kooi (Candidate)
26 Jonathan D. Kuehne (Candidate)
27 Vue Lee (EIIT)
28 Yia S. Lor (EIIT)
29 Adam M. Matheny (Candidate)
30 Michael R. Mulso (SMP)
31 Robert L. Nikl (Colloquy)
32 Andrew H. Prin (Colloquy)
33 Paul L. Rieger (Candidate)
34 Tobias P. Schmidt (Candidate)
35 Chong T. Vang (EIIT)
36 Johnny Vang (EIIT)
37 Demelash O. Yoseph (Colloquy)

38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

New Commissioned Ministers
(Candidate and Colloquy):

Aislinn Anderson (Colloquy)
Anthony Engen (Candidate)
Kristi Bauer (Candidate)
Amanda Bergt (Candidate)
Jessica Blocker (Candidate)
Sarah Culbert (Candidate)
Sarah Dibbern (Candidate)
Andrew Dramstad (Colloquy)
AJ Ebersole (Colloquy)
Jennifer Erickson (Candidate)
Anna Gruen (Candidate)
Tori Kidd (Candidate)
Melissa Krieser (Candidate)
Michael Kutch (Candidate)
Suzanne Lagerwaard (Colloquy)
Kristi Larsen (Colloquy)
Lisa Martinson (Colloquy)
Emily Meyer (Colloquy)
Robert Orr (Colloquy)
Heidi Pawelk (Candidate)
Michael Ramthun (Candidate)
Anna Reincke (Candidate)
Elisabeth Rodriguez (Candidate)
Christopher Ryan (Candidate)
Nathaniel Schmidtke (Candidate)
Haidee Selle (Candidate)
Joshua Stenkyft (Candidate)
Laura Taranto (Candidate)
Mariah Thiessen (Candidate)
Amanda Winkelman (Candidate)

- 1 New Education Ministries:
- 2 Rosebuds Early Learning Center, Cottage Grove
- 3 Kingdom Kids Learning Center, Ham Lake
- 4 Beautiful Savior Child Development Center, Plymouth

5
6 A ukulele choir from the new Japanese Fellowship Church—Lutheran led the convention in singing the
7 following: “God is So Good” in English, Japanese, Hawaiian, Spanish, and German; and “A Mighty
8 Fortress” in English and Japanese.

9
10 **Registration, Credentials, and Attendance Committee (Rev. Tom Evans, Chair)**

11 Rev. Evans reported that at this time 11 volunteers, 59 Board of Directors members and Advisory
12 Delegates, 46 Guests and vendors, and 293 Voting delegates registered their attendance. The
13 requirements were met for a quorum. A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously by
14 voice vote to accept this report.

15
16 **Recognition of Missionaries and Armed Forces Chaplains and others**

17 The following individuals were recognized:

18
19 Eugene Bunkowske Missio Dei Award: Rev. Keith Brutlag

20
21 Outstanding Lutheran Educator Award: Ms. Michele Lukanen (2015), Ms. Marilyn Vollbrecht (2017)

22
23 School Shepherd Award: Rev. Timothy Booth (2015), Rev. Mark Johnson (2017)

24
25 Missionaries: Rev. Thomas Aadland; Rev. Timothy Beckendorf; Rev. Jacob Gillard; Ms. Johanna Heidorn;
26 Ms. Kayla Hoehm; Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram; Rev. Ryan McDermott; Ms. Rebecca Wagner

27
28 Armed Forces Chaplains: Rev. Robert Alsleben; Rev. Robert Burmeister; Rev. Chad Czischke; Rev.
29 Matthew Franke; Rev. Steven Frentz; Rev. Sol Grosskopf; Rev. Adam Hengst; Rev. Dr. Albert Kresken;
30 Rev. Howard Krienke; Rev. John Meyer; Rev. Mark Moss; Rev. Merlin Stephan

31
32 Specialized Ministry Chaplains: Rev. Dr. Gordon Bynum; Rev. Joel Haak; Rev. Martin Mueller (retired);
33 Rev. William Otte (retired); Rev. Nathaniel Schwartz; Rev. Joel Sund

34
35 Board of Directors (completed three consecutive terms): Mr. Randy Ash; Rev. Dr. Robert Gehrke; Rev.
36 William Otte

37
38 Circuit Visitors (have completed their service): Rev. Wayne Bernau; Rev. Thomas Evans; Rev. Lyle Fritsch;
39 Rev. Peter Gueldner; Rev. Timothy Marshall; Rev. Michael Mathews; Rev. Michael Michalk; Rev. Kevin
40 Oster; Rev. Dr. Brent Parrish; Rev. Evan Schiller; Rev. Michael Trask; Rev. Thomas Volker

41
42 District Staff Departures: Ms. Gae Ash (21 years); Ms. Linda Bradford (15 years); Mr. Kurt Fuhr (19
43 years); Rev. Dr. Mark Noren (6 years)

44
45 Police and Fire Chaplains:

46 Dr. Nadasdy invited pastors serving as Police Department and Fire Department chaplains in their
47 communities to come forward and be recognized.

48
49 Dr. Nadasdy also introduced Brent Smith representing Mission Central of Iowa, which is involved in
50 raising funds to support LCMS Missionaries.

1 **Introduction of Convention Parliamentarian**

2 Mrs. Darleen Harens was introduced as the Parliamentarian for the convention. She served as
3 Parliamentarian for the past nine Minnesota South District conventions. She read the Convention Rules.
4 A motion was made and seconded to adopt the convention rules as presented. The motion was carried by
5 unanimous voice vote.

6
7 **Adoption of the Revised Convention Agenda**

8 A motion was made and seconded to approve the revised convention agenda. The motion was carried
9 unanimously by voice vote.

10

11 **Introduction of Convention Participants**

12 Dr. Nadasdy introduced a number of guests: LCMS First Vice President Rev. Dr. Herbert Mueller,
13 representing the Synodical President; Dr. Phil Johnson, the Bible Study leader; Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz,
14 the convention essayist; Rev. Tom Stoebig, convention chaplain; Nancy Severeid, the convention
15 organist; Rev. William Otte, District Secretary; Rick Marko, convention manager.

16

17 **Stories of Proclamation Video, Convention Video 1**

18

19 **Convention Bible Study 1**

20 “Chosen to Proclaim” (Dr. Phillip Johnson, Assistant to the President for Mission Formation, MNS
21 District). The study was based on 1 Peter 2:4-11, with the theme “Chosen, Dressed, and Fit for His
22 Purpose”

23

24 **Convention Greetings**

25 Ms. Margaret Hesemann, President, MN South LWML (via video)

26 Mr. Kevin Bonine, President, MN South LLL (via video)

27 Mr. Bob LaCroix, Director, Camp Omega (greetings brought by Randy Ash)

28 Mr. Kai Larson, MN South LCEF Vice President

29 Rev. Bart Day, LCEF President & CEO (not able to attend—report given by Mr. Kurt Fuhr)

30 Mr. Matt Steiner, Planned Giving Counselor, LCMS Foundation

31

32 **Prayer Before Meal and Recess (Rev. Tom Stoebig, Convention Chaplain)**

33

34 **Stories of Proclamation Video, Convention Video 2**

35

36 **Convention Opening Service**

37

38 Host Congregation: Beautiful Savior, Plymouth, MN

39 Celebrant: Rev. Tom Stoebig

40 Preacher: Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

41 Coins for Missions Offering benefitting *To All Generations*

42

43 Memorial Observance of Departed Servants

44 Ordained Ministers:

45 Rev. Gerald “Gerry” J. Arndt

46 Rev. Dr. Eugene Bunkowske

47 Rev. Martin R. Cloeter

48 Rev. Norman E. Discher

49 Rev. Rodel J. Eberle

50 Rev. Norman W. Heidorn

- 1 Rev. Dr. Kenneth P. Kaden
- 2 Rev. Paul A. Klemp
- 3 Rev. Rev. Roger E. Klemz
- 4 Rev. Donald Knick
- 5 Rev. Paul E. Krohn
- 6 Rev. Donald W. Lau
- 7 Rev. James P. Lauer
- 8 Rev. Edward F. Lutz
- 9 Rev. Keith Meyer
- 10 Rev. Philip J. Meyer
- 11 Rev. Robert F. Myers
- 12 Rev. Dr. Michael Nirva
- 13 Rev. Gerald R. Peterson
- 14 Rev. George P. Raap
- 15 Rev. Dr. Donald E. Urbach
- 16 Rev. Gordon H. Vogt

- 17
- 18 **Commissioned Ministers:**
- 19 Deloris Dunk
- 20 Harold Kenow
- 21 Linda Landaverde
- 22 Frederic Nitschke
- 23 Barbara Westpfahl

24

25 Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy and Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison presented a token of appreciation to the families
26 of the faithful departed.

27

28 **Reception**

29 A reception hosted by Concordia University, St. Paul was held following the Convention Opening Service.

30

31 **Friday, June 22, 2018**

32 **SESSION 2**

33

34 Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy called Convention Session 2 to order at 8:02 a.m.

35

36 **Devotion (Rev. Tom Stoebig, Convention Chaplain)**

37

38 **Stories of Proclamation Video, Convention Video 3**

39

40 **Bible Study (2) (Dr. Phillip Johnson)**

41 1 Peter 2:9-10 "Declared To Be: For His Purpose!"

42

43 **Registration, Credentials, and Attendance Committee (Rev. Tom Evans, Chair)**

44 Volunteers 11; BOD/Advisory 65; Guest/Vendors 47; Voting Delegates 341. A motion was made,
45 seconded, and carried to accept the report by voice vote.

46

47 **Greetings**

48 Rev. Don Fondow, President of the Minnesota North District, brought greetings to the convention.
49 He talked about cooperative efforts between MNN and MNS in planting churches (Monticello and
50 Otsego). He outlined other areas of partnership between the two districts.

1
2 President Emeritus Rev. Dr. Lane Seitz, Minnesota South District, was unable to be present for the
3 convention. The Secretary read a letter of greeting from Dr. Seitz.

4
5 **President’s Address (Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy)**

6 President Nadasdy outlined many of the ministry steps that have been accomplished in the MNS District
7 during the past six years. He expressed concerns about the divisions within the LCMS on the synodical
8 level, and for the life of congregations. In spite of the concerns he outlined, he said he moves into
9 retirement with hope for the Church.

10
11 **Nominations from the Floor**

- 12 Board of Directors (Ordained) Region 1 – Rev. Tom Pfothenhauer
- 13 Board of Directors (Ordained) Region 3 - Rev. Lyle Fritsch
- 14 Board of Directors (Ordained) Region 4 - Rev. Dennis Heiden
- 15 Board of Directors Lay Southwest Minnesota East - Howard Brinkmann
- 16 Board of Directors Lay Southeast Minnesota East - Chris Kurth
- 17 CSP Board of Regents (Lay) - Lane Nordquist
- 18 District Nominations Committee (Ordained) - Rev. Richard Her
- 19 District Nominations Committee (Lay): Howard Luehmann, Holle Spessard, and Glenn Hardel

20
21 The nominations were declared closed.

22
23 **2018 Slate of Nominations**

24 Names are listed in the order in which they appear on the ballot. Unless otherwise indicated, delegates will
25 vote for one individual for each position listed.

26
27 **DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

28
29 **DISTRICT PRESIDENT (elect one)**

- 30 Rev. Dr. Robert J. Gehrke
- 31 Rev. Mark Tewes
- 32 Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford

33
34 **VICE PRESIDENT, REGION I (elect one)**

- 35 Rev. Thomas L. Evans
- 36 Rev. Christopher Horton
- 37 Rev. Timothy B. Vaughan

38
39 **VICE PRESIDENT, REGION II (elect one)**

- 40 Rev. David A. Kind
- 41 Rev. Dr. Brent L. Parrish

42
43 **VICE PRESIDENT, REGION III (elect one)**

- 44 Rev. Jesse Krusemark
- 45 Rev. David C. Mumme
- 46 Rev. Jon Vollrath

47
48 **VICE PRESIDENT, REGION IV (elect one)**

- 49 Rev. Thomas Braun
- 50 Rev. Rob Jarvis

- 1 Rev. Harold A. Storm
- 2 DISTRICT SECRETARY (elect one)
- 3 Rev. Lyle H. Fritsch
- 4 Rev. Keith Grimm
- 5 Rev. Dr. Lowell S. Sorenson
- 6
- 7 ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION I (elect one)
- 8 Rev. Christopher Horton
- 9 Rev. Tom Pfothauer
- 10 Rev. Timothy B. Vaughan
- 11
- 12 ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION II (elect one)
- 13 Rev. Paul Krentz
- 14 Rev. Leroy J. LaPlant
- 15 Rev. Steven J. Wheeler
- 16
- 17 ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION III (elect one)
- 18 Rev. Armand J. Boehme
- 19 Rev. Timothy A. Chase
- 20 Rev. Lyle Fritsch
- 21 Rev. Kirk Griebel
- 22 Rev. Matthew D. Lane
- 23 Rev. Jon Vollrath
- 24 Rev. Loel Wessel
- 25
- 26 ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION IV (elect one)
- 27 Rev. Dennis Heiden
- 28 Rev. Rob Jarvis
- 29 Rev. Gary Klatt
- 30 Rev. Russell Reed
- 31
- 32 COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (elect two)
- 33 Ms. Emily Anderson
- 34 Ms. Kristine Hanson
- 35 Mr. Leland Huebner
- 36 Mr. Joel Landskroener
- 37 Ms. Brenda A. Lovhaug
- 38 Mr. Daniel Maser
- 39 Ms. Jaclyn Ohmann
- 40 Ms. Faith Rattei
- 41
- 42 LAY, EAST METRO NORTH (elect one)
- 43 Mr. Virgil E. Rose
- 44 Mr. Daniel Thao
- 45
- 46 LAY, EAST METRO SOUTH (elect one)
- 47 Mr. Gary Elsesser
- 48 Mr. Wayne Gartland
- 49 Mr. Steve Smits
- 50



- 1
- 2 LAY, WEST METRO EAST (elect one)
- 3 Mr. Josh Christian
- 4 Ms. Tracy Eickhoff
- 5 Mr. Paul Hickey
- 6 Ms. Rosa Summers
- 7
- 8 LAY, WEST METRO WEST (elect one)
- 9 Mr. John R. Branstad
- 10 Mr. Bill Pierson
- 11
- 12 LAY, SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA EAST (elect one)
- 13 Ms. Sara A. Sorenson
- 14 Mr. Chris Kurth
- 15
- 16 LAY, SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA WEST (elect one)
- 17 Mr. J. Justin Benson
- 18 Mr. Jon Mielke
- 19 Mr. Dave Kenow
- 20 Mr. Leonard Marquardt
- 21
- 22 LAY, SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA EAST (elect one)
- 23 Mr. Benjamin Hagemann
- 24 Mr. Dale Krienke
- 25 Mr. Howard Brinkman
- 26
- 27 LAY, SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA WEST (elect one)
- 28 Mr. Neal Breitbarth
- 29 Mr. Daniel Uttech
- 30
- 31 BOARD OF REGENTS, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL
- 32
- 33 ORDAINED MINISTER (elect one)
- 34 Rev. Jeremiah Johnson
- 35 Rev. David Markworth
- 36 Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Olson
- 37 Rev. William Otte
- 38
- 39 COMMISSIONED MINISTER (elect one)
- 40 Ms. Susan Hewitt
- 41 Mr. Jason Koosmann
- 42 Mr. Joel Landskroener
- 43 Mr. Paul Steinhaus
- 44
- 45 LAY MEMBER (elect two)
- 46 Mr. James (Jimmy) W. Anderson
- 47 Ms. Jocelyn Benson
- 48 Mr. Miles A. Camp
- 49 Mr. Lane Nordquist
- 50

1 2021 DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

2

3 ORDAINED MINISTER (elect four)

4 Rev. Anders M. Davidson

5 Rev. Lyle H. Fritsch

6 Rev. Rob Jarvis

7 Rev. Kurt R. Klaus

8 Rev. Jesse Krusemark

9 Rev. Leroy J. LaPlant

10 Rev. Vue Lee

11 Rev. Travis J. Loeslie

12 Rev. Tyson Mastin

13 Rev. Michael Mathews

14 Rev. Matthew Rusert

15 Rev. Nathan J. Rusert

16 Rev. Paul Sajban

17 Rev. Richard Her

18

19 COMMISSIONED MINISTER (elect one)

20 Ms. Ruth E. Badciong

21 Mr. Joel Landskroener

22 Mr. Josh Hoffman

23

24 LAY MEMBER (elect four)

25 Mr. Steven C. Demlow

26 Mr. Bruce L. Manzey

27 Mr. Christian A. Preus

28 Mr. David O. Rowlands

29 Mr. Robert W. Schneider

30 Mr. Corey Wiederhoeft

31 Mr. Howard Luehmann

32 Ms. Holle Spessard

33 Mr. Glenn Hardel

34

35 **Orientation to the Electronic Response System (Rev. Rudy Maurer, Chair, Elections Committee)**

36

37 **Prayer for the Elections (Rev. Tom Stoebig)**

38

39 **Nominations and Elections Committees (Rev. Loel Wessel, Chair, Nominations Committee; Rev.**

40 **Rudy Maurer, Elections Committee)**

41

42 (Please note than an “X” in a results column indicates that a candidate received either the least number
43 of votes or less than 15% of the votes on a previous ballot. This follows the procedure mandated by Bylaw
44 3.12.4.2 of the 2016 LCMS Handbook.)

45

46 DISTRICT PRESIDENT

47

48 Gehrke Ballot 1 Ballot 2

49 Tewes 52 / 16.25% X

50 Woodford 122 / 38.13% 150 / 46.3%

146 / 45.63% 174 / 53.7 %

1 Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford was elected District President on the second ballot.

2

3 VICE PRESIDENT, REGION 1

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
4		
5	Evans 154 / 48.13%	177 / 54.97%
6	Horton 122 / 38.13	145 / 45.03%
7	Vaughan 44 / 13.75%	X

8 Rev. Thomas Evans was elected on the second ballot.

9

10 VICE PRESIDENT, REGION 2

11	Kind 153 / 47.22%
12	Parrish 171 / 52.78 %

13 Rev. Brent Parrish was elected on the first ballot.

14

15 VICE PRESIDENT, REGION 3

16	Krusemark 25 / 7.76%
17	Mumme 162 / 50.31%
18	Vollrath 135 / 41.93%

19 Rev. David Mumme was elected on the first ballot.

20

21 VICE PRESIDENT OF REGION 4

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
22		
23	Braun 145 / 45.75%	158 / 48.77%
24	Jarvis 39 / 12.3%	X
25	Storm 133 / 41.96%	166 / 51.23%

26 Rev. Harold Storm was elected on the second ballot.

27

28 RANKING OF VICE PRESIDENTS

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
29		
30	Evans 88 / 27.76%	108 / 33.23%
31	Parrish 57 / 17.98%	32 / 9.85%
32	Mumme 142 / 44.79%	185 / 56.92%
33	Storm 30 / 9.46%	X

34 Rev David Mumme was elected First Vice President on the second ballot

35

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
36		
37	Evans 142 / 43.69%	171 / 54.11%
38	Parrish 58 / 17.85%	X
39	Storm 125 / 38.46%	145 / 45.89%

40 Rev. Tom Evans was elected Second Vice President on the second ballot.

41

42	Parrish 146 / 46.79%
43	Storm 166 / 53.21%

44 Rev. Harold Storm was elected Third Vice President on the first ballot.

45 Rev. Dr. Brent Parrish will be the Fourth Vice President.

46

47 SECRETARY

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
48		
49	Fritsch 45 / 14.5%	X
50	Grimm 143 / 45.11%	167 / 52.85%

1 Sorenson 129 / 40.69% 149 / 47.15%

2 Rev. Keith Grimm was elected Secretary on the second ballot.

3

4 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ORDAINED MINISTER REGION 1

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
5		
6	Horton 121 / 38.54%	175 / 56.21%
7	Vaughan 72 / 22.93%	X
8	Pfotenhauer 121 / 38.54%	142 / 44.79%

9 Rev. Christopher Horton was elected on the second ballot.

10

11 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ORDAINED MINISTER REGION 2

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
12		
13	Krentz 54 / 17.48%	X
14	LaPlant 123 / 39.81%	150 / 48.86%
15	Wheeler 132 / 42.72%	157 / 51.14%

16 Rev. Steven Wheeler was elected on the second ballot.

17

18 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ORDAINED MINISTER REGION 3

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2	Ballot 3
19			
20	Boehme 26 / 8.36%	19 / 6.01%	X
21	Chase 20 / 6.43%	4 / 4.43%	X
22	Griebel 15 / 4.82%	X	X
23	Krusemark 21 / 6.75%	11 / 3.48%	X
24	Lane 18 / 5.79%	10 / 3.16%	X
25	Vollrath 75 / 24.12%	89 / 28.16%	143 / 45.4%
26	Wessel 86 / 27.65%	131 / 41.46%	172 / 54.6%
27	Fritsch 50 / 16.08%	42 / 13.29%	X

28 Rev. Loel Wessel was elected on the third ballot.

29

30 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ORDAINED MINISTER REGION 4

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
31		
32	Jarvis 104 / 33.02%	122 / 38.49%
33	Klatt 51 / 16.19%	35 / 11.04%
34	Reed 31 / 9.84%	X
35	Heiden 129 / 40.95%	160 / 50.47%

36 Rev. Dennis Heiden was elected on the second ballot.

37

38 **Comments by Newly-Elected President**

39 Dr. Nadasdy invited Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, newly-elected District President, to address the assembly.
 40 Dr. Woodford said that as he was elected, the words that came to mind were from Philippians 1. He
 41 thanked the convention for their faith and their partnership in the Gospel. He also thanked President
 42 Nadasdy for his service, especially as he focused on the two great centers of the church: confession and
 43 outreach. He asked for forgiveness and patience as he serves. His approach will be to love the Lord, love
 44 people, and love our Lutheran theology, in that order.

45

46 **Prayer and Recess (Rev. Tom Stoebig)**

47

48 **SESSION 3**

49

50 **Stories of Proclamation, Convention Video (4)**

1 Dr. Nadasdy announced that the convention service offering for the “To All Generations” totaled
2 \$6,076.97.

3
4 **Essay (1) (Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz, Executive Director, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty)**

5
6 **LCMS President’s Report (1) (Rev. Dr. Herb Mueller, 1st Vice President)**

7 Part of Dr. Mueller’s report included delegates viewing a video, which is available on the LCMS website.

8
9 **Nominations and Elections Committees (Rev. Loel Wessel; Rev. Rudy Maurer)**

10
11 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (elect 2)**

12
13 There was confusion and much discussion about how to carry out the voting for this position. A number
14 of ballots were attempted, prompting further confusion.

15
16 A motion was made and seconded to restart this election from the beginning, voting for only one
17 candidate at a time.

18
19 A motion was made and seconded to amend the above to state that this procedure be followed in all other
20 subsequent elections. The amendment was adopted.

21
22 A motion was made and seconded to end debate. The motion was carried.

23
24 The amended motion was adopted. A repeat of the election was required, to be conducted later.

25
26 **Floor Committee 1 - Missions (Rev. Mark Tewes, Chair)**

27 **Resolution 1-01**

28 To Thank the Lord of the Church for the Missional Voice of Dr. Eugene Bunkowske and to Commend
29 and Encourage His Missional Writings for District-Wide Study

30 The resolution was adopted.

31 Yes: 263 / 91.32% No: 25 / 8.68%

32
33 **Resolution 1-02**

34 To Affirm Planting New Churches as a Primary Means of Reaching New People for Christ.

35 A motion was made and seconded to strike the word “Primary” in the title of the resolution.

36 The amendment was adopted.

37 A motion was made to stop debate. The motion was seconded. The motion was carried.

38 The amended resolution was adopted.

39 Yes: 248 / 81.85% No: 55 / 18.15%

40
41 A motion was made and seconded to read only the “resolved” in resolutions presented for the rest of the
42 convention. The motion was carried.

43
44 **Resolution 1-03**

45 To Encourage Immigrant and Refugee Outreach.

46 The resolution was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

47
48 **Resolution 1-04**

49 To Expand Evangelistic Outreach on College Campuses.

50 The resolution was adopted.

1 Yes: 271 / 91.25% No: 26 / 8.75%

2

3 The work of Floor Committee 1 was completed with the thanks of the convention.

4

5 **Floor Committee 2: Theology & Church Relations (Rev. Keith Grimm, Chair)**

6

7 Resolution 2-01

8 To Embrace Our Ecumenical Duty

9 The resolution was adopted.

10 Yes: 232 / 79.45% No: 60 / 20.55%

11

12 Resolution 2-02a

13 To Reaffirm Six-Day Creation and the Official Position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

14 A motion was made and seconded to cease debate. The motion was carried.

15 The resolution was adopted.

16 Yes: 217 / 72.58% No: 82 / 27.42%

17

18 Resolution 2-03

19 To Commend and Encourage Concordia University, St. Paul (CSP) in its Lutheran Identity Statement

20 A motion was made and seconded to cease debate. The motion was carried.

21 The resolution was adopted.

22 Yes: 297 / 98.67% No: 4 / 1.33%

23

24 The work of Floor Committee 2 was completed with the thanks of the convention.

25

26 **Nominations and Elections Committees (Rev. Loel Wessel, Rev. Rudy Maurer)**

27

28 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMISSIONED MINISTERS**

29

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
30 Anderson	10 / 3.39%	X
31 Hanson	4 / 1.36%	X
32 Huebner	116 / 39.32%	170 / 56.74%
33 Landskroener	40 / 13.56%	X
34 Lovhaug	55 / 18.64%	64 / 20.98%
35 Maser	8 / 2.71%	X
36 Ohmann	8 / 2.71%	X
37 Rattei	54 / 18.31%	71 / 23.28%

39 Mr. Leland Huebner was elected as a commissioned minister on the second ballot.

40

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2	Ballot 3
41 Anderson	10 / 3.34%	X	X
42 Hanson	4 / 1.34%	X	X
43 Landskroener	122 / 40.8%	148 / 49.01%	161 / 53.49%
44 Lovhaug	45 / 15.04%	28 / 9.27%	X
45 Maser	10 / 3.34%	X	X
46 Ohmann	1 / .33%	X	X
47 Rattei	107 / 35.79%	128 / 41.72%	140 / 46.51%

49 Mr. Joel Landskroener was elected as a commissioned minister on the third ballot.

50

1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS LAY EAST METRO NORTH

2 Rose 137 / 45.67%

3 Thao 163 / 54.33%

4 Mr. Daniel Thao was elected on the first ballot.

5

6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS LAY EAST METRO SOUTH

7 Ballot 1 Ballot 2

8 Elsesser 130 / 44.52% 167 / 56.8%

9 Gartland 112 / 38.36% 127 / 43.2%

10 Smits 50 / 17.12% X

11 Dr. Gary Elsesser was elected on the second ballot.

12

13 BOARD OF DIRECTORS LAY WEST METRO EAST

14 Ballot 1 Ballot 2

15 Christian 32 / 10.88% X

16 Eickhoff 105 / 35.71% 117 / 40.07%

17 Hickey 24 / 8.17% X

18 Summers 133 / 45.24% 175 / 59.93%

19 Ms. Rosa Summers was elected on the second ballot.

20

21 BOARD OF DIRECTORS LAY WEST METRO WEST

22 Branstad 231 / 77.52%

23 Pierson 67 / 22.48%

24 Mr. John Branstad was elected on the first ballot.

25

26 BOARD OF DIRECTORS LAY SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA EAST

27 Sorenson 198 / 66.67%

28 Kurth 99 / 33.33%

29 Ms. Sara Sorenson was elected on the first ballot.

30

31 LAY SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA WEST

32 Ballot 1 Ballot 2 Ballot 3

33 Benson 82 / 27.8% 107 / 36.52% 146 / 49.49%

34 Mielke 48 / 16.27% X X

35 Kenow 92 / 31.19% 115 / 39.25% 149 / 50.51%

36 Marquardt 73 / 24.75% 71 / 24.23% X

37 Mr. Dave Kenow was elected on the third ballot.

38

39 LAY SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA EAST

40 Ballot 1 Ballot 2

41 Hagemann 141 / 47.47% 194 / 65.76%

42 Krienke 76 / 25.59% X

43 Brinkmann 80 / 26.94% 101 / 34.24%

44 Mr. Benjamin Hagemann was elected on the second ballot.

45

46 LAY SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA WEST

47 Breitbarth 162 / 54.36%

48 Uttech 136 / 45.64%

49 Mr. Neal Breitbarth was elected on the first ballot.

50

1 **Floor Committee 3, Congregational Services (Rev. Dr. Bob Gehrke, Chair)**

2

3 Omnibus Resolution C

4 The resolution was adopted.

5 Yes: 252 / 89.68% No: 29 / 10.32%

6

7 Resolution 3-01

8 To Affirm the Work of the To All Generations (TAG) Appeal

9 The Resolution was adopted.

10 Yes: 265 / 93.97% No: 17 / 6.03%

11

12 Resolution 3-02

13 To Expand Mission Awareness and Activity within the Minnesota South District

14 The Resolution was adopted.

15 Yes: 261 / 92.23% No: 22 / 7.77 %

16

17 Resolution 3-03

18 To Establish a Task Force to Assess Congregational Bible Study

19 The Resolution was adopted.

20 Yes: 217 / 77.5% No: 63 / 22.5%

21

22 Resolution 3-04

23 To Provide Safe Environments for Children and Youth

24 A motion was made and seconded to amend the resolution by inserting “bullying” after “child abuse” in
25 the third resolved. The amendment was adopted.

26 By a friendly amendment, the word “reduction” in the third resolved was changed to “prevention.” The
27 Committee agreed to the change.

28 The amended motion was adopted.

29 Yes: 269 / 94.06% No: 17 / 5.94%

30

31 Resolution 3-05

32 To affirm and Encourage Minnesota South District and LCMS Early Childhood Centers and Schools

33 The resolution was adopted.

34 Yes: 281 / 97.57% No: 7 / 2.43%

35

36 Resolution 3-12

37 To Establish a Special Committee for Excellence in Christian Education

38 A motion was made and seconded that the resolution be amended in the final resolved to insert after
39 “Committee report” “to the next convention.” The amendment was adopted.

40 A motion was made and seconded to amend the resolution by adding an additional resolved after the
41 third resolved, to read: “That the work of the committee be completed by the end of the next triennium,
42 and be it further...”

43 A motion was made and seconded to end debate on the amendment. The motion passed by voice vote.

44 The amended motion was adopted.

45 Yes: 166 / 58.45% No: 118 / 41.55%

46

47

48

49

50

1 **Floor Committee 4: Administration & Finance (Rev. Harold Storm, Chair)**

2

3 Resolution 4-03A

4 To Reduce the Number of Staff at the Minnesota South District.

5 The committee offered the resolution to the convention without recommendation, simply passing on an
6 overture which had been submitted to the committee.

7 A motion was made and seconded to adopt the resolution.

8 As part of the discussion, Dr. Nadasdy was asked his opinion on the resolution. He yielded the chair to
9 Dr. Bob Gehrke so he could speak from the floor. After his comments, Dr. Bob Gehrke yielded the chair
10 back to Dr. Nadasdy.

11 A motion was made and seconded to stop debate on the resolution. The motion to stop debate was
12 carried.

13 The motion to adopt the resolution was defeated.

14 Yes: 43 / 14.78% No: 248 / 85.22%.

15

16 **Closing Prayer and Recess (Rev. Tom Stoebig)**

17

18 **SESSION 4**

19

20 **LCMS President's Report (2) with Q & A (Rev. Dr. Herbert Mueller, 1st Vice President of the LCMS)**

21 Q: What about the new Dogmatics book?

22 A: Dr. Mueller has not read it yet. We needed a new Dogmatics because new issues have
23 happened in 100 years that needed to be addressed. He explained the new Dogmatics
24 structure and layout.

25

26 Q: If there is a big decline in membership coming, why might there be a comeback?

27 A: The prediction was based on the current age of LCMS membership. Suburban
28 congregations need to be challenged to reach out, perhaps with second sites.

29

30 Q: What is next for the Koinonia project?

31 A: SE District will use it in the next triennium. Other districts are trying to partner to use
32 it. Essentially, the Koinonia project has been turned over to the entire Praesidium.
33 Districts are primarily responsible to decide how to utilize the Koinonia project in their
34 own areas.

35

36 Q: Is there anything in the works to help congregations retain younger people, especially
37 by providing help for congregations to develop better websites for digital missions?

38 A: Developing websites and digital missions is something that will have to be developed on the
39 local scene.

40

41 Q: Are there any fellowship conversations in the works?

42 A: Informal discussions with the NALC, Wisconsin Synod, and ELS have been held. Other
43 conversations have also happened, with Madagascar, Ethiopia (more difficult challenges)
44 South Sudan, Indonesia are different Lutheran church bodies with whom some level of
45 talks are in place. Tanzania is asking for help with teaching, not with money.

46

47 Q: How do you use the new edition of Luther's Small Catechism with young people?

48 A: Emphasize the catechism itself, and use the other resources to supplement the actual
49 catechism.

50

1 Q: What is being done to support/help those who are on CRM status?
2 A: COP regularly goes through the CRM list to see if resolutions can be made, or what kind
3 of help can be given. One problem is that out of 499 CRM status people there are
4 probably 400 reasons for being on CRM.
5

6 A motion was made and seconded to change the orders of the day to allow for completion of elections
7 during the session tonight. The motion was carried by voice vote.
8

9 **Nominations and Elections Committees (Rev. Loel Wessel, Rev. Rudy Maurer)**

10
11 **CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL BOARD OF REGENTS ORDAINED**

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
12 Johnson	89 / 36.63%	133 / 55.88%
13 Markworth	31 / 12.76%	X
14 Olson	32 / 13.17%	X
15 Otte	91 / 37.45%	105 / 37.45%

16
17 Rev. Jeremiah Johnson was elected on the second ballot
18

19 **CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL BOARD OF REGENTS COMMISSIONED**

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2	Ballot 3
20 Hewitt	81 / 33.2%	106 / 43.62%	133 / 54.07%
21 Koosmann	20 / 8.2%	X	X
22 Landskroener	78 / 31.97%	88 / 36.21%	113 / 47.2%
23 Steinhaus	65 / 26.64%	49 / 20.16%	X

24
25 Ms. Susan Hewitt was elected on the third ballot.
26

27 **CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL BOARD OF REGENTS LAY (Position 1)**

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
28 Anderson	69 / 28.4%	71 / 28.98%
29 Benson	115 / 47.33%	146 / 59.59%
30 Camp	14 / 5.76%	X
31 Nordquist	45 / 18.52%	28 / 11.43%

32
33 Ms. Jocelyn Benson was elected to the first lay position on the second ballot.
34

35 **CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL BOARD OF REGENTS LAY (Position 2)**

36 Anderson	137 / 56.85%
37 Nordquist	59 / 24.48%
38 Camp	45 / 18.67%

39 Mr. James (Jimmy) Anderson was elected to the second lay position on the first ballot.
40

41 **DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE ORDAINED (elect 4)**
42

43 After much confusion over voting procedures, a number of ballots were considered invalid.

44 A motion to use a paper ballot was defeated.

45 A motion was made and seconded to end debate on this motion. The motion was carried.

46 The motion was defeated.

47 After several candidates withdrew their names, and after clarification of voting procedures, another ballot
48 was taken, with the following results:
49
50

1 DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE ORDAINED (Position 1)

2 After a confusing series of ballots, all but two candidates were eliminated. The following final ballot was
3 conducted:

4	Jarvis	110 / 45.27%
5	Klaus	133 / 54.73%

6 Rev. Kurt Klaus was elected to the first ordained minister position on the final ballot.

7
8 DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE ORDAINED (Position 2)

9		Ballot 1	Ballot 2
10	Davidson	42 / 17.28%	83 / 35.02%
11	Jarvis	96 / 39.51%	154 / 64.98%
12	Krusemark	11 / 4.53%	X
13	Lee	34 / 13.99%	X
14	Loeslie	9 / 3.7%	X
15	Mathews	10 / 4.12%	X
16	M. Rusert	3 / 1.23	X
17	N. Rusert	4 / 1.65%	X
18	Sajban	13 / 5.35%	X
19	Her	21 / 8.64%	X

20 Rev. Rob Jarvis was elected to the second ordained minister position on the second ballot.

21
22 DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE ORDAINED (Position 3)

23		Ballot 1	Ballot 2
24	Davidson	80 / 34.04%	131 / 55.75%
25	Krusemark	51 / 21.7%	104 / 44.26%
26	Lee	30 / 12.77%	X
27	Loeslie	11 / 4.68%	X
28	Mathews	14 / 5.96%	X
29	M. Rusert	4 / 1.7%	X
30	N. Rusert	7 / 2.98%	X
31	Sajban	23 / 9.79%	X
32	Her	15 / 6.38%	X

33 Rev. Anders Davidson was elected to the third position on the second ballot.

34
35 DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE ORDAINED (Position 4)

36		Ballot 1	Ballot 2
37	Krusemark	103 / 43.46%	127 / 53.36%
38	Lee	75 / 31.65%	111 / 46.64%
39	Loesle	10 / 4.22%	X
40	Mathews	16 / 6.75%	X
41	M. Rusert	2 / 0.84%	X
42	N. Rusert	2 / 0.84%	X
43	Sajban	13 / 5.49%	X
44	Her	16 / 6.75%	X

45 Rev. Jesse Krusemark was elected to the fourth position on the second ballot.

46
47 DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE COMMISSIONED MINISTER

48		Ballot 1	Ballot 2
49	Badciong	50 / 21.1%	X
50	Landskroener	112 / 47.26%	137 / 59.31%

1 Hoffman 74 / 31.65% 94 / 40.69%

2 Mr. Joel Landskroener was elected on the second ballot.

3

4 DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE LAY MEMBER (Position 1)

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
5		
6 Demlow	22 / 9.32%	X
7 Manzey	47 / 19.92%	85 / 36.48%
8 Preus	91 / 38.56%	148 / 63.52%
9 Rowlands	12 / 5.08%	X
10 Schneider	7 / 2.97%	X
11 Wiederhoeft	8 / 3.39%	X
12 Luehmann	10 / 4.24%	X
13 Spessard	33 / 13.98%	X
14 Hardel	6 / 2.54%	X

15 Mr. Christian Preus was elected to position 1 on the second ballot.

16

17 DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE LAY MEMBER (Position 2)

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
18		
19 Demlow	18 / 7.76%	X
20 Manzey	100 / 43.1%	142 / 62.28%
21 Rowlands	48 / 10.69%	86 / 37.72%
22 Schneider	6 / 2.59%	X
23 Wiederhoeft	15 / 6.47%	X
24 Luehmann	8 / 3.45%	X
25 Spessard	30 / 12.93%	X
26 Hardel	7 / 3.02	X

27 Mr. Bruce Manzey was elected to position 2 on the second ballot.

28

29 DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE LAY MEMBER (Position 3)

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
30		
31 Demlow	16 / 6.9%	X
32 Rowlands	90 / 38.79%	121 / 52.16%
33 Schneider	14 / 6.03%	X
34 Wiederhoeft	10 / 4.31%	X
35 Luehmann	11 / 4.74%	X
36 Spessard	82 / 35.34%	111 / 47.84%
37 Hardel	9 / 3.88%	X

38 Mr. David Rowlands was elected to the third position on the second ballot.

39

40 A motion was made and seconded to extend the time of the session until the elections are completed. The
41 motion was carried by voice vote.

42

43 DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE LAY MEMBER (Position 4)

44 Demlow	18 / 7.53%
45 Schneider	13 / 5.44%
46 Wiederhoeft	52 / 21.76%
47 Luehmann	5 / 2.09%
48 Spessard	146 / 61.09
49 Hardel	5 / 2.09%

50 Ms. Holle Spessard was elected to the fourth position on the first ballot.

1 The Nominations Committee and the Elections Committee completed their work with the thanks of the
2 convention.

3
4 **Closing Prayer (Rev. Tom Stoebig, Convention Chaplain)**

5
6 **Saturday, June 23, 2018**
7 **SESSION 5**

8
9 **To All Generations Celebration**

10
11 Led by Tom Stoebig. President Nadasdy preached for the service. Drs. Bob and Lynn Gehrke were
12 thanked for their service as co-chairs of the appeal.

13
14 **Bible Study (3) (Dr. Phillip Johnson)**
15 “Chosen to Proclaim!” based on 1 Peter 2:9

16
17 **Floor Committee 4: Administration & Finance (Rev. Harold Storm, Chair)**

18
19 Resolution 4-01
20 To Amend Selected Articles and Bylaws of the MNS District of the LCMS

21 The resolution was adopted.
22 Yes: 216 / 98.63% No: 3 / 1.67%

23
24 Resolution 4-02
25 To Make the To All Generations (TAG) Fund a Permanent Designated Restricted Account

26 The resolution was adopted.
27 Yes: 206 / 93.64% No: 14 / 6.36%

28
29 Resolution 4-04
30 To Memorialize Synod to Implement Term Limits for the Synod President and First Vice-President.

31 The resolution was adopted.
32 Yes: 135 / 60% No: 90 / 40%

33
34 Resolution 4-05
35 To Allow All Congregations in a Multi-Congregation Parish to have a Lay Voting Delegate at District

36 Conventions.
37 A friendly amendment was approved by the floor committee to change the title to read “To study
38 allowing...”

39 A motion was made and seconded to end debate on the resolution. The motion was carried.
40 The resolution was adopted.
41 Yes: 170 / 76.23% No: 53 / 23.77%

42
43 Resolution 4-06
44 To Affirm Balanced Governance for Concordia University System (CUS) Institutions.

45 The resolution was adopted.
46 Yes: 195 / 90.7% No: 20 / 9.3%

47
48 The work of Floor Committee 4 was completed with the thanks of the convention.

49
50

1 **Floor Committee 5: Worker Wellness (Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, Chair)**

2

3 Resolution 5-01

4 To Give Thanks to God for District President Nadasdy

5 A motion was made and seconded to amend the third “Resolved” to bestow the title of President Emeritus
6 on Dr. Nadasdy. The amendment was adopted.

7 The amended motion was adopted by acclamation with the convention rising to sing the Common
8 Doxology.

9

10 Resolution 5-02

11 To Commend and Encourage Synod President Harrison

12 The resolution was adopted unanimously by voice vote.

13

14 Resolution 5-05

15 To Give Thanks for the service of 1st Vice President Herbert C. Mueller

16 A motion was made and seconded to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted unanimously
17 by voice vote. Rev. Tom Stoebig, Convention Chaplain, offered a prayer of thanks for Dr. Mueller.

18

19 Resolution 5-03

20 To Encourage Congregations in the Support of Church Workers

21 The resolution was adopted unanimously by voice vote.

22

23 Resolution 5-04

24 To Equip Congregations to Care for their Church Workers and Families

25 The resolution was adopted.

26 Yes: 210 / 95.45% No: 10 / 4.55%

27

28 The work of Floor Committee 5 was completed with the thanks of the convention.

29

30 **Floor Committee 6: Church & Culture (Rev. David Mumme, Chair)**

31

32 Resolution 6-01

33 To Oppose Physician-Assisted Suicide and Support Enhanced Palliative Care

34 A motion was made and seconded to strike the words in the title of the resolution “and support enhanced
35 palliative care,” also to amend by striking in lines 47-48 the words: “and by providing easily accessible and
36 effective palliative care to those who are suffering;” and to remove in fourth resolved from lines 16 and 17
37 the words: “and advocating for better palliative care in Minnesota.” The amendment was adopted by a
38 vote of yes: 176 (79.64%); no: 45 (20.36%). The amendment was adopted.

39 The amended motion was adopted.

40 Yes: 203 / 92.69% No: 16 / 7.31%

41

42 Resolution 6-02

43 To encourage Elected Minnesota Leaders to Enact Education Funding Policy Changes to Reflect the
44 Trinity Lutheran Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) Ruling

45 A friendly amendment was proposed in line nine to substitute “enabling” in place of the word
46 “providing.” The Floor Committee approved the friendly amendment.

47 A motion was made and seconded to end debate on the motion. The motion was carried.

48 The amended resolution was adopted.

49 Yes: 191 / 86.14% No: 31 / 13.96%

50

1 Resolution 6-03
2 To Resist the Increasing Influence of the Gnostic Heresy.
3 The resolution was adopted.
4 Yes: 205 / 96.7% No: 7 / 3.3%

5
6 Resolution 6-04
7 To Memorialize the LCMS to Delineate its Position on Commercial Surrogacy
8 A clarification was made by the floor committee that this resolution would be directed to the President of
9 the Synod.
10 The resolution was adopted.
11 Yes: 199 / 95.22% No: 10 / 4.78%

12
13 The work of Floor Committee 6 was completed with the thanks of the convention.

14
15 **Floor Committee 3 resumed its work.**

16
17 The committee proposed to bundle Resolutions 3-06A, 3-07, 3-08, and 3-11 to be voted on as a package.
18 The package was called the Catechesis Bundle.

19
20 Resolution 3-06A [Overtures 3-06; 3-15]

21 To Develop a General Confessional Ethos in Our Congregations

22 A number of friendly amendments were proposed for this resolution, which were accepted by the
23 committee. These amendments are reflected in the text of the Resolution as included with these
24 proceedings.

25
26 Yes: 188 / 90.38% No: 20 / 9.62%

27 This resolution was adopted as part of the Catechesis Bundle,

28
29 Resolution 3-07 [Overture 3-08]

30 To Encourage Congregations toward Retention of Members through Thorough Catechesis

31 The Committee approved a friendly amendment to line 50 of the resolution to add the word “other” to the
32 fourth “resolved” to read “and other parts of the Lutheran Confessions.”

33 Yes: 188 / 90.38% No: 20 / 9.62%

34 This resolution was adopted as part of the Catechesis Bundle.

35
36 Resolution 3-08 [Overture 3-10]

37 To Encourage Families to Teach the Lutheran Faith with an Eye Toward Lutheran Mission

38 Yes: 188 / 90.38% No: 20 / 9.62%

39 This resolution was adopted as part of the Catechesis Bundle.

40
41 Resolution 3-11 [Overture 3-13]

42 To Encourage Congregations of the Minnesota South District (MNS) to Help Parents in their Duty to
43 Pass on the Faith

44 A motion was made and seconded to end debate on the package of resolutions. The motion to end debate
45 was carried by voice vote.

46
47 The Catechesis Bundle was adopted.

48 Yes: 188 / 90.38% No: 20 / 9.62%

49
50 **Convention Essay (2) (Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz)**

1 The President asked the assembly to vote to extend the orders of the day until 12:30 p.m. in order to
2 complete convention business. The assembly by voice vote agreed to comply with this request.

3
4 **Registration and Credentials Committee (Rev. Tom Evans)**

5 The final registration numbers are: Volunteers 11; BOD/Advisory 68; Guest/Vendors 49; Voting
6 Delegates 337, for a total attendance of 465.

7 A motion was made and seconded to approve the report. The motion was carried.

8
9 **Ratification of Slate of Circuit Visitors**

10 The list of newly-elected Circuit Visitors appears on p. 170 of the Convention Workbook. The only change
11 from that listing is that Rev. Loel Wessel was elected to the Board of Directors, and thus is not able to
12 serve as Circuit Visitor for the Austin Circuit. Rev. Jesse Krusemark was elected to take his place as the
13 Austin Circuit Visitor.

14
15 The President asked for a vote to affirm the election of Circuit Visitors for the 2018-2021 triennium. The
16 list was affirmed by voice vote.

17
18 **Report of Election of Advisory Delegates to the 2019 Synodical Convention**

19 Advisory Ordained Minister Delegates: Rev. William Otte and Rev. Dr. Gordon Bynum

20 Alternate Ordained Minister Delegates: Rev. Don Taylor

21 Commissioned Minister Delegates: Randy Ash, Sue Hewitt, Brenda Lovhaug, and Dean Scheele

22 Alternate Commissioned Minister Delegates: Jeff Boehlke, Dr. Phil Johnson, Kelly Lamkin, and Joel
23 Landskroener

24
25 Expressions of thanks for faithful service were extended to:

26 Board of Directors members who served three consecutive complete terms and thus were not
27 eligible to continue serving in that office: Rev. Dr. Bob Gehrke, Vice President; Randy Ash,
28 Commissioned Minister; and Rev. William Otte, Secretary.

29
30 Board of Directors members who were not re-elected or who chose not to serve again: Rev. Tom Braun,
31 Davin Quiram, Virgil Rose, Rev. Mark Tewes, and Rev. Jon Vollrath.

32
33 District staff who are leaving were also thanked by name and pastors completing terms as Circuit
34 Visitors were acknowledged by name.

35
36 **Floor Committee #3 resumed its work.**

37
38 Resolution 3-09 (Overture 3-10)

39 To Take Further Steps in the Retention of College Students in MNS District Congregations.

40 The resolution was adopted.

41 Yes: 156 / 97.5% No: 4 / 2.5%

42
43 Resolution 3-10

44 To Prepare the Children of Minnesota South (MNS) District Congregations for a Potentially Difficult
45 Transition to a Lonely Witness

46 The committee placed this resolution before the convention with no recommendation for how to deal with
47 it. There was no action on the resolution.

48
49 This concluded the work of Floor Committee 3 and the work of the convention.

50

1 **Closing Worship and Installation of Officers (Rev. Tom Stoebig, Rev. Dr. Herb Mueller)**

2

3 First Vice-President Herbert Mueller installed Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford as the new President of the MNS
4 District. President Woodford then installed the MNS vice presidents, Circuit visitors, and BOD members.
5 Chaplain Stoebig closed with prayer and blessing.

6

7 The Convention was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

8

9 Respectfully submitted,

10 Rev. William H. Otte, District Secretary

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

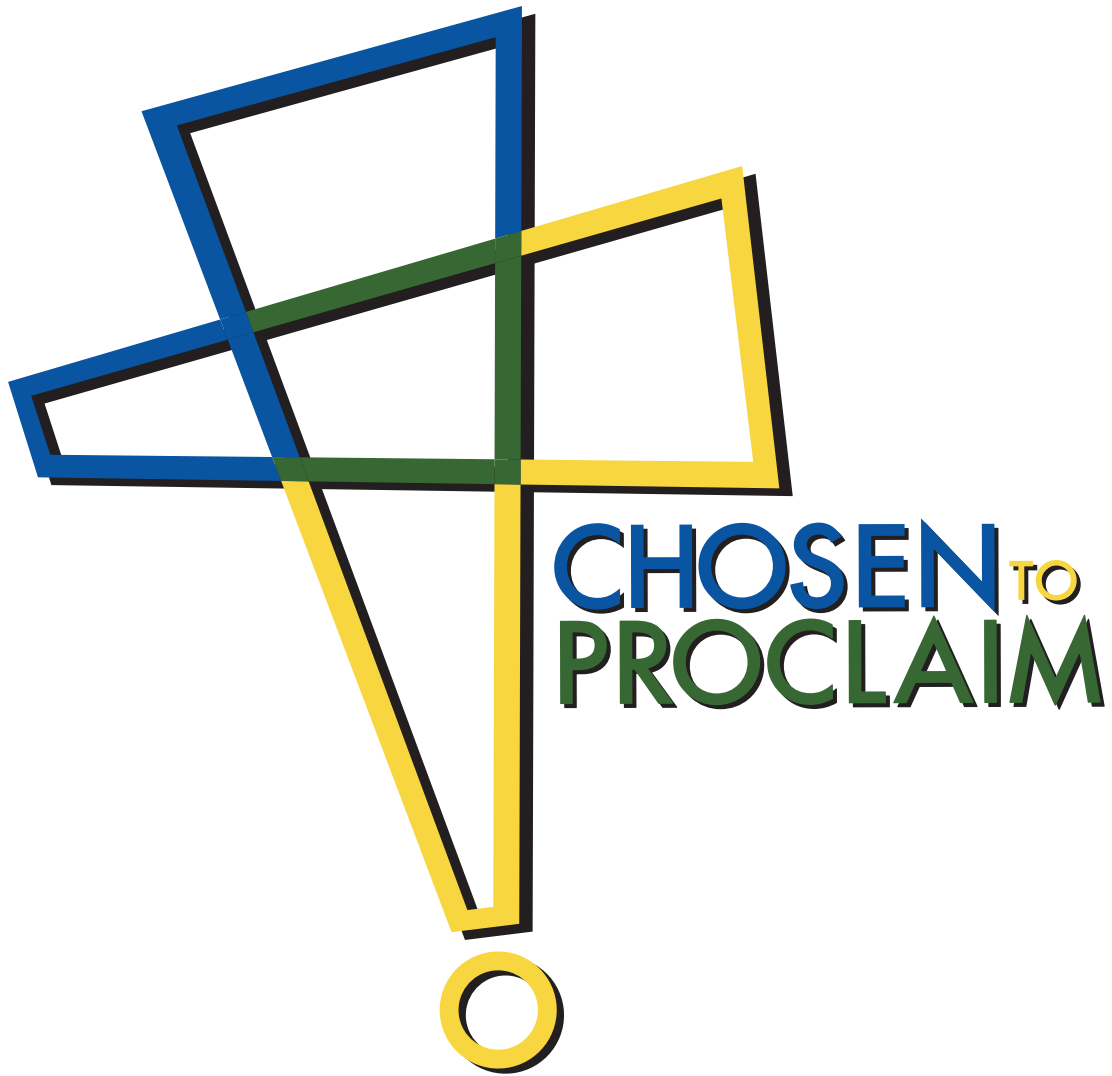
47

48

49

50





2018 ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

78th Convention of the
Minnesota South District

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

Omnibus Resolution C [Overture 3-7]

To Request the Minnesota South District for Help in Passing on the Lutheran Faith

Declined due to opposition to District Handbook 4.11.3.1 (Assistants to the President)

Vote: Yes: 252 / 89.68% No: 29 / 10.32%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 3.

Resolution 1-01

To Thank the Lord of the Church for the Missional Voice of Dr. Eugene Bunkowske and to Commend and Encourage His Missional Writings for District-Wide Study

WHEREAS, Holy Scripture proclaims, “Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!” (Psalm 96:2-3); and

WHEREAS, throughout his years of service to the Lord of the Church, Rev. Dr. Eugene Bunkowske proclaimed the message of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord to peoples around the world; and

WHEREAS, pastors and congregations will benefit in their understanding of the mission of God (Great Commission) through the reading, study, and discussion of Dr. Bunkowske’s writings; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Minnesota South (MNS) District make available a collection of Dr. Bunkowske’s writings to pastors and congregations that will benefit them in their understanding of the Mission of God and their involvement in it; and be it finally

Resolved, That the MNS District in convention thank the Lord of the Church for the missional voice of Dr. Bunkowske by standing and singing together the Common Doxology.

Yes: 263 / 91.32% No: 25 / 8 .68%

Resolution 1-01 was adopted during Convention Session 3.

Resolution 1-02

To Affirm Planting New Churches as a Means of Reaching New People for Christ

WHEREAS, in Holy Scripture we read “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?” (Romans 10:13-14); and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that new churches often reach people whom existing churches have been unable to reach because the focus of the new church plant is often on those who are in a different demographic than existing churches; and

1
2 WHEREAS, new churches are often able to reach the unchurched because their focus is on reaching out
3 to those who are not participating in any church; therefore be it
4 *Resolved*, That the Minnesota South (MNS) District strongly encourage and support the planting of
5 new churches in the District; and be it further
6

7 *Resolved*, That the MNS District continue to study and affirm the development and implementation
8 of strategies to launch new churches in Minnesota; and be it finally
9

10 *Resolved*, That congregations be encouraged to support the start of new churches in their areas to
11 effectively and efficiently reach the unchurched for Christ.
12

13 Yes: 248 / 81.85% No: 55 / 18.15%

14 The resolution was adopted during Session 3.
15

16 **Resolution 1-03 [Overture 1-01]**
17

18 **To Encourage Immigrant and Refugee Outreach**
19

20 WHEREAS, Holy Scripture tells us, “God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of
21 the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4); and
22

23 WHEREAS, refugees, immigrants, and people from many cultures are in our schools and in our
24 neighborhoods; and
25

26 WHEREAS, many congregations need special assistance to reach out to people in the changing
27 communities around their churches; therefore be it
28

29 *Resolved*, That the Minnesota South District continue to encourage and support new immigrant
30 and refugee outreach by identifying new leaders from within these refugee and immigrant
31 communities and cultivating them to be intentionally engaged in the mission of God; and be
32 it further
33

34 *Resolved*, That congregations be encouraged to witness to immigrants and refugees; and be it further
35

36 *Resolved*, That congregations be encouraged to make such outreach a high priority in all activities;
37 and be it finally
38

39 *Resolved*, That congregations be encouraged to seek strategic partnerships with other Lutheran
40 Church—Missouri Synod congregations and mission organizations that can help them be
41 more effective in these outreach activities.
42

43 The resolution was adopted unanimously by voice vote during Convention Session 3.
44

45 **Resolution 1-04 [Overture 1-02]**
46

47 **To Expand Evangelistic Outreach on College Campuses**
48

49 WHEREAS, the Scriptures urge the people of God to give intentional witness to the hope they have
50 (Matthew 28:18-20, John 20:21, Acts 1:8, 1 Peter 3:15, etc.) so that others might be brought

1 into the holy Christian Church; and

2
3 WHEREAS, more than 65 post-secondary schools are located within the communities of the Minnesota
4 South (MNS) District; and

5
6 WHEREAS, reaching college students presents both a difficult challenge and an immense opportunity for
7 extending the kingdom of God; and

8
9 WHEREAS, during the first year of the last triennium, the MNS Missions Committee approved and the
10 MNS Board of Directors adopted a comprehensive campus ministry plan that called for
11 the training of lay evangelists who will bear Christ in their vocations on their campuses;
12 therefore be it

13
14 *Resolved,* That the MNS District gathered in convention encourage MNS congregations and their
15 pastors located on or near university campuses to intentionally identify individuals who are
16 gifted by God to potentially serve as campus evangelists; and be it further

17
18 *Resolved,* That the Missions Committee, in consultation with the Campus Ministry Sub-Committee,
19 organize and sponsor campus ministry summits and conferences that provide tools and
20 resources for informing, educating, and training these potential evangelists; and be it finally

21
22 *Resolved,* That MNS District congregations that identify and raise up a campus evangelist be
23 encouraged to apply for a MNS District campus ministry grant to help fund, for a limited
24 time, its new evangelist and new evangelistic campus ministry efforts.

25
26 Yes: 271 / 91.25% No: 26 / 8.75%

27 The resolution was adopted during Session 3.

28
29 **Resolution 2-01 [Overture 2-02]**

30
31 **To Embrace Our Ecumenical Duty**

32
33 WHEREAS, as Lutherans we have been entrusted with the full riches of God's gifts, namely, that He
34 gives us security in our baptism, speaks to us in His Word and in the Divine Service, and
35 gives us His flesh and blood in the Sacrament; and

36
37 WHEREAS, the Body of Christ includes many who may not know these full riches; and

38
39 WHEREAS, Dr. Francis Pieper, speaking in an address to the synod in 1908, lays out this very obligation
40 we owe to other Christians, identified as our "ecumenical duty" by President Harrison,
41 but one that recognizes this is pure gift taken with a humility that readily admits, "we are
42 nothing, and that God's grace and God's Word are everything" (*In the House of our Fathers*,
43 639-642); and

44
45 WHEREAS, knowledge and study of our Lutheran Confessions will help us to appreciate further what
46 we have been given, enabling us to speak of it to others; therefore let it be

47
48 *Resolved,* That the Minnesota South (MNS) District in convention encourage individuals and
49 congregations to formally and informally study our Lutheran Confessions, with an eye
50 toward our ecumenical duty to our Christian brothers and sisters; and be it further

1
2 *Resolved,* That Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod pastors and laity be encouraged to actively seek
3 formal and informal dialog with Christians of other beliefs to share the full riches of God’s
4 grace as revealed in the Lutheran Confessions; and be it further
5

6 *Resolved,* That the MNS District president and staff develop resources to facilitate discussions with
7 Christians of other beliefs; and be it further
8

9 *Resolved,* That the MNS District memorialize the Synod in convention in 2019 to do similarly, using
10 resources at its disposal to help our congregations meet this ecumenical duty; and be it
11 finally
12

13 *Resolved,* That the MNS District memorialize the Synod in convention in 2019 to task the
14 Commission on Theology and Church Relations with developing guidelines for ecumenical
15 discussions.
16

17 Yes: 232 / 79.45% No: 60 / 20.55%

18 The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 3.
19

20 **Resolution 2-02 [Overture 2-01]**
21

22 **To Reaffirm Six-Day Creation and the Official Position of**
23 **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)**
24

25 WHEREAS, Holy Scripture teaches that God is the Creator of all that exists (Genesis 1:1, Psalm 33:6, 9;
26 Hebrews 11:3, Colossians 1:16, John 1:1-4); and
27

28 WHEREAS, Genesis 1 and 2 detail the creation of the world by God in six days, with a seventh day for
29 rest, each day consisting of 24 hours; and
30

31 WHEREAS, Holy Scripture, in its entirety, is inspired by God the Holy Spirit, and is without error and
32 infallible (John 10:35b, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:21); and
33

34 WHEREAS, Holy Scripture teaches the historical event of the creation of the first man, Adam, who was
35 made in the image of God, and it is the consequence of his sin that death has come into the
36 world (Romans 5:12-19); and
37

38 WHEREAS, theistic evolution or old earth creationism, which teach that God used an evolutionary
39 process to create mankind, are in direct contradiction to the teaching of the Holy Scripture;
40 and
41

42 WHEREAS, theistic evolution or old earth creationism, which teach that death is a natural occurrence,
43 present before the fall, not the result of Adam’s sin, is also in direct contradiction to the
44 teaching of Holy Scripture; and
45

46 WHEREAS, the official position of the LCMS regarding creation is, “We teach that God has created
47 heaven and earth, and that in the manner and in the space of time recorded in the Holy
48 Scriptures, especially Genesis 1 and 2, namely, by His almighty creative word, and in six
49 days. We reject every doctrine which denies or limits the work of creation as taught in
50 Scripture. In our days it is denied or limited by those who assert, ostensibly in deference to

1 science, that the world came into existence through a process of evolution; that is, that it
2 has, in immense periods of time, developed more or less of itself. Since no man was present
3 when it pleased God to create the world, we must look for a reliable account of creation to
4 God's own record, found in God's own book, the Bible. We accept God's own record with
5 full confidence and confess with Luther's Catechism: 'I believe that God has made me and
6 all creatures.'" (*A Brief Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod*); therefore let it
7 be
8

9 *Resolved*, That the Minnesota South (MNS) District reaffirm that God created the world in six days,
10 with a seventh day for rest, each day consisting of 24 hours; and let it also be

11
12 *Resolved*, That the MNS District reaffirm that Holy Scripture teaches the historical event of the
13 creation of the first man, Adam, who was made in the image of God, and that death came
14 into the world as the consequence of his sin; and let it also be

15
16 *Resolved*, That the MNS District reaffirm that theistic evolution or old earth creationism is in direct
17 contradiction to the teaching of Holy Scripture; and let it also be

18
19 *Resolved*, That the MNS District reaffirm the official position of the LCMS regarding creation as
20 stated in A Brief Statement...; and be it finally

21
22 *Resolved*, That the MNS District send this resolution as an overture to the 2019 LCMS Convention.

23
24 Yes: 217 / 72.58% No: 82 / 27.42%

25 The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 3.

26
27 **Resolution 2-03 [Overture 2-03]**

28
29 **To Commend and Encourage Concordia University, St. Paul (CSP) in its Lutheran Identity Statement**

30
31 WHEREAS, CSP is one of the institutions in the Concordia University System (CUS); and

32
33 WHEREAS, the Synod in convention in 2016 passed Resolution 7-01A (Yes: 927; No: 43), entitled "To
34 Adopt Lutheran Identity Statement for CUS Institutions as Prepared by CUS Presidents;"
35 and

36
37 WHEREAS, this resolution stated, "The Synod is blessed with university leadership that seeks to reflect
38 the confessions and practice of the church and to share the treasure of the Gospel with a
39 world in need;" and

40
41 WHEREAS, the resolution also stated, "The presidents of the CUS have endorsed an identity statement
42 and its protocols as a means to demonstrate their support for the Christian teaching and
43 Lutheran confessions and practice of the church;" and

44
45 WHEREAS, the resolution also stated, "As educational institutions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
46 Synod, the colleges and universities of the CUS confess the faith of the Church. The
47 Concordias uphold the teachings of Sacred Scripture and its articulation in the Lutheran
48 Confessions..." and

49
50 WHEREAS, Resolution 7-06B also passed by the Synod at the 2016 Convention (Yes: 660; No: 171)

1 addressed the issue of theology courses offered by these institutions, and states, “Our
2 Concordia institutions are lights in a dark world and provide valuable opportunities to share
3 the Gospel; when they identify an academic course as a theology course they are making a
4 public confession that it (the course) is intended to convey the Gospel and our doctrine in its
5 truth and purity;” and
6

7 WHEREAS, the congregations to which these graduates will either return or will become members will
8 be strengthened by these graduates’ commitments, not only to the Scriptures, but also to
9 the Lutheran Confessions, as this commitment was modeled for them and expressly taught
10 during their time at either a college or university of the CUS; therefore be it
11

12 *Resolved,* That the congregations of the Minnesota South (MNS) District commend president, Rev.
13 Dr. Tom Ries, and the Board of Regents of CSP for their insight into the needs of our
14 congregations as they either signed or supported this identity statement; and be it finally
15

16 *Resolved,* That the congregations of the MNS District continue to encourage all concerned at CSP
17 toward the steps and protocols that were outlined in the Lutheran Identity Statement and in
18 Res 7-01A.
19

20 Yes: 297 / 98.67% No: 4 / 1.33%

21 The resolution was adopted during Session 3.
22

23 **Resolution 3-01 [Overture 3-01]**

24 **To Affirm the Work of the *To All Generations (TAG)* Appeal**

25
26
27 WHEREAS, our schools and early childhood centers are gifts of God treasured by our congregations and
28 their communities for their life-long impact on children and their families; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the need to strengthen our existing schools and early childhood centers and to establish new
31 schools, early childhood centers, and educational ministries goes beyond the capacity of our
32 annual operating budgets; and
33

34 WHEREAS, the Minnesota South (MNS) District in convention (2015 Resolution 3-03) resolved to
35 “authorize the District Board of Directors to commission a feasibility study in order to
36 determine the level of support in the District for a special funding appeal focusing on
37 education;” and
38

39 WHEREAS, in May of 2016, a feasibility report that included participation from 130 district pastors and
40 205 lay and commissioned leaders indicated a strong desire to support the MNS District and
41 a funding program for educational initiatives; and
42

43 WHEREAS, Psalm 145:4 states, “One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall
44 declare your mighty acts;” and
45

46 WHEREAS, in September of 2016, the District Board of Directors authorized the TAG appeal, focused
47 on three initiatives:

- 48 1. to strengthen education ministries, including enhancing the quality of Lutheran
49 schools, encouraging opportunities in parish education, planting new schools and
50 early childhood centers and supporting educational leadership

2. develop unified marketing strategies
3. increase efforts toward parental choice in education; and

WHEREAS, TAG has stimulated collaborative efforts between education ministries; therefore be it

Resolved, That the MNS District in convention thank TAG donors, participating congregations, the TAG leadership team, and Cornerstone Stewardship Ministries for their contributions of time, talent, and treasures, making Christian education stronger in the MNS District; and be it further

Resolved, That District staff continue to encourage donors to fulfill their pledges TAG; and be it finally

Resolved, The District ensure that all dollars designated to the appeal be utilized for the strengthening of Christian education in the MNS District.

Yes 265 / 93.97% No: 17 / 6.03%

The resolution was adopted during Session 3.

Resolution 3-02 [Overtures 3-02; 3-03]

To Expand Mission Awareness and Activity within the Minnesota South (MNS) District

WHEREAS, our Lord and Savior has given to His church all that it needs to accomplish His commission to “make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19-20); and

WHEREAS, MNS District staff has identified through circuit visits critical factors that many congregation in our district are facing, including decreased worship attendance, aging membership, and shrinking financial resources; and

WHEREAS, the *Journal of Lutheran Missions* has published demographic reports indicating that the churches of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) follow a trend toward decline; and

WHEREAS, the culture and demographics of communities in our District have undergone dramatic change; and

WHEREAS, the number of people living within the borders of our District who do not know the Savior Jesus continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, the LCMS in convention resolved to expand the work of revitalization and encourage the use of the Re:Vitality program (Resolution 1-03, 2016 proceedings); and

WHEREAS, the published motivation and mission of our District is to “cultivate leaders intentionally engaged in the mission of God;” therefore be it

Resolved, That the congregations of the MNS District give thanks to God for the many, diverse opportunities He provides His church for proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to people in our neighborhoods and communities, our MNS District, and around the world; and be it further

1
2 *Resolved,* That the MNS District staff and leaders be encouraged in their work of cultivating leaders
3 and equipping congregations to be intentionally engaged in the mission of God; and be it
4 further
5

6 *Resolved,* That congregations of the MNS District be strongly encouraged to make full use of
7 available District and Synod resources and coaching opportunities to identify their next
8 steps in both congregational mission formation and equipping their members for joyful
9 witness, such as faith sharing, outreach, inviting, story-telling, and service within the local
10 community; and be it further
11

12 *Resolved,* That congregations be encouraged to form partnerships with others in their circuit and
13 region to intentionally engage their communities and do mission outreach and service; and
14 be it finally
15

16 *Resolved,* That, within this next triennium, every congregation in the MNS District be encouraged to
17 create at least one new opportunity for creating connections and developing relationships
18 with people in their community toward the goal of making disciples of Jesus Christ.
19

20 Yes: 261 / 92.23% No: 22 / 7.77 %

21 The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 3.
22

23 **Resolution 3-03 [President's Report, p.4]**
24

25 **To Establish a Task Force to Assess Congregational Bible Study**
26

27 WHEREAS, the Scriptures repeatedly urge us to be in the Word as we grow in our faith (Psalm 119:105;
28 Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:16-17); and
29

30 WHEREAS, the President's Report states: "Along with strengthening education agencies there is a need
31 to train adult Bible Study leaders in our district. Many of our churches do not have a regular
32 Bible Study for youth and adults" (*Convention Workbook*, p. 53); and
33

34 WHEREAS, The Minnesota South (MNS) District promise statement states: "Rooted in Scriptures and
35 growing in a relationship of mutual trust and Christian love, we promise to equip, support,
36 and encourage you in your ministries, joyfully serving together to make disciples of Jesus
37 Christ;" therefore be it
38

39 *Resolved,* that the MNS District establish a Congregational Bible Study Task Force with the following
40 charter:
41

- 42 1. Survey congregations to assess the number of youth and adult Bible studies
- 43 2. Survey factors relating to declining Bible study attendance
- 44 3. Survey best practices in Bible study across the District
- 45 4. Report findings and make recommendations to increase Bible study attendance
46 to the Congregational Mission Formation committee
- 47 5. Suggest resources for Bible study topics;

48 and be it finally
49

50 *Resolved,* That the MNS District provide at least one training event for potential Bible study leaders.

1 Yes: 217 / 77.5% No: 63 / 22.5%

2 The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 3.

3

4 **Resolution 3-04 [Overture 3-04]**

5

6

To Provide Safe Environments for Children and Youth

7

8 WHEREAS, Psalm 127:3 states, “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a
9 reward” (ESV); and

10

11 WHEREAS, Matthew 18:2-6 states, “And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and
12 said, ‘Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the
13 kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom
14 of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes
15 one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great
16 millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea” (ESV); and

17

18 WHEREAS, relationships among people are at the foundation of ministry, and as such, healthy and safe
19 relationships through policies and codes of conduct more clearly defines behaviors and
20 practices that allow the church to more fully demonstrate love and compassion for children
21 and youth in sincere and genuine relationships; and

22

23 WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 626.556 REPORTING OF MALTREATMENT OF MINORS defines
24 the required child abuse reporting procedures; therefore be it

25

26 *Resolved,* That the ministries of the Minnesota South (MNS) District provide secure, safe, nurturing
27 environments for the instruction and participation of children and youth; and be it further

28

29 *Resolved,* The MNS District develop and distribute to district congregations suggested children and
30 youth protection policies that at the very least model:

31

1. Comprehensive screening procedures of workers and volunteers

32

2. Local ministry training for workers and volunteers

33

3. Mandatory reporting requirements

34

4. Incident response procedures

35

5. Best practice guidelines for safe ministry to minors; and be it further

36

37 *Resolved,* That the MNS District provide regular training opportunities on recommended child abuse,
38 bullying, and sexual misconduct prevention policies and procedures for ministry leaders;
39 and be it finally

40

41 *Resolved,* That the congregations, schools, and ministries of the MNS District are urged to adopt
42 abuse protection policies and staff and volunteer training and awareness practices
43 appropriate for ministry to children and youth.

44

45 Yes: 269 / 94.06% No: 17 / 5.94%

46 The amended resolution was adopted during Convention Session 3.

47

48 **Resolution 3-05 [Overtures 3-05; 3-09]**

49

50 **To Affirm and Encourage Minnesota South (MNS) District and The Lutheran Church—Missouri**

Synod (LCMS) Early Childhood Centers and Schools

1
2
3 WHEREAS, God commands parents in Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even
4 when he is old he will not depart from it”; and

5
6 WHEREAS, Martin Luther said that “for the sake of the Church, we must have and maintain Christian
7 schools” (*To the Councilmen of All Cities in Germany that they Establish and Maintain Christian*
8 *Schools*) and that “the schools will prove the very gates of hell, unless they diligently labor in
9 explaining the Holy Scriptures, and engraving them on the hearts of the youth;” and

10
11 WHEREAS, the Synod in convention in 2016 passed a resolution toward cultivating a Lutheran ethos
12 in our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) early childhood centers, elementary
13 schools, and high schools; and

14
15 WHEREAS, the resolution stated, “The Bible, the Catechism, and the hymnal are central to the Lutheran
16 ethos and are God’s gifts to us that we might lovingly and clearly confess the Christian faith
17 to children and families of our schools, believers and unbelievers alike;” and

18
19 WHEREAS, as the resolution also stated, “the increasing presence of non-Lutherans in our schools
20 presents an opportunity to evangelize them, calling them to repentance and faith in Christ,
21 so that they may be buried with Christ by baptism into death in order that they too might
22 walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4); and

23
24 WHEREAS, LCMS early childhood centers and schools of the MNS District have been established to
25 encourage, support, equip, and empower parents in their duty and responsibility to bring
26 their children up “in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4 ESV); and

27
28 WHEREAS, early childhood centers and schools of the MNS District strive to connect the congregation
29 to the community they serve through daily instruction, activities, and programs; and

30
31 WHEREAS, within the MNS District there are 46 early childhood centers, 41 elementary schools, and 4
32 high schools; and

33
34 WHEREAS, Lutheran early childhood centers and schools provide a strong witness to their communities
35 through quality programs, safe environments, rigorous academic programs, competitive
36 athletic programs, and a passion for the arts; and

37
38 WHEREAS, in Lutheran early childhood centers and schools, families outside the church are often
39 drawn to life together with LCMS families, thus facilitating a Gospel witness; and

40
41 WHEREAS, National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) encourages and recognizes Lutheran
42 schools and early childhood centers that provide quality Christian education and engage in
43 continuous improvement; and

44
45 WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Human Services has qualified NLSA early childhood
46 programs for the highest rate for the Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program; therefore
47 be it

48 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention congratulate its Lutheran early childhood centers and
49 schools and their associated students, parents, teachers, administrators, and congregations
50 for their ongoing contributions to Lutheran education; and be it further

1
2 *Resolved,* That the commitment to proclaiming the pure Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ as taught
3 in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions be a major focus of the ethos of the early
4 childhood centers and schools (2016 Synod Resolution 8-01A), so that hope and healing
5 may be applied to the students and families of our Lutheran schools; and be it further
6

7 *Resolved,* That the LCMS early childhood centers and schools be urged to excellence in all areas
8 of the educational enterprise (pedagogy, assessment, technology, etc.) and encouraged to
9 pursue and maintain National Lutheran School Accreditation; and be it finally
10

11 *Resolved,* That this convention affirms Dr. Luther’s urgent call to establish and maintain Christian
12 schools, and unequivocally and passionately encourages all church leaders (ordained,
13 commissioned, and lay) to support and increase the education ministry that is Lutheran
14 schools.
15

16 Yes: 281 / 97.57% No: 7 / 2.43%

17 The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 3.
18

19 **Resolution 3-06A [Overture 3-06; 3-15]**
20

21 **To Develop a General Confessional Ethos in Our Congregations**
22

23 WHEREAS, congregations of the Minnesota South (MNS) District all have in their constitution a
24 statement confessing the Augsburg Confession as a proper exposition of the Scriptures,
25 along with its Apology and the other writings of the Book of Concord, namely the
26 ecumenical creeds, the Small and Large Catechism, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on
27 the Power and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord (henceforward referred to
28 as the Lutheran Symbols); and
29

30 WHEREAS, every pastor of our district, when he is ordained and installed, makes the same statement
31 about our Lutheran Symbols, confessing them to be a proper exposition of the Scriptures;
32 and
33

34 WHEREAS, every congregational council, when they are installed according to the agenda of the
35 Evangelical Lutheran Church, implies a similar statement regarding these Lutheran
36 Symbols; and
37

38 WHEREAS, when Jesus gave the Church the commission to make disciples, by not only baptizing, but
39 teaching them what He had commanded the disciples, thereby making it clear He expected
40 the disciples to obey His teachings and to make sure the next generation of leaders knew the
41 apostolic faith well; and
42

43 WHEREAS, our Lord taught us to pray that His name would be hallowed among us, which meant He
44 expected His Word to be “taught in its truth and purity...” (S.C. III:2); and
45

46 WHEREAS, our Lord recognized that false teaching would always be a problem, even as He warned
47 His disciples about these false teachings, saying “Watch and beware of the leaven of the
48 Pharisees and Sadducees” (Matt. 16:6 and 11); and
49

50 WHEREAS, when the Holy Spirit inspired these apostolic writers to record what Jesus had said, bringing

1 to mind what He had taught them, saying “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide
2 you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he
3 will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he
4 will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said
5 that he will take what is mine and declare it to you” (John 16:13-15), we can be confident of
6 what they have written; and
7

8 WHEREAS, it was recognized that some of the next generation would not be faithful to those teachings,
9 even as Paul the Apostle warned the elders of Ephesus to “pay careful attention to
10 yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for
11 the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood...I know that after my departure
12 fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own
13 selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them” (Acts
14 20:28-30); and
15

16 WHEREAS, it became necessary that there was division to establish who had the truth, as Paul said,
17 “For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions
18 among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that
19 those who are genuine among you may be recognized” (1 Cor. 11:18-19); and
20

21 WHEREAS, the Lord raised up fathers of the church who were faithful to the apostolic writings and
22 confronted those false teachings our Lord and Paul had warned against, and the writings of
23 these fathers have been recorded in history; and
24

25 WHEREAS, Martin Chemnitz, one of the authors of the Formula of Concord, reflecting the attitude
26 toward the reliability of the writings contained in the Book of Concord—also reflected in
27 our clergy and congregational subscription—said, “We assign to the writings of the fathers
28 their proper and, indeed, honorable place which is due them, because they have clearly
29 expounded many passages of Scripture, have defended the ancient dogmas of the Church
30 against new corruptions of heretics, and have done so on the basis of Scripture, have
31 correctly explained many points of doctrine, have recorded many things concerning the
32 history of the primitive church, and have usefully called attention to many things”; and
33

34 WHEREAS, the Confessions themselves knew the limitations of human writings, saying in the
35 introduction to the Formula of Concord, “Other writings of ancient and modern teachers,
36 whatever their names, should not be put on a par with Holy Scriptures. Every single one
37 of them should be subordinated to the Scriptures and should be received in no other way
38 and no further than as witnesses to the fashion in which the doctrine of the prophets and
39 apostles were preserved in post-apostolic times” (FC; Ep, R & N:2); and
40

41 WHEREAS, George Porterfield Krauth, leader of the 19th century Lutheran Council, which eventually
42 became part of the ELCA, wrote concerning the confessions, “We do not claim that our
43 Confessors were infallible. We do not say they could not fail. We only claim that they did
44 not fail;” and
45

46 WHEREAS, based on their history, we have every right to make the bold confession regarding these
47 Lutheran Symbols that they are true and faithful expositions of the Scriptures; and
48

49 WHEREAS, by the very nature of membership in the Synod, both as pastors and as congregations,
50 we already make the bold confession that Lutheranism is the true confession of faith, as

1 opposed to any other Christian denomination's confession; and

2
3 WHEREAS, being able to make this bold confession gives us great comfort because we are not, as so
4 many denominations are today, merely struggling to know the truth, but we are possessed
5 by the truth, especially since our Lutheran Symbols constantly point us back to the one who
6 is the truth, as well as the way and the life (John 14:6); and

7
8 WHEREAS, we are in the midst of celebrating the first year of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation,
9 and celebrating this has created a broader awareness of our Lutheran Symbols; and

10
11 WHEREAS, we could lose the impact of our celebration if we don't encourage further study and simple
12 consideration of the role of these Symbols in our congregation; therefore be it

13
14 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention encourage the congregations of the MNS to consider
15 these statements and create an ethos in their congregations that looks upon these Symbols
16 as being more than just a statement of confession, but a particularly Lutheran approach to
17 congregational life, by implementing the following suggestions, including, but not limited
18 to:

- 19 1. Offering a study of the Small Catechism, Large Catechism and/or Augsburg
20 Confession to the members of our District congregations;
- 21 2. Encouraging members to avail themselves of various resources;
- 22 3. Encouraging weekly readings out of the Book of Concord by publishing
23 excerpts for congregational reading, and using the weekly assigned readings at
24 congregational meetings;
- 25 4. Encouraging the youth of District congregations to engage with the confessions by
26 attending studies demonstrating the truth of the apostolic faith as confessed in the
27 Book of Concord of 1580, and encouraging Bible bowls to also include portions of
28 the confessions;
- 29 5. Encouraging pastors to seek to incorporate passages of the confessions in their
30 sermons and Bible studies, and ensure that the doctrine proclaimed in their
31 congregations shall be examined according to our confessional writings; and be it
32 finally

33
34 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention in
35 2019 to do similarly.

36
37 Yes: 188 / 90.38% No: 20 / 9.62%

38 This resolution was adopted as part of the Catechesis Bundle during Convention Session 3.

39
40 **Resolution 3-07 [Overture 3-08]**

41
42 **To Encourage Congregations toward Retention of Members through Thorough Catechesis**

43
44 WHEREAS, we are surrounded by Christians who don't know the full riches of God's grace; and

45
46 WHEREAS, we are tempted to emulate and identify with them, and the Lutheran Church, rather than
47 being the queen that she is with all the gifts given to her, becomes a beggar with regard to
48 these Christians of different confessions; and

49
50 WHEREAS, many in our congregations are proselytized from the Lutheran faith at all stages of life

1 because they don't know the apostolic faith as confessed in the Lutheran Symbols; and

2
3 WHEREAS, the times to help people to know the faith is primarily when they are first brought into our
4 congregations as members and as youth when they are first learning the faith; and

5
6 WHEREAS, many of our congregations don't do a thorough catechesis of new members, preferring
7 to accept new members into their congregation without helping them to know that
8 their membership entails a confession of what is taught at their congregation's altar (1
9 Corinthians 10:18); and

10
11 WHEREAS, the prevailing understanding of youth ministry is that after confirmation, the Small
12 Catechism is no longer necessary, much less any other confessional documents; therefore be
13 it

14
15 *Resolved,* That during catechesis leading up to confirmation, whether in the home or at the church,
16 the congregations of the Minnesota South (MNS) District recognize that they are preparing
17 the youth, among other reasons, to safeguard them against proselytization into churches of
18 different confessions; and be it further

19
20 *Resolved,* That we encourage congregations of the MNS District toward ongoing catechesis after
21 confirmation, using the Bible, the Small Catechism, and the synodical explanations with
22 generous references to other confessional documents; and be it further

23
24 *Resolved,* That we encourage congregations to provide a thorough catechesis for their new members
25 recognizing that this is also, among other things, to prevent their proselytization into
26 churches of different confessions; and be it further

27
28 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in its communications highlight best practices that encourage study
29 of the Scriptures, Small and Large Catechisms and parts of the Lutheran Confessions.
30 Examples of best practices shall be solicited from the circuit and should highlight examples
31 of deeper study of Christian doctrine in youth and adult classes (including Sunday School),
32 creative use of the catechism and other confessional documents, creative techniques families
33 are using to teach the Lutheran faith, use of libraries for members and community, seminars
34 held and attended, etc.; and be it finally

35
36 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention in 2019 to do
37 the same.

38
39 Yes: 188 / 90.38% No: 20 / 9.62%

40 This resolution was adopted as part of the Catechesis Bundle during Convention Session 3.

41
42 **Resolution 3-08 [Overture 3-10]**

43
44 **To Encourage Families to Teach the Lutheran Faith with an Eye Toward Lutheran Mission**

45
46 WHEREAS, President Harrison wrote in his report as recorded on p. 8 in the 2016 Convention
47 Workbook: "When the German mission leader and theologian of the last generation
48 Friederich Wilhelm Hopf (1910-1982) asserted, 'The Lutheran Church can only do
49 Lutheran missions,' he was observing that the Lutheran confession is inseparable from
50 mission;" and

1
2 WHEREAS, the Synod in convention in 2016 passed Resolution 16-01, entitled “To Make Strengthening
3 Lutheran Families a Mission Priority;” and
4 WHEREAS, that resolution stated, “The family home is to be the place of forming Christian disciples;”
5 and
6
7 WHEREAS, it also stated, “The witness of our children, disciplined at home and in the church, is key to
8 reaching those outside the faith;” and
9
10 WHEREAS, our Synod has developed outreach tools like Everyone His Witness and the various
11 programs in ReVitality; and
12
13 WHEREAS, in His priestly prayer, Jesus prayed for His disciples before He prayed for those they would
14 reach (John 17); and
15
16 WHEREAS, in popular parlance, the flight attendant tells the travelers to always fix the mask on their
17 own face before trying to help others with theirs; therefore be it
18
19 *Resolved,* That the congregations of the Minnesota South (MNS) District in convention encourage
20 the parents of our congregations toward a more thorough discipling of their children in the
21 Lutheran faith with an eye toward the mission of the church; and be it finally
22
23 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention in 2019 to do
24 similarly.

25
26 Yes: 188 / 90.38% No: 20 / 9.62%
27 This resolution was adopted as part of the Catechesis Bundle during Convention Session 3.
28

29 **Resolution 3-09 [Overture 3-11]**

30
31 **To Take Further Steps in the Retention of College Students in**
32 **Minnesota South (MNS) District Congregations**
33

34 WHEREAS, 50% of the students that go off to college never return to church; and
35
36 WHEREAS, many of these are students that come out of congregations of the MNS District of The
37 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS); and
38
39 WHEREAS, the Synod has in place programs to prevent this loss, such as the Concordia University
40 System and LCMS U; therefore be it
41
42 *Resolved,* That we encourage congregations of the MNS District to creatively develop programs to
43 maintain contact with students that are away at school; and be it further
44
45 *Resolved,* That the MNS District office help congregations of the District become familiar with
46 contact congregations of the various schools where their students attend so that the
47 respective congregations might inform the pastor(s) there of the student’s attendance; and be
48 it further
49
50 *Resolved,* That the MNS District shall encourage congregations in these efforts by highlighting an

1 example of a college student being connected to a local or campus LCMS church in at least
2 two *Lutheran Witness* inserts annually, and other communications; and be it further

3
4 *Resolved*, That congregations of the MNS District encourage the parents of their congregations to
5 consider the pastoral care of their young adult children as a factor when they make the
6 decisions of where their young adult will go to school; and be it finally

7
8 *Resolved*, That the MNS District memorialize The LCMS in convention in 2019 to encourage
9 congregations of the Synod to do similarly.

10
11 Yes: 156 / 97.5% No: 4 / 2.5%

12 This resolution was adopted during Session 5.

13
14 **Resolution 3-11 [Overture 3-13]**

15
16 **To Encourage Congregations of the Minnesota South (MNS) District to**
17 **Help Parents in their Duty to Pass on the Faith**

18
19 WHEREAS, it is the duty of parents to pass on the faith to their children, even as Paul says, “Fathers, do
20 not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of
21 the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4); and

22
23 WHEREAS, Moses writes in Deuteronomy 6:6-7: “And these words that I command you today shall be
24 on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when
25 you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when
26 you rise;” and

27
28 WHEREAS, the Large Catechism comments on the promise God makes for those who keep this
29 commandment in reference to Exodus 20:12 and Ephesians 6:3, saying, “From this you can
30 see for yourself how serious God is about this commandment. He not only declares that it is
31 well pleasing to Him and that He has joy and delight in it, but He also declares that it shall
32 prosper us and promote our highest good, so that we may have a pleasant and agreeable life,
33 furnished with every good thing;” and

34
35 WHEREAS, it is clear this command was not meant to be just for the next generation, but for succeeding
36 generations as Moses says, “Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—
37 that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you...that you may fear the LORD your
38 God, you and your son and your son’s son” (Deuteronomy 6:1-2); and

39
40 WHEREAS, our congregations have given the impression to the parents of Lutheran Church—Missouri
41 Synod (LCMS) children that they have met their parental duty simply by bringing their
42 children to church for instruction and catechesis; and

43
44 WHEREAS, outward influences on these parents’ children can’t be countered by simply an hour to two
45 hours of instruction a week; and

46
47 WHEREAS, to truly be able to pass on the faith, parents will need to adopt the principles Moses had
48 recommended; and

49
50 WHEREAS, in order to have the faith passed on to succeeding generations, parents must be concerned

1 not only about their children’s understanding of the faith, but also their children’s future
2 spouse, not simply so the child will stay Lutheran, but even more that they may continue to
3 enjoy the blessings that come from being in the Lutheran faith and see it passed to the next
4 generation; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the beginning of this principle starts in the weekend Divine Service, where the Lord
7 comes to His people giving them gifts of life and forgiveness, thereby allowing the parents
8 opportunity to speak about this with their children, reflecting on what was said and
9 anticipating what will be said in the next week; and
10

11 WHEREAS, as a church, in general, we of The LCMS have not considered the parents to be the teachers
12 of their children’s faith and therefore haven’t prepared them very well for that task; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the system of “Home-Centered, Church-Supported Christian Education,” as suggested
15 by Dr. Ben Freudenburg and also promoted by Dr. Peter Bender through his work with
16 the Concordia Catechetical Academy, captures the Mosaic principle of parents being the
17 teachers and churches helping them in that task; and
18

19 WHEREAS, it may seem nearly impossible to follow these Mosaic principles based on the schedules of
20 today’s families and children and is likely to cause feelings of insufficiency and guilt for
21 some parents; therefore be it
22

23 *Resolved,* That pastors be ready to support these parents with a pastoral word of forgiveness; and be it
24 further
25

26 *Resolved,* That we encourage our congregations of the MNS District, using current congregational
27 programs and developing new ones with the help of the District, to help parents embrace
28 this role of passing on the faith, being careful to point out that the congregation only
29 supplements the parents’ role, not supplants it; or, to put another way, the Church supports
30 the parents as they work to form their children’s faith at home; and be it further
31

32 *Resolved,* That we encourage pastors and/or other members of congregational staff to increase
33 visitation of young families, use bulletins to suggest readings and topics for family
34 devotions, and introduce experienced families to help mentor young families in areas of
35 home catechesis; and be it further
36

37 *Resolved,* That we encourage congregations to integrate into their youth ministry, whatever forms they
38 take, including and especially within the family, the critical matter that they one day seek to
39 find a spouse that will share in the same blessings of the Lutheran faith; and be it finally
40

40 *Resolved,* That we memorialize the Synod as it gathers in convention in 2019 to do similarly.
41

42 Yes: 188 / 90.38% No: 20 / 9.62%

43 This resolution was adopted as part of the Catechesis Bundle during Convention Session 3.
44

45 **Resolution 3-12**

46 **To Establish a Special Committee for Excellence in Christian Education**

47
48 WHEREAS, Christian education, especially through schools and early childhood centers, continues to be
49 a signature ministry of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; and
50

1 WHEREAS, the strength of our churches and schools is often in their willingness to collaborate; and

2
3 WHEREAS, many of our schools and early childhood centers, when alone, struggle with planning and
4 implementing intentional change for the improvement of their ministries; and

5
6 WHEREAS, school and early childhood administrators are eager for best practices that can lead to a
7 higher quality in Christian education; and

8
9 WHEREAS, Concordia University, and many of our congregations in the Minnesota South (MNS)
10 District, are blessed with educators and business leaders who have a deep commitment to
11 Christian education; therefore, be it

12
13 *Resolved,* That a Committee for Excellence in Christian Education be established in the MNS District;
14 and be it further

15
16 *Resolved,* That this committee be comprised of recognized leaders in Christian education, business,
17 and organizational planning and development; and be it further

18
19 *Resolved,* That this committee be chartered to identify and develop strategies and practices that will
20 lead to greater excellence in our schools and early childhood centers; and be it further

21
22 *Resolved,* That the work of the committee be completed by the end of the next triennium;
23 and be it further

24
25 *Resolved,* That to fulfill this charter, the committee will address the following questions:

- 26
27 1. What are the key elements of an excellent Christian school?
28 2. What constitutes excellence in a school administrator?
29 3. What best practices lead to a school being adequately funded?
30 4. What uniquely identifies a school as Lutheran?
31 5. How does a school in its location or region best present itself to the community?
32 6. What schools across the LCMS offer models of excellence in Christian education?
33 7. What common standards of excellence will characterize our school and early
34 childhood centers in the future?;

35
36 And be it further

37
38 *Resolved,* That the Committee's recommendations be implemented through the office of the District's
39 Schools and Commissioned Ministers Committee; and be it further

40
41 *Resolved,* That the Schools and Commissioned Ministers Committee report to the next
42 convention on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee
43 for Excellence in Christian Education across the MNS District.

44
45 Vote: Yes: 166 / 58.45% No: 118 / 41.55% The resolution was adopted in Convention Session 3.

46
47 **Resolution 4-01 [Overture 4-07]**

48
49 **To Amend Selected Articles and Bylaws of the Minnesota South (MNS) District of**
50 **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)**

1
 2 WHEREAS, the MNS District Board of Directors has reviewed and approved changes to the MNS
 3 District Bylaws; and
 4 WHEREAS, the Synodical Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has reviewed the entire MNS
 5 District Handbook, and approved and recommended bylaw changes as required in MNS
 6 District Bylaw 7.2; and
 7
 8 WHEREAS, all bylaw changes require a favorable simple majority vote of delegates at a regular or
 9 special meeting of the District; therefore, be it
 10
 11 *Resolved,* that the following proposed bylaw changes to the MNS District Handbook be approved by
 12 majority vote of delegates at this convention.
 13

2015 Handbook	2018 Proposed Revisions
<p>ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION</p> <p>Article II. 2. C) c) It accedes to, recognizes, and accepts the doctrine taught and practiced in the Synod (Art. II.) and also those provisions in the Articles of Incorporation, and Bylaws of the Synod, as currently in effect and as may hereafter be amended from time to time.</p> <p>Article II. 4. C) c) Ordained and commissioned ministers are members of this Corporation if within the structure of the LCMS they are under the direct supervision of the President of the District.</p> <p>Article III. 2. A) a) This Corporation shall hold a regular meeting at which time it shall elect successors for directors and officers elected by the members whose terms have expired or whose terms expire at the annual meeting</p>	<p>ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION</p> <p>Article II. 2. C) c) It accedes to, recognizes, and accepts the doctrine taught and practiced in the Synod (Art. II.) and also those provisions in the Articles of Incorporation, and <i>Constitution and</i> Bylaws of the Synod, as currently in effect and as may hereafter be amended from time to time.</p> <p>Article II. 4. C) c) Ordained and commissioned ministers are members of this Corporation if <i>members of the LCMS and rostered, according to the Bylaws of the LCMS, in the District.</i></p> <p>Article III. 2. A) a) This Corporation shall hold a regular meeting at which time it shall elect successors for directors and officers elected by the members whose terms have expired or whose terms expire at the annual <i>regular</i> meeting...</p>
<p>BYLAWS</p> <p>4.2.15.2 Nominations for President and Vice-presidents Nominations for the office of president and vice-presidents of the district shall be made in the following manner:</p> <p>a) Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate one clergyman from the clergy</p>	<p>BYLAWS</p> <p>4.2.15.2 Nominations for President and Vice-presidents Nominations for the office of president and vice-presidents of the district shall be made in the following manner:</p> <p>a) Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate one clergyman from the</p>

1 roster of the synod as a candidate for
2 president and one clergyman from its region
3 as a vice-president. If elected, nominees shall
4 be members of member congregations of the
5 district or region upon assuming
6 office and during the entire course of their
7 tenure.

clergy roster of the synod as a candidate
for president and one clergyman *who is on*
the district roster from its region as a vice-
president. If elected, nominees shall be
members of member congregations of the
district ~~or region~~ upon assuming office and
during the entire course of their tenure.

[N.B. LCMS Bylaw 4.3.1 still governs here.]

4.2.15.6.e.

4.2.15.6.e

e) This committee shall solicit - by whatever means it deems appropriate - from member congregations of the district the names of potential nominees for the offices of district secretary, committee for district convention nominations, LCMS Committee For Convention Nominations, and Board of Regents of Concordia University, St. Paul. This committee will begin this solicitation process at its first meeting and shall set deadlines for submission of such names. Persons elected or appointed to the board of regents shall meet qualifications as spelled out in Synod Bylaws 3.10.5.2, paragraph 7 and 3.12.3.7 (c).

e) This committee shall solicit - by whatever means it deems appropriate - from member congregations of the district the names of potential nominees for the offices of district secretary, committee for district convention nominations, LCMS Committee For Convention Nominations, and Board of Regents of Concordia University, St. Paul. This committee will begin this solicitation process at its first meeting and shall set deadlines for submission of such names. Persons elected or appointed to the board of regents shall meet qualifications as spelled out in Synod Bylaws 3.10.6.2 [7-8] 5.2, paragraph 7 and 3.12.3.7 (c).

4.2.16 Official Proceedings of District Convention

4.2.16 Official Proceedings of District Convention

The official proceedings of the district convention shall be prepared and edited by the district secretary and approved, prior to printing, by the presidium.

The official proceedings of the district convention shall be prepared and edited by the district secretary and approved, prior to printing *or electronic distribution*, by the presidium.

4.3.5 Term of Office and Successive Terms

4.3.5 Term of Office and Successive Terms

- a) The offices of district president and circuit visitor shall be limited to four complete successive 3-year terms.
- b) All other officers and board members, elected or appointed, shall be limited to three complete successive terms, with the exception of the treasurer who, following initial election by the board of directors, shall serve at the discretion of the board of directors.

- a) The offices of district president and circuit visitor shall be limited to four complete successive 3-year terms.
- b) All other officers and board members, elected or appointed, shall be limited to three complete successive terms *in the same office*, with the exception of the treasurer who, following initial election by the board of directors, shall serve at the discretion of the board of directors.

4.5.16 Removal from Office

4.5.16 Removal from Office

All officers of the district, full-time assistants to

Officers of the district shall discharge the duties

1 the district president, chaplains, and others
2 under the immediate direction of the board
3 of directors may be suspended and removed
4 from office by the presidium in conjunction
5 with the board of directors upon any of the
6 following grounds: persistent adherence to
7 false doctrine and practice, un-Christian
8 life, willful neglect of duties, and incompetence
9 in office. Termination of LCMS rostered workers
10 must be in accordance with LCMS guidelines
11 regarding calls. Non-rostered workers are
12 considered at will employees in accordance with
13 the laws of the State of Minnesota. Appeals
14 from the decision of the board of directors
15 may be made in accordance with regulations
16 of The LCMS as defined in the governing
17 documents of the synod.

of office in good faith. All officers of the
district, and full-time assistants to the district
president, may be suspended and removed
from office ~~by the presidium in conjunction with~~
the board of directors for cause. 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:

- (1) Incapacity
- (2) Breach of fiduciary responsibilities to the Synod or a district
- (3) Neglect or refusal to perform duties of office
- (4) Conviction of a felony
- ~~(5) Persistent adherence to false doctrine and practice~~
- ~~(6) Un-Christian life~~

Non-rostered workers are considered at will
employees in accordance with the laws of the
State of Minnesota, and shall serve at the
pleasure of the appointing authorities.

4.5.16.1 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.
- (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 a district, other than a 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); and
- (d) Removal pursuant to this Bylaw may be appealed by the officer who has been removed from office through the use of

<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5 4.5.18.2.7 Consideration of Calls</p> <p>6 Pastors and commissioned ministers of</p> <p>7 subsidized congregations shall request the advice</p> <p>8 of the district president when considering</p> <p>9 the disposition of calls which have been received.</p> <p>10 Subsidized congregations shall consult the</p> <p>11 district president when a vacancy has occurred</p> <p>12 and, if calling a minister, it shall follow call</p> <p>13 process guidelines set forth by the district</p> <p>14 president. In matters pertaining to the calling of</p> <p>15 workers in subsidized ministries, the district</p> <p>16 president shall consult with the missions</p> <p>17 committee of the board of directors.</p> <p>18</p> <p>19 <i>Revised by action of the</i></p> <p>20 <i>77th Convention of the Minnesota South District</i></p> <p>21 <i>June 18-20, 2015</i></p> <p>22</p>	<p>the Synod's dispute resolution process</p> <p>as provided in Bylaw section 1.10 of the</p> <p>Handbook of the LCMS.</p> <p>4.5.18.2.7 Consideration of Calls</p> <p>Subsidized congregations shall consult the</p> <p>district president when a vacancy has occurred.</p> <p>In matters pertaining to the calling of workers in</p> <p>subsidized ministries, the district president</p> <p>shall consult with the missions committee of the</p> <p>board of directors.</p>
---	---

23

24 Yes: 216 / 98.63% No: 3 / 1.67%

25 The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 5.

26

27 **Resolution 4-02 [Overture 4-06]**

28

29 **To Make the *To All Generations (TAG) Fund* a Permanent Designated Restricted Account**

30

31 WHEREAS, the 2015 District Convention of the Minnesota South (MNS) District authorized a

32 feasibility study regarding a special funding appeal for the churches, schools, and Christian

33 education ministries in our district (Res. 3-03); and

34

35 WHEREAS, on the basis of the feasibility study, the MNS District, with the approval of the Board of

36 Directors, proceeded with the TAG appeal in the last triennium; and

37

38 WHEREAS, initial grants from the funds raised in the appeal have already been awarded, with more to

39 come; and

40

41 WHEREAS, the TAG appeal will conclude intentional fund-raising efforts by the time of the 2018

42 convention; and

43

44 WHEREAS, the TAG appeal continues to receive donations by those who support strengthening and

45 expanding our churches, schools, and Christian education ministries; therefore, be it

46

47 *Resolved,* That funds raised by the TAG appeal be placed in a TAG account designated exclusively

48 for grants to strengthen and to expand Christian education ministries throughout the MNS

49 District; and be it further

50

1 *Resolved,* That the TAG fund be an ongoing restricted account to which individuals and
2 congregations may make special and planned donations; and be it further
3

4 *Resolved,* That the TAG fund remain a restricted account from which grants may be regularly
5 awarded to the churches, schools, and Christian education ministries of the MNS District;
6 and be it finally
7

8 *Resolved,* That grants from the TAG restricted account continue to be awarded and administered by
9 the Schools and Commissioned Ministers Committee.
10

11 Yes: 206 / 93.64% No: 14 / 6.36%

12 The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 5.
13

14 **Resolution 4-04 [Overture 4-01]**

15
16 **To Memorialize Synod to Implement Term Limits for the Synod President and First Vice-President**
17

18 WHEREAS, the saints of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) give thanks for the men willing
19 to use their gifts and abilities to serve as Synod President and First Vice-President; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the positions of Synod President and First Vice-President are full-time elected positions
22 recognized as solemn calls in the LCMS Synodical Handbook (3.11.1a); and
23

24 WHEREAS, term limits provide an opportunity to utilize the gifts and abilities of a greater number of
25 qualified men; and
26

27 *Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District memorialize Synod to implement term limits for the
28 Synod President and First Vice-President; and be it further
29

30 *Resolved,* That the Synod President and First Vice-President may serve a maximum of four
31 consecutive three-year terms; and be it finally
32

33 Yes: 135 / 60% No: 90 / 40%

34 The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 5.
35

36 **Resolution 4-05 [Overtures 4-03; 4-04]**

37
38 **To Study Allowing All Congregations in a Multi-Congregation Parish to have a Lay Voting Delegate**
39 **at District Conventions**
40

41 WHEREAS, each congregation is a member of their district; and
42

43 WHEREAS, multi-point parishes only have one lay vote; and
44

45 WHEREAS, sister congregations are then deprived of representation; therefore be it
46

47 *Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District memorialize Synod at its next regular convention in 2019
48 to form a special Synodical task force to study and to report on the current representation
49 and voting procedures of congregations in Synod; and be it finally
50

1 *Resolved,* That the report from this special task force be shared with district presidents and members
2 of Synod by January 1, 2021.

3
4 Yes: 170 / 76.23% No: 53 / 23.77%

5 The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 5.

6
7 **Resolution 4-06 [Overture 4-05]**

8
9 **To Affirm Balanced Governance for Concordia University System (CUS) Institutions**

10
11 WHEREAS, the CUS institutions are treasures of the entire Synod, built by God’s grace with the
12 people’s offerings, bequests, and tuition, that serve to educate students from throughout the
13 country—and increasingly, from around the world—for service both in church work and in
14 society at large; and

15
16 WHEREAS, 2013 Resolution 5-05B improved the governance process for CUS boards of regents by
17 adopting specific requirements for qualifications of regents; and

18
19 WHEREAS, such requirements include documentation to the CUS Board of Directors of various
20 key factors including financial stewardship, faithfulness to the church, and educational
21 background preparing them for service on the governing boards of complex and sizeable
22 institutions; and

23
24 WHEREAS, such requirements have been implemented successfully for the benefit of each CUS
25 institution; and

26
27 WHEREAS, no Concordia serves merely a district or a region, but the whole church; and

28
29 WHEREAS, by an overwhelming vote of 731-48 (94%), 2016 Resolution 7-02B was approved, “To
30 Preserve Concordia Colleges and Universities as Institutions of the Church and Strengthen
31 Their Structural Bonds with Synod;” and

32
33 WHEREAS, the current governance system for the CUS institutions, as adopted by the 2016 Convention,
34 ensures equal boards of regents representation between the District where the institution
35 is located (four elected members plus the District President or his representative) and the
36 Synod at large (four elected members plus a Praesidium representative), as well as up to
37 eight members appointed by each board itself to best meet the unique mission and needs of
38 each institution; and

39
40 WHEREAS, the current governance system for the CUS institutions also ensures continuity of leadership
41 because boards of regents members from the District and Synod are elected, and appointed
42 members are chosen, in different years, so that the majority of each board will remain
43 consistent from year to year; therefore be it

44
45 *Resolved,* That the Minnesota South (MNS) District give thanks for all of the faithful CUS
46 institutions, recognizing that “We, though many, are one body in Christ” (Rom. 12:5); and
47 be it further

48
49 *Resolved,* That the MNS District encourage all youth, from a young age, to be aware of the
50 opportunity to obtain higher education in a Lutheran setting through our CUS institutions;

1 and be it finally

2
3 *Resolved,* That the MNS District memorialize the Synod in convention to give thanks for those
4 involved in governance of our CUS institutions, to ensure that the best qualified candidates
5 for boards of regents are sought throughout the Synod, and to affirm the current system of
6 governance of CUS institutions.

7
8 Yes: 195 / 90.7% No: 20 / 9.3%

9 The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 5.

10
11 **Resolution 5-01 [Overture 5-01]**

12
13 **To Give Thanks to God for District President Nadasdy**

14
15 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy has served The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in many
16 capacities, including author and seminary professor of homiletics; and

17
18 WHEREAS, President Nadasdy has faithfully served our Minnesota South (MNS) District as District
19 President for the last six years with a pastoral heart and theological integrity; and

20
21 WHEREAS, President Nadasdy has assisted the healing of our district with his patience, fairness, and
22 love; and

23
24 WHEREAS, President Nadasdy has shown compassionate and faithful leadership to the district by
25 bringing the whole district together through multiple endeavors such as: the mercy ministry
26 of Feed My Starving Children; The Statement of Concord produced through Koinonia 2.0;
27 the To All Generations campaign for our Christian education ministries; planting new and
28 revitalizing existing congregations; and numerous other endeavors; and

29
30 WHEREAS, President Nadasdy has displayed true churchmanship in allowing the needs of the broader
31 church to guide his own decision and actions; therefore be it

32
33 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention give thanks to God for President Nadasdy's
34 leadership; and be it further

35
36 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention commend and encourage President Nadasdy as he
37 enters a new phase in his life and ministry; and be it finally

38
39 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention give thanks to God for President Nadasdy, his family,
40 and their sacrifices in service to our district, and to bestow on him the title of President
41 Emeritus, by standing and singing the Common Doxology.

42
43 The resolution was adopted by acclamation and the singing of the Common Doxology during Convention
44 Session 5.

45
46 **Resolution 5-02 [Overtures 5-02; 5-03; 5-04]**

47
48 **To Commend and Encourage Synod President Harrison**

49
50 WHEREAS, Rev. Matthew C. Harrison has served The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as Synod

1 President since 2010; and

2
3 WHEREAS, President Harrison and his staff have faithfully represented our Synod across the world,
4 representation that has led to the establishment of pulpit and altar fellowship with four
5 church bodies and partnerships with five additional church bodies during his time of
6 service; and

7
8 WHEREAS, President Harrison has faithfully represented our Synod in our own country, particularly on
9 February 16, 2012, in front of the U. S. House Committee on Government and Oversight;
10 and

11
12 WHEREAS, President Harrison and his office have led the “Free to be Faithful” endeavor and have
13 recently established the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, resources aimed at helping
14 people to take informed action to protect religious freedom and all the cultural issues that
15 pertain to it; and

16
17 WHEREAS, President Harrison, through his emphasis on visitation, continues to provide a pastoral
18 example to Synod pastors and congregations; and

19
20 WHEREAS, President Harrison, through his initiation of the “Koinonia Project,” has brought about
21 improved collegiality among Synod members in our Minnesota South (MNS) District,
22 especially through the leadership of District President Dean Nadasdy; and

23
24 WHEREAS, President Harrison continues to lead our Synod in a way that embraces confessional
25 Lutheran doctrine and practice; therefore be it

26
27 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention give thanks to God for President Harrison’s leadership;
28 and be it further

29
30 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention commend and encourage President Harrison to
31 continue leading our Synod by Holy Scripture and the Evangelical Lutheran Confession of
32 it; and be it finally

33
34 *Resolved,* That the members of our Synod pray to the Lord to raise up faithful leaders for our Synod
35 who will continue to boldly confess the apostolic doctrine.

36
37 Vote: The resolution was adopted by unanimous voice vote during Convention Session 5.

38
39 **Resolution 5-03 [President’s Report p. 3; Ministerial Health Report]**

40
41 **To Encourage Congregations in the Support of Church Workers**

42
43 WHEREAS, pastors and commissioned workers struggle with personal and professional challenges from
44 time to time; and

45
46 WHEREAS, being in ministry means bearing other’s burdens; and

47
48 WHEREAS, Synod’s 2016 Convention Resolution 18-04 states “our struggle is not against flesh and
49 blood” (Ephesians 6:10-18), and these satanic attacks on congregations, ministries,
50 marriages, families, and individuals can lead to despair, loneliness, poor choices and sin;

1 and

2

3 WHEREAS, the most disciplined and faithful workers struggle with the weakness of the flesh (Romans
4 7:18-25); and

5

6 WHEREAS, many congregations, schools and ministries are facing numerical decline and financial
7 pressures, leading to greater stress on our workers; therefore be it

8

9 *Resolved,* That congregations be encouraged to set aside funds and time for their called workers, or
10 apply for available district funds on their behalf, to use toward DOXOLOGY, Grace Place,
11 Grace Point, or Shepherd’s Canyon; and be it further

12

13 *Resolved,* That congregations be encouraged to use Concordia Plan Services, and its many wonderful
14 health care resources, for their workers to assist with their emotional and physical health
15 care well-being; and be it finally

16

17 *Resolved,* That congregations be encouraged to implement “worker support teams,” a concept written
18 about and encouraged in the Concordia Publishing House book *Holding up the Prophets’*
19 *Hands*, by Dr. Bruce Hartung, in order to provide regular care for all church workers in
20 intentional and meaningful ways.

21

22 The resolution was adopted unanimously by voice vote during Convention Session 5.

23

24 **Resolution 5-04 [President’s Report, 3; Ministerial Health Report]**

25

26 **To Equip Congregations to Care for their Church Workers and Families**

27

28 WHEREAS, we live in a time when marriages and families are beset by many challenges and stresses;
29 and

30

31 WHEREAS, these challenges and stresses, including various addictive and destructive behaviors, are
32 affecting church worker marriages and families; and

33

34 WHEREAS, congregations also are affected when church worker families struggle with these challenges
35 and stresses; therefore be it

36

37 *Resolved,* that the Minnesota South (MNS) District, especially her congregations, provide proactive
38 encouragement and resources to help strengthen the personal life of mind, body and soul of
39 her church workers and their families; and be it further

40

41 *Resolved,* that the MNS District provide diverse and extensive resources to help strengthen church
42 worker marriages and families; and be it further

43

44 *Resolved,* that the MNS District provide safe and gospel-centered resources for all church workers and
45 their family members; and be it finally

46

47 *Resolved,* that the MNS District in convention request the creation of a district initiative that will offer
48 ways to intentionally equip congregations to care for her church workers and their families.

49

50 Yes: 210 / 95.45% No: 10 / 4.55%

1 The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 5.

2

3 **Resolution 5-05**

4

5 **To Give Thanks for the Service of 1st Vice President Herbert C. Mueller**

6 WHEREAS, Since his ordination in 1979, Dr. Herbert C. Mueller has faithfully served the church as a
7 parish pastor, district officer, Southern Illinois District President, and since 2010
8 as First Vice President of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

9

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Mueller has announced his retirement from full-time pastoral ministry following the
11 July, 2019 Synodical Convention; and

12

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Mueller’s churchmanship has always been characterized by a pastoral spirit and genuine
14 servant leadership; and

15

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Mueller’s faithful service has greatly impacted our life together in the Minnesota South
17 District, especially through his leadership in the Koinonia Project an his chairing of the
18 Colloquy Committee; therefore be it

19

20 *Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District in convention give thanks to God for Vice President
21 Mueller, his wife, Faith, and their family, for their sacrifice in service to our Lord and our
22 Synod, asking our convention chaplain to come forward and lead us in a prayer of thanks.

23

24 The resolution was adopted unanimously by voice vote during Convention Session 5.

25

26 **Resolution 6-01 [Overture 6-01]**

27

28

To Oppose Physician-Assisted Suicide

29

30 WHEREAS, Satan’s original and continuing temptation invites us to worship at the altar of personal
31 autonomy, rather than acknowledge that we have been “bought with a price” and that “we
32 are not our own” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20); and

33

34 WHEREAS, in popular culture death is often portrayed as our friend and a means to escape from the
35 sufferings of life, rather than our greatest enemy to be resisted (Isaiah 7:15; Romans 6:23; 1
36 Corinthians 15:26, 55-57); and

37

38 WHEREAS, the theology of the cross reveals suffering to be a means by which God can bring blessing;
39 suffering therefore is not meaningless or to be avoided at all costs (Romans 8:28; 2
40 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 12:5-10; James 1:2-4; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Matthew 25:40); and

41

42 WHEREAS, advocates for physician-assisted suicide (PAS) often exploit people’s fear of suffering; and

43

44 WHEREAS, the underlying logic of PAS denies the inherent, God-given dignity of all human beings
45 regardless of age, physical condition, mental capacity, or any other life circumstance; and

46

47 WHEREAS, PAS carries with it inherent opportunities to abuse the elderly and disabled, from which
48 no safeguards can offer any real protection, where the right to die by means of PAS easily
49 becomes felt by the elderly and disabled as the duty to die; and

50

1 WHEREAS, those who advocate for the legalization of PAS often misrepresent the primary motive for
2 seeking PAS as the experience of intense and unremitting pain when, in fact, it is most often
3 feelings of intense loneliness or the perception of being an unwelcome burden on others
4 that are their actual primary motive; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the legality of PAS will fundamentally alter the trust relationship between doctors and their
7 patients and will require doctors to engage in a legal deception as to the actual cause of
8 death on the death certificate; and
9

10 WHEREAS, PAS introduces a whole host of obvious perverse financial incentives as insurance
11 companies, financial heirs, government entities, and others are tempted by financial self-
12 interest to pressure patients into considering PAS; and
13

14 WHEREAS, there is typically no requirement for family members to be informed when a loved one is
15 requesting PAS, there are many subsequent feelings of intense guilt and regret experienced
16 by family members; and
17

18 WHEREAS, studies have shown that the legalization of PAS has the effect of normalizing suicide and
19 thus increasing the rate of suicide in general in the community; and
20

21 WHEREAS, we are called to love our neighbors by protecting their physical well-being; and
22

23 WHEREAS, we are called to “shine as lights amidst this crooked and twisted generation” by “holding
24 fast to the word of life” (Philippians 2:15); therefore be it
25

26 *Resolved,* That the Minnesota South (MNS) District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
27 (LCMS) in convention declares its clear opposition to PAS and any legislative efforts on
28 state or federal level to legalize it; and be it further
29

30 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention encourages the congregations of the District to make a
31 concerted effort to educate their members about the issue of PAS; and be it further
32

33 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention encourages its congregations to become more
34 intentional in reaching out to members and non-members who find themselves in difficult
35 life circumstances that have led others in the past to consider PAS; and be it further
36

37 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention encourages both individual members and the
38 institutional church (via its public policy efforts) to be politically active in opposing PAS;
39 and be it further
40

41 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention continues to support the work of the Minnesota
42 Alliance for Ethical Healthcare, a coalition that is committed to pursue these same ends;
43 and be it finally
44

45 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention memorializes the LCMS meeting in convention to
46 adopt this resolution (less items specific to the state of Minnesota).
47

48 Yes: 203 / 92.69% No: 16 / 7.31%

49 The amended resolution was adopted during Convention Session 5.
50

1 **Resolution 6-02**

2
3 **To encourage Elected Minnesota Leaders to Enact Education Funding Policy Changes**
4 **to Reflect the Trinity Lutheran Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) Ruling**
5

6 WHEREAS, SCOTUS, in its *Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia, Inc. vs. Comer* ruling of June 2017,
7 clearly stated that it is no longer permissible under the Free Exercise Clause to deny a public
8 benefit to citizens just because they are religious; and
9

10 WHEREAS, this was stated in the specific context of a state (Missouri) having denied a religious
11 congregation and its school equal access to state-collected funds for purposes of improving
12 safety on its playground; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the state’s legitimate interests extend not just to providing for the safety of all its citizens,
15 both religious and non-religious, but also to providing for the education of all its citizens,
16 both religious and non-religious; and
17

18 WHEREAS, SCOTUS said explicitly that using the popular concept of “the separation of Church and
19 State” to deny to religious persons a benefit that is intended for all its citizens is not an act
20 of neutrality toward religion but rather an act of hostility toward religion; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota currently disallows the use of state education funds if a parent
23 chooses to send their child to a religiously-informed school simply because it is religious;
24 therefore be it
25

26 *Resolved,* That the Minnesota South (MNS) District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in
27 convention strongly encourage the elected leaders of the State of Minnesota to acknowledge
28 that our current education funding policies are not consistent with the Trinity Lutheran
29 ruling, or with the general constitutional principles of fairness and neutrality, with respect to
30 its treatment of religious and non-religious citizens; and be it further
31

32 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention urge the State of Minnesota to quickly move to bring
33 the State’s education funding policies in line with SCOTUS’ insistence that states practice
34 true religious neutrality, and that it do so by enabling substantially the same per pupil
35 funding to those students whose parents have chosen a religiously-informed educational
36 setting as to those who have chosen a secular educational setting, and that it do so in a way
37 that does not allow a state to inappropriately assert its influence in the operation of religious
38 schools; and be it finally
39

40 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention forward this call to genuine religious neutrality to all
41 Minnesota state legislators and the Governor of Minnesota.
42

43 Yes: 191 / 86.14% No: 31 / 13.96%
44 The amended motion was adopted during Convention Session 5.
45

46 **Resolution 6-03**

47
48 **To Resist the Increasing Influence of the Gnostic Heresy**
49

50 WHEREAS, the Gnostic heresy, which from the early days of the Church has sought to radically separate

1 the material world from the spiritual and elevate the spiritual over the material, is making a
2 resurgence within our culture and in some corners of the Church itself; and

3
4 WHEREAS, this Gnostic impulse is leading many to deny that the human person is an integrated and
5 indissoluble union of body and soul/spirit; and

6
7 WHEREAS, this has led many in society to diminish the importance and the goodness of the human
8 body relative to the soul/spirit; and

9
10 WHEREAS, this diminished view of the body has led to the denial of natural law and the natural
11 order of creation, and has recently led to many anti-Scriptural and unnatural practices in
12 our public life, including abortion, pornography, same-sex marriage, the celebration of
13 transgenderism, gender fluidity, and homosexuality; and

14
15 WHEREAS, these Gnostic-inspired attitudes and practices are demonstrably harmful to the temporal
16 flourishing of human life both on the individual and corporate level, as well as to distorted
17 understandings of the Christian gospel; therefore be it

18
19 *Resolved,* That the Minnesota South (MNS) District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
20 (LCMS) in convention strongly encourage pastors of the MNS District to stress in their
21 preaching, teaching, and worship leadership the importance, the goodness, and the integrity
22 of the whole human person and that of the whole creation, both in its physical and spiritual
23 dimensions; and be it further

24
25 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention urge pastors of the MNS District that in their
26 preaching, teaching, and worship to not intentionally or inadvertently give the impression
27 that a goal of the Christian life is to be liberated from the body, even though a person may
28 be experiencing bodily or psychological suffering; and be it further

29
30 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention urge pastors of the MNS District that in their
31 preaching, teaching, and worship, to be intentional in reminding their members that, in
32 Christ, they await a new heaven and a new earth, including a new and glorified body; and
33 be it further

34
35 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention encourage the pastors and congregations of the MNS
36 District to continue to hold the sacraments in high regard, not only because they are a most
37 blessed means by which God assures us of forgiveness, life and salvation, but also because
38 in joining God's Word and its promises to physical elements, a clear witness is given to the
39 high regard God continues to have for the physical world; and be it further

40
41 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention encourage pastors and congregations of the MNS
42 District to continue to publicly celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord and other
43 such occasions which reinforce the enduring importance and goodness of the human
44 body by drawing attention to God's permanent commitment to His embodied creatures by
45 remaining embodied Himself in Christ to this very day; and be it finally

46
47 *Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention memorialize the LCMS to develop resources for use in
48 home and schools related to the issue of Gnosticism.

49
50 Yes: 205 / 96.7%

No: 7 / 3.3%

1 The resolution was adopted during Session 5.

2

3 **Resolution 6-04**

4

5 **To Memorialize the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) to Delineate its Position on**
6 **Commercial Surrogacy**

7

8 WHEREAS, commercial surrogacy is a form of surrogacy in which one person enters into a contract
9 with another person to carry a developing child from embryo to birth in exchange for
10 money in excess of actual costs incurred by the surrogate; and

11

12 WHEREAS, there are many changes in our culture which are producing an intense and growing pressure
13 to legalize commercial surrogacy; and

14

15 WHEREAS, this practice would, in effect, mean that human children will have become a commodity for
16 sale and purchase; and

17

18 WHEREAS, this practice of “renting a womb” has targeted and most certainly would continue to
19 target poor and otherwise vulnerable women and expose them to a variety of physical and
20 psychological harms; and

21

22 WHEREAS, this practice elsewhere in the world has resulted in expectant mothers being pressured (or
23 forced) to undergo abortions for a variety of reasons, including sex-selection, numerical
24 reduction, or possible genetic abnormalities; and

25

26 WHEREAS, The LCMS does not currently have a clear position statement on the issue of commercial
27 surrogacy; therefore be it

28

29 *Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District of the LCMS in convention memorialize the LCMS to
30 study this issue and elucidate an official LCMS position on this issue, and to do so in as
31 timely a manner as possible.

32

33 (Resolution 6-04 will be sent to the President of Synod)

34

35 Yes: 199 / 95.22% No: 10 / 4.78%

36 The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 5.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50