

# 2022 Adopted Resolutions



79th Convention  
Minnesota South District, LCMS  
June 9-11, 2022

## **Omnibus Resolution B [Overture 5-02]**

### **To Reduce Redundancy**

Declined because this overture is already addressed by 2018 District Convention Res. 4-03a.

Vote: Yes: 270 / 88.1% No: 32 / 11.9%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 2.

## **Omnibus Resolution C [Overtures 2-02 and 2-03]**

### **To Encourage Proper Pastoral Oversight in Administration of the Lord's Supper through Visitation of Ecclesiastical Supervisors**

Declined because this overture has already been addressed by Bylaws 4.4.4 and 4.4.5 in the 2019 LCMS Handbook.

### **To Develop Further Depth and Theological Oversight in the Training of Pastors from Immigrant Communities**

Declined this overture for these two reasons:

1. The seminaries have exclusive control of the certification process of all seminary program students and candidates.
2. The district does not have the authority to control or change this process.

Vote: Yes: 249 / 87.37% NO: 36 / 12.63%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 2.

## **Resolution 1-01**

### **To Affirm Our Common Mission and Ministry to Foster Partnership throughout Our District**

WHEREAS, our crucified and risen Lord Jesus has given us the key to understanding the Holy Scriptures and the mission and ministry which He has given to His Church when He says, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem" (Luke 24:46-47); and

WHEREAS, "There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (1 Corinthians 12:4-7); and

WHEREAS, "Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news" (Augsburg Confession V:1-2); and

WHEREAS, the congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the Minnesota South District include people from every continent in the world whom the Holy Spirit has called by the Gospel to live as God's people in this place; and

WHEREAS, the Holy Spirit - by the same Gospel - gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith (Small Catechism, Third Article of the Apostles' Creed); and

WHEREAS, the congregations and workers of our District have been placed in a wide variety of contexts including rural, small town, suburban, and urban areas; areas of population growth or decline; situations that require the use of languages other than English or the interaction of various ethnic groups; areas of poverty or wealth; and so forth; and

WHEREAS, our common mission and ministry includes both the gathering of God's people around the Gospel in Word and Sacraments and the intentional searching for the lost (Matthew 28:18-21, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 2:41-42, Hebrews 10:23-25); and

WHEREAS, the articles of incorporation of the Minnesota South District state that purpose of the District is to facilitate the establishment of new ministries and congregations within the territorial limits of the District (MNS Article of Incorporation, Article 1, Sec. 2, d); and

WHEREAS, all regions of the District include a significant number of baptized Christians who neglect public worship or fail to seek out the lost around them; therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District in convention affirm that our common mission and ministry includes both the regular gathering of God's people around the Word and Sacraments and the intentional evangelizing and discipling of our neighbors for whom Christ also died; and be it finally

*Resolved,* That in the coming triennium, the leadership of our District work especially to encourage and foster partnerships across our District, that we may be strengthened in our unity of faith through the faithful use of God's Word and Sacraments, rejoice in our common mission and ministry, and support one another as we learn of the unique challenges and opportunities that each congregation, school, and worker has been given in the place where God has put us.

Yes: 260 / 96.3%      No: 10 / 3.7%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 3.

## **Resolution 1-02**

### **To Thank the Lord of the Church for the Life and Ministry of Rev. Dr. Laokouxiang (Kou) Seying**

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, the Reverend Doctor Laokouxiang (Kou) Seying was the first Hmong pastor ordained in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Doctor Laokouxiang (Kou) Seying devoted his life and ministry to expanding cross-cultural and multiethnic ministry in the congregations, universities, seminaries, and global missions of our Synod; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Doctor Laokouxiang (Kou) Seying intentionally worked to raise up a new generation of church workers from the Hmong and Laotian community; therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District give thanks to the Lord of the Church for the life and ministry of the Reverend Doctor Laokouxiang (Kou) Seying and for his lasting contributions toward cross-cultural and multiethnic ministry and his living legacy of multiethnic pastors and other church workers in our church body; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District in convention hereby memorializes the Synod to adopt this resolution at its 2023 convention; and be it finally

*Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District in convention thank the Lord of the Church for the life and ministry of the Reverend Doctor Laokouxang (Kou) Seying by standing and singing together the Common Doxology in English and Hmong.

Yes: 272 / 95.77% No: 12 / 4.23%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 3.

### **Resolution 1-03**

#### **To Evangelize Our Unchurched / Unclaimed Students and Their Parents**

WHEREAS, Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14); and

WHEREAS, many of the congregations of the Minnesota South District have a long history of providing Christ-centered education for the children in their communities; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 43 Early Childhood programs, 35 Elementary (K-8) schools, and 4 High Schools in the Minnesota South District; and

WHEREAS, enrollment in the past year has increased 15% in these Early Childhood programs, and 13% in these Elementary (K-8) schools, and 15% in these High Schools; and

WHEREAS, 32% of the students in these Early Childhood programs, and 13% of the students in these Elementary (K-8) schools, and 8% of the students in these High Schools are unchurched/unclaimed for any religion, whatsoever; and

WHEREAS, our Minnesota South District pastors, educators, leaders, and laypeople are 35 all called to be intentionally engaged in the mission of God; therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District urge its pastors, educators, leaders, and lay people to view this increase in unchurched/unclaimed students as a ripe mission field; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District urge its pastors, educators, leaders, and lay people to view the families of these unchurched/unclaimed students as a ripe mission field; and be it finally

*Resolved,* That this Convention direct the District's Schools and Commissioned Workers Committee, it's Mission Formation Committee, and its Missions Committee to increase awareness of services and resources available to congregations, institutions, schools, and professional church workers so that they are thinking, planning, and acting in ways that facilitate the intentional evangelizing of the unchurched/unclaimed students and their families in our midst.

Yes: 274 / 96.14% No: 11 / 3.86%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 3.

### **Resolution 1-04**

#### **To Encourage Revitalization of Existing Congregations of the Minnesota South District**

WHEREAS, our Lord Jesus Christ has established the ministry of the Word and Sacraments as the means for obtaining saving faith in the Holy Gospel (Augsburg Confession V:1-2); and

WHEREAS, the Church has been commissioned by our Lord Jesus Christ to preach that same Gospel and to baptize all nations (Matthew 28:19), and

- WHEREAS, the number one mission priority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is “Making Disciples for Life” includes sustaining and revitalizing existing Lutheran churches ([www.lcms.org/about/seven-mission-priorities](http://www.lcms.org/about/seven-mission-priorities)); and
- WHEREAS, the Minnesota South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is “Synod in this place”; and
- WHEREAS, our Synod has made a concerted effort through the Office of National Mission particularly through, though not limited to, its program “Re:Vitality”;
- WHEREAS, many existing congregations in the Minnesota South District long for revitalization and District through its staff stand ready to assist congregations in the revitalization process; therefore, be it
- Resolved,* That congregations of the Minnesota South District be encouraged to make greater use of the revitalization resources available to them from their District and Synod; and be it further
- Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District and its staff continue their efforts to assist existing congregations in their efforts to further develop outreach and mission throughout the coming triennium and beyond; and be it further
- Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District and its staff inform local congregations and circuits of the mission and revitalization work of the District both locally and regionally; and be it finally
- Resolved,* That the congregations of the Minnesota South District be encouraged both to support and utilize the Mission Formation Legacy Fund of the District in their revitalization effort.

Yes: 270 / 96.09% No: 11 / 3.91%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 3.

#### **Resolution 2-01**

##### **To Encourage and Support Existing Learning-In-Ministry, Non-Residential, Distance Programs Leading to Ordination.**

- WHEREAS, Jesus said, “The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38); and
- WHEREAS, God is bringing thousands of new immigrants to our communities and thereby providing our congregations with new and vast harvest fields; and
- WHEREAS, our Minnesota South District pastors and congregations are identifying new potential pastoral leaders in and among these immigrant communities;
- WHEREAS, our synodical seminaries have established a distance theological education through the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP), Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT), Cross-Cultural Ministry Center (CMC) and Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) programs; and
- WHEREAS, an unintended consequence of synod promoting residential seminary education as the preferred option for the preparation of men for pastoral ministry (2019 LCMS Resolution 6-02) is that non-residential, immigrant students do not receive the same tuition assistance from the seminary to cover the costs of their academic programs as compared with residential students; therefore, be it
- Resolved,* That the District in convention encourage the seminaries to award the same tuition assistance as residential students to their nonresidential students, and be it finally

*Resolved,* That the District hereby memorializes The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to adopt this, or similar resolutions, at its next convention.

Yes: 211 / 72.26% No: 81 / 27.74%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 3.

## **Resolution 2-02A**

### **To Reject the Practice of Internet Communion**

WHEREAS, the Sacrament of the Altar is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink (Small Catechism VI); and

WHEREAS, the Holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me" (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25); and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 lockdowns beginning in March 2020, some LCMS pastors in a desire to faithfully commune their members began a practice which has come to be known as "Internet Communion"; and

WHEREAS, the practice of "Internet Communion" introduces a spatial gap that severs the consecration of the elements from the reception of the elements and therefore introduces doubt where there should be clarity and confidence in the sacrament (Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:26; AC XIII); and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Confessions teach, on the basis of God's Word, that valid communion involves the proper consecration, distribution, and reception of the elements, and that nothing has the character of a Sacrament apart from its appointed use, such "use" being defined by the Formula of Concord as "the entire external and visible action of the Supper as ordained by Christ" (FC SD VII:85); and

WHEREAS, the Council of Presidents of the Synod in its unanimously adopted statement of September 11, 2021, "To Encourage Advocating In-Person Communion," rightly affirmed that "No theological justification for the novel practice of online or virtual communion has existed within the Synod or in the Lutheran tradition nor has been advanced in the circles advocating for it on the basis of the principally relevant texts (sedes doctrinae) of Holy Scripture or of the Lutheran Confessions"; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Theology and Church Relations has properly confessed, on the basis of God's Word, the true doctrine and practice of the Lord's Supper and has rejected the practice of "Internet Communion" in the documents titled "Communion and Covid-19" and "One little Word Can Fell Him: Addendum to Communion and Covid-19"; therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the MN South District encourage all pastors and congregations to reject the practice of "Internet Communion"; and be it further

*Resolved,* That we commend the desires of faithful pastors to care for their flocks in a time of pandemic, granting charity and latitude to our brothers in the office due to the emergency nature of the situation confronting us all; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the MN South District memorialize the 2023 LCMS Convention to further study the practice of “Internet Communion” on the basis of God’s Word and the Lutheran Confessions; and be it finally

*Resolved,* That the MN South District encourage the faithful practice of in-person communion services in our public worship services and in such cases of pastoral care where communion is desired.

Yes: 217 / 75.61% No: 70 / 24.39%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 3.

#### **Resolution 3-04**

##### **To Speak the Gospel Clearly in the Cultural Context of Critical Race Theory (CRT)**

WHEREAS, God has created all people and they are blood-related going back to our mutual fathers, Adam and Noah, and therefore there is only one race, the human race, and all are subject to the stain of original sin, but even now also have been equally redeemed by the blood of Christ in order to be reconciled to God and each other; (Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 10, Romans 5:12-21, I Corinthians 15: 20 -23, Acts 17:26); and

WHEREAS, CRT asserts that racism is present in all aspects of life, in every relationship and every interaction; and that its advocates urge their followers to look for, and expect to find, racism everywhere, it is clear that the goal and effect of CRT is to cause deep and irreconcilable divisions within society; and

WHEREAS, society has, in recent years, been deeply convulsed by the efforts of some to eliminate historic racism through the introduction of a new, more toxic form of racism which adds elements of Marxist and post-modern thought to the historic form; and

WHEREAS, the academic discipline of critical theory and its progeny, such as CRT, is inconsistent with the Christian worldview and also irreconcilable with Holy Scripture; and

WHEREAS, critical theory, when applied to theology, frequently denies the sufficiency of Christ’s death to forgive all people by claiming that forgiveness is impossible for certain people based on their race; and by heretically confusing the righteousness we have before God for Jesus’ sake with the civil righteousness of the “social gospel”; and

WHEREAS, the “solutions” to racial inequities proffered by CRT do not come from Christ but rather from a theory of grievance and retribution (and can produce only more of the same); and

WHEREAS, God’s Word says, “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing well. But, if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors” (James 2:8-9); and

WHEREAS, we still recognize that racism, misunderstanding, and strife are and will continue to be present in the world and in the Church; and

WHEREAS, the LCMS in convention has passed resolutions repudiating all racism, for example, 1992 Res.3-03; and 2019 Res. 11-04A; therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District in convention reaffirm the Synod’s repudiation of racism in all its forms; and be it further

- Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District call upon her members to love their neighbors as themselves, and seek to live in peace and harmony with all people by proclaiming that Jesus is Lord, and by bringing forth the fruits of the faith in serving the neighbor; and be it further
- Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District reject the worldview of CRT, because it is contrary to Scripture and counterproductive to true racial conversation and reconciliation, since it pursues equality of outcome (“equity”) between ethnic or cultural groups, while cynically insisting that we treat individuals unequally based on skin color, ethnicity, ancestry, or nationality; and be it further
- Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District reject any doctrine, such as that proposed by CRT, that teaches that an individual or organization is inherently racist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously, solely on account of skin color, ethnicity, ancestry, nationality, or history; and be it further
- Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District reject the teaching of all organizations, movements, and petitions which attempt to advance the language and/or concepts of Critical Theory including CRT; and be it finally
- Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District in convention memorialize the LCMS to also reject the worldview, language and concepts of Critical Race Theory at its 2023 convention.

Yes: 260 / 92.86% No: 20 / 7.14%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 3.

### **Resolution 3-02**

#### **To Remind All that God Has Appointed Parents to be the Primary Authority in the Life of Their Children**

- WHEREAS, in the Scriptures, we read: “Children, obey your parents, for this is right”; and, “Honor your father and your mother – which is the first commandment with promise - that it may go well with you and you may enjoy a long life on the earth” (Eph. 6:1-3); and
- WHEREAS, Luther in his explanation to the 4th Commandment, makes it clear that “all who are called masters stand in the place of parents and must derive from them their power and authority” (Book of Concord, Kolb and Wengert, p. 406); and
- WHEREAS, Luther further declares that God has given fatherhood and motherhood a special position of honor, higher than that of any other walk of life”; and, that God “places them near to Himself” (p. 409); and
- WHEREAS, it has become increasingly common in modern society and in matters of education, in particular, to treat the office of parent as subsidiary and inferior to that of the State and its agents; and
- WHEREAS, parents are increasingly seen by progressive educational authorities as bigoted and ignorant and thus “obstacles” to the proper instruction of children; and
- WHEREAS, it is increasingly clear that educational authorities behaved in ways which lead children to question the authority and competence of their parents and to reject other authority figures including grandparents and religious leaders in their life; and,
- WHEREAS, educational authorities are even regularly found to have formal or informal policies which forbid teachers and staff from informing parents about issues of sexuality and transgenderism that surface in the school setting; and



WHEREAS, school systems are increasingly unwilling to be fully transparent with Parents regarding the content of materials used to educate their children; therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District of the LCMS, in convention, clearly and unequivocally reassert the Scriptural truth that God has given to parents both the primary responsibility and the primary authority in the lives of their children; and that all other authorities in the lives of children derive their authority from parents; and be it further

*Resolved,* That pastors and teachers of the Church be encouraged to regularly focus attention on the application of the 4th Commandment in our modern American context and, in so doing, to lift up and expound on the Godly and high office of parent; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Church rejects the claim of many schools that parents may be prevented from having full access to their children's records and reasonable control over their child's educational experience; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Church support parental empowerment mechanisms such as Education Savings Accounts, which remove inappropriate State bias in parental decision-making in matters of education, by allowing State-collected education dollars to follow the child to any school of the parents' choosing, including religious schools; and be it finally

*Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District, in convention, memorialize the LCMS to use its resources and influence to elevate the place of parents in our Church and our society.

Yes: 196 / 93.78% No: 13 / 6.22%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 5.

### **Resolution 3-03**

#### **To Encourage Members of LCMS Congregations to Seek Political Office**

WHEREAS, Jesus has called us not only to love God but also "our neighbor as ourselves" (Lk 10:27); and

WHEREAS, God's people have always been called to "seek the peace and prosperity of the city" in which they reside, even if that residence is "in exile in a foreign land" (Jer. 29:7); and

WHEREAS, Luther, in his explanation of the Two Kingdoms doctrine, clearly calls on Christians to make themselves available to hold public office, and, in fact, declares Christians to be more fit to hold such office than "any other men on earth" (AE 45:100); and

WHEREAS, it is clear that, when compared to Biblical standards of order, our nation and its public life are more disordered and chaotic now than at any other time in living memory, and therefore, is in great need of mature and prudent leadership informed by the Word of God, more than ever before; therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District of the LCMS, in convention, renew and amplify our call for members of our LCMS congregations to actively consider making themselves available for public office at whatever level of government seems most fitting; and be it further

*Resolved,* That we highly commend those members who are currently serving in such elected office, assuring them of our deep appreciation for their service as well as pledging them our continuing support as they carry out their high calling and praying that God would sustain them in what is often a lonely and thankless job; and be it further

*Resolved,* That we encourage all of our members to exercise their citizenship through active participation in the political process, not seeking to serve personal interests but always seeking to serve the common good in the name of Jesus and according to Holy Scripture; and be it finally

*Resolved,* That we encourage our Lutheran schools as well as the public schools in our communities, to place a renewed emphasis on the teaching of civics and our form of government (democratic republic), that our youth might grow in their love for our nation and its founding ideals, and that they, too, might be inspired to consider lives of public service, fully informed by their Christian faith.

Yes: 197 / 90.78% No: 20 / 9.22%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 5.

#### **Resolution 4-01**

##### **To Challenge Every Congregation to Seek Collaborations toward Ministry Stabilization and Growth.**

WHEREAS, St. Paul states, "I can do all things through [Christ] who strengthens me," and yet goes on to say of the Christians in Philippi, "Yet it was kind of you to share in my troubles" (Phil. 4:13-14); and

WHEREAS, our Lutheran Church Missouri Synod identifies in the preamble of its constitution, a reason for the forming of a synodical union is "our Lord's will that the diversities of gifts should be for the common profit (I Cor. 12:4-31)"; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 MNS District passed Resolution 3-02, To Expand Mission Awareness and Activity within the Minnesota South (MNS) District which in part resolved, "That congregations be encouraged to form partnerships with others in their circuit and region to intentionally engage their communities and do mission outreach and service;" and

WHEREAS, in the course of this past triennium, twelve congregations of the MNS District chose to close when unique collaborations with other congregations might have allowed ministry to continue in those locations; therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That MNS District congregations within their various circuits make every attempt to share in each other's troubles, especially by developing creative collaborations with sister congregations that encourage Word and Sacrament ministry to continue in our neighborhoods and communities; and be it further

*Resolved,* That MNS District congregations that are in decline and are considering closing be encouraged to reach out to sister congregations and, with a willing spirit, for the sake of the Kingdom, and to the glory of God, explore with them opportunities for walking together and the changes this may bring (e.g., worship service times, structure, sharing resources and staff, etc.); and be it finally

*Resolved,* That the congregations of the MNS District join together in prayer, being led by the convention chaplain, to God for all of the gifts He has provided for the well-being of His people, including the blessings of faithful partners within our synodical union.

Yes: 216 / 95.15% No: 11 / 4.85%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 4.

## Resolution 4-02

### To Exhort Congregations to Actively Encourage Current and Future Lutheran School Teachers.

WHEREAS, the declaration of Jesus, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2), is as true today as when it was spoken 2,000 years ago; and

WHEREAS, only 38 percent of teachers serving in MNS District Lutheran schools are on the active Commissioned Minister roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (2022 District Convention Workbook, page 66); and

WHEREAS, Res. 8-01A of the 2016 Synod convention specifically identified that a characteristic of a Lutheran school with a strong Lutheran ethos has “LCMS-trained Lutheran teachers... who know and are committed to the truths of the Scriptures as confessed in our Lutheran Confessions”; and

WHEREAS, the fulfillment rate of requests for first-year Synod-trained candidates to LCMS calling entities has declined from 63 percent in 2010 to 30 percent in 2018 because of the lack of available Synod-trained candidates (Concordia University System Board of University Education statistics); and

WHEREAS, the Concordia University System (CUS) is anticipated to graduate only 88 total graduates available for placement in 2022 (CUS placement directors’ report, Dec 2021); and

WHEREAS, one of the top factors tied to the likelihood of a young person considering teaching is the direct encouragement of their teachers and school administrators (“What’s Happening in our Schools?” Concordia Plan Services research); and

WHEREAS, the Synod developed Set Apart to Serve, a comprehensive, multi-year church worker recruitment initiative, acting on the 2019 Synod Resolution 6-01; and

WHEREAS, 55% of public school educators are thinking of leaving the profession earlier than planned or retiring early due to the stress of the pandemic, according to a 2022 National Educators Association (NEA) survey; therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the congregations of the MNS District and their pastors and teachers, being led by the Holy Spirit, actively identify and encourage future Lutheran school teachers; using the Set Apart to Serve initiative of the Synod; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the congregations of the MNS District and their pastors actively seek faithful members employed as teachers outside of Lutheran education who may be ready to answer the call of ministry in Lutheran schools; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the District and its congregations work to increase the Lutheran identity of our schools by providing scholarships to enable current non-rostered teachers to complete teacher colloquy; and be it finally

*Resolved,* That the District and its congregations strongly consider providing financial support for future Synod-trained Lutheran teachers.

Yes: 213 / 95.52% No: 10 / 4.48%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 4.

## Resolution 4-03

### To Encourage and Support Evangelism through Lutheran Schools

WHEREAS, the establishment of Lutheran schools in America has been a priority of faithful Lutherans even before they joined to form the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota South (MNS) District elementary schools have increased in enrollment by 23% since 2018 and 13% in the last year and high schools have increased in enrollment by 11% since 2018 and 15% in the last year (2018–2021 Synod School Statistical Report); and

WHEREAS, one-fifth of all students enrolled in MNS District schools come from families that disclose they are unchurched (one-third in the early childhood schools) (2018–2021 Synod School Statistical Report); and

WHEREAS, 246 students were baptized into the faith through our schools (2018–2021 Synod School Statistical Report); and

WHEREAS, the Office of National Mission (ONM) has identified planting schools as a priority for this triennium (2019 Resolution 4-03); and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the LCMS found that a congregation that operated or was associated with a Lutheran school had higher retention rates (Retention of Lutheran Millennials: LCMS Study of Young Adults, 2017); therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the congregations of the MNS District support and uplift our Lutheran schools in prayer and encourage them to continue to be faithful to God's Word and strive for excellence in catechizing and educating the students in their care; and be it further

*Resolved,* That best practices and resources on evangelism and outreach through Lutheran schools be collected and shared by MNS District staff to equip congregation leaders; and be it further

*Resolved,* That MNS District staff, circuits, and congregations investigate the possibility of planting schools and/or early childhood centers; and be it finally

*Resolved,* That the MNS District in convention give thanks to God for congregations that faithfully support our Lutheran schools, Lutheran school administrators, teachers, ordained and commissioned workers, and all who serve in our Lutheran schools; by asking those present who serve and support Lutheran schools to stand and be recognized.

Yes: 220 / 97.35% No: 6 / 2.65%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 4.

## Resolution 4-04

### To Provide Ongoing Support for Older Adult Ministry through S.A.G.E.S.

WHEREAS, the Minnesota South District began and budgeted intentional older adult ministry in 1986 through a subcommittee of the District Social Ministry Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Older Adult Ministry Subcommittee created Saints Alive Growing Ever Serving (S.A.G.E.S.) older adult organization; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota South District at its 1991 District Convention formally recognized S.A.G.E.S. as the official older adult organization of the Minnesota South District; and

WHEREAS, a stated purpose of S.A.G.E.S. is to assist congregations to begin and to sustain ministry to, with, and for older adults; and

WHEREAS, following the restructuring of ministry committees within the Minnesota South District in 1994, S.A.G.E.S. received temporary budget and administrative support; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Minnesota South District continue to work with and support S.A.G.E.S. to develop a model for ongoing growth and support of older adult ministry; and be it finally

*Resolved*, that the Minnesota South District encourage individual congregations to partner with S.A.G.E.S. to further develop older adult ministry in and through their congregations

Yes: 210 / 91.7%    No: 19 / 8.3%  
 The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 4.

**Resolution 5-01**

**To Amend the Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota South District**

WHEREAS, the Synod in convention in 2019 made amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod (2016 Res. 9-02a, 2019 Res. 9-05) which necessitated changes to the MNS District Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) suggested other clarification and updates to the MNS District Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the district Handbook Committee desired to clarify language in other places; and

WHEREAS, the MNS District Board of Directors has reviewed and approved changes to the MNS District Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the Synodical Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has reviewed the entire Minnesota South District Handbook, and approved and recommended changes as required in Minnesota South District Bylaw 7.2(c); and

WHEREAS, all changes to the MNS District Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws require a favorable simple majority vote of delegates at a regular or special meeting of the District; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the following proposed changes to the MNS District Handbook be approved by majority vote of delegates at this convention.

2018 District Handbook	2022 Proposed Revisions	<i>Rationale</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Articles of Incorporation Article II</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Section 2. The Relationship between Synod and District</b></p> <p>b) It submits to the authority of the Synod and the Synod's conventions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Articles of Incorporation Article II</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Section 2. The Relationship between Synod and District</b></p> <p>b) It submits to the authority of the Synod and the Synod's conventions. <u>The constitution of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is also the constitution of the Minnesota South District. The Bylaws</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b></p> <p><i>Clarifies the hierarchy of bylaws within the District handbook and reflects Synod constitution, Article XII.2 and Bylaw 1.5.3.6(a)</i></p>



**Section 2 Meetings**

*(First Sentence only)*

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.

**BYLAWS  
CHAPTER 2: MEMBERSHIP**

**2.20.3 Signing the Constitution**

a) If an application for membership of a congregation is approved, the president and one other officer of the newly admitted congregation shall, as representatives of the congregation, sign all those documents deemed necessary by the district in order to memorialize the congregation's membership. In recognition of the importance of this event, the district president shall encourage the newly admitted member congregation to conduct a special worship service in which the signing takes place.

b) A copy of the signed documents shall be forwarded to the secretary of the district. Acceptance by the board of directors of the district shall, among other things, be reported to the other members of the district at the next regular meeting of the district. The signatures to those documents contemplated by this section of the bylaws on behalf of the congregation shall be preserved by the district president, and the year in which the congregation is formally received into membership shall be duly noted.

**2.20.4 Voting Members**

All organized congregations that have joined the synod hold voting membership. At the meetings of the district every congregation or parish (two or more congregations served by one called pastor on a permanent basis) is entitled to two votes, one of which is to be cast by the pastor and the other by the lay delegate.

**Section 2 Meetings**

*(First Sentence only)*

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~~ regular meeting.

**BYLAWS  
CHAPTER 2: MEMBERSHIP**

**2.20.3 Signing the Constitution**

a) If an application for membership of a congregation is approved, the president and ~~one other officer~~ secretary of the newly admitted congregation shall, as representatives of the congregation, sign all those documents deemed necessary by the District in order to memorialize the congregation's membership. In recognition of the importance of this event, the District president shall encourage the newly admitted member congregation to conduct a special worship service in which the signing takes place.

b) A copy of the signed documents shall be forwarded to the secretary of the District. Acceptance by the board of directors of the District shall, among other things, be reported to the ~~other members of the district at the next regular meeting of the district~~ next regularly scheduled district convention. The signatures to those documents contemplated by this section of the bylaws on behalf of the congregation shall be preserved by the district ~~president~~ secretary, and the year in which the congregation is formally received into membership shall be duly noted.

**2.20.4 5 Voting Members Accrediting of Delegates**

All organized congregations that have joined the Synod hold voting membership. ~~At the meetings of the district every congregation or parish (two or more congregations served by one called pastor on a permanent basis) is entitled to two votes, one of which is to be cast by the pastor and the other by the lay delegate.~~ and are entitled two votes (one ordained minister and one lay person). To be accredited to vote, delegates shall return the proper credentials, provided by the district secretary and signed by two of the congregation's officers, either by mailing

5

*CCM - suggested change of wording from "Annual" meeting to "regular" meeting to better reflect Synod bylaw 3.12.2(a).*

6

*New wording designates the **secretary** of the congregation as the cosignatory of the constitution in keeping with Synod bylaw 2.3.1(b)*

7

*Change in wording reflects changes already noted in previous comments 4 and 5.*

8

*The reorganization of Chapter 2 has dramatically changed see Rational #12 below.*

<p><b>2.20.5 Advisory Members</b> Advisory members of the district are as defined in the governing documents of the LCMS.</p> <p><b>2.20.6 Duties of Members</b> Every congregation and individual member of the district shall, in accordance with vocation, ability, and means, diligently and earnestly promote the purposes of the district and ministries of the LCMS by word, deed, and financial support.</p> <p><b>2.20.7 Duties of Advisory Members</b> Advisory members of the district shall attend regular meetings of the district. They shall not be elected by any congregation of the LCMS as a lay delegate, nor shall they be accredited as such.</p> <p><b>2.20.8 Reviewing Continued Eligibility of Members</b> An individual member of the district may be placed on restricted status by the district president, following the applicable procedures and provisions set forth in the governing documents of the LCMS.</p>	<p><u>them to the District office at a date determined by the District or by presenting them to the district secretary at the opening of the District convention. Multi-congregation parishes (comprising those congregations regularly cared for (served) by a pastor or pastors, as further defined in the Synod Bylaws) are represented at the District convention by one pastoral delegate (if not vacant) and one voting delegate, plus an advisory lay delegate for each congregation that does not supply the lay voting delegate.</u></p> <p><b>2.20.5 6 Advisory Members Delegates</b> Advisory members of the district are as defined in the governing documents of the LCMS. <u>All non-voting ordained and commissioned ministers who are members of the Synod within the District shall, unless they present a valid excuse, serve as advisory delegates.</u> Also included among advisory delegates are the advisory lay delegates of congregations in multi-congregation parishes not sending voting lay delegates.</p> <p><b>2.20.6 4 Duties of Members</b> Every congregation and individual member of the district shall, in accordance with vocation, ability, and means, diligently and earnestly promote the purposes of the district and ministries of the LCMS by word, deed and financial support.</p> <p><b>2.20.7 Duties of Non-Voting Individual Members as Advisory Delegates</b> All non-voting ordained and commissioned ministers who are members of the District shall attend District conventions. They shall not be elected by any congregation of the LCMS as a lay delegate, nor shall they be accredited as such.</p> <p><b>2.20.8 Reviewing Continued Eligibility of Members</b> <del>An individual member of the district may be placed on restricted status by the district president, following the applicable procedures and provisions set forth in the governing documents of the LCMS.</del></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>9</b> New wording better reflects Synod Bylaw 4.2.2</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>10</b> Change in numbering only.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>11</b> Changes to wording pertaining to Advisory Members and Advisory Delegates better reflect Synod Bylaws 3.1.3 - Non-voting Advisory Delegates</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>12</b> CCM Suggestion: "Synod Bylaws provide at length for this feature in the context of ecclesiastical supervision." Synod Bylaw 2.13.2</p>
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**CHAPTER 3: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**3.1.2.5 Voting Delegates to the Convention of the Synod**

Each electoral circuit shall be entitled to, and shall elect, one pastor and one lay delegate from member congregations to the national convention of the Synod. The election procedure outlined in the Synod handbook shall be followed. The convention expenses of these delegates shall be paid by the congregations of the circuit.

*(final paragraph of this section)*

The names and addresses of all voting and nonvoting advisory delegates and representatives and their alternates shall be forwarded by the secretary of the district before the announced registration deadline to the secretary of the LCMS on the registration forms provided by the secretary of the LCMS. The foregoing procedure shall constitute certification for purposes of these bylaws.

**CHAPTER 4: DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

**4.2.11 Time of Regular Meeting/Convention, and Special Meetings**

b) Special meetings of the district may be called by the district president, he having previously obtained consent of at least a majority of the voting members of the district after having informed them and the president of the synod the purpose of the intended special session.

**4.2.13 Agenda**

a) The agenda for the District convention shall be prepared and arranged by the praesidium in consultation with the board of directors.

b) All District matters which warrant more thorough study before action by the convention delegates is taken shall, without debate, be referred by the District President to a floor committee for consideration and its formal recommendation.

**CHAPTER 3: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**3.1.2.5 Voting Delegates to the Convention of the Synod**

Each electoral circuit shall be entitled to, and shall elect, one pastor and one lay delegate from member congregations to the national convention of the Synod. The election procedure outlined in the Synod handbook shall be followed. The District shall assess the convention expenses of the delegates to the congregations of the district on a per-circuit basis.

*(final paragraph of this section)*

The names and addresses of all voting and nonvoting advisory delegates and representatives and their alternates shall be forwarded by the secretary of the District before the announced registration deadline to the secretary of the LCMS on the registration forms provided by the ~~secretary of the LCMS~~ latter. The foregoing procedure shall constitute certification for purposes of these bylaws.

**CHAPTER 4: DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

**4.2.11 Time of Regular Meeting/Convention, and Special Meetings**

b) Special ~~meetings~~ sessions of the District may be called by the District President, ~~he having previously obtained~~ with the consent of at least a majority of the voting members of the District after having informed them and the president of the Synod the purpose of the intended special session.

**4.2.13 Agenda**

The agenda for the District convention shall be prepared and arranged by the praesidium in consultation with the board of directors.

13

*Clarifies district process for assessing costs, and how those funds are collected*

14

*Second use of "secretary of the LCMS" was deemed redundant and changed to "latter."*

15

*Use of term "sessions" replaced "meetings" to reflect wording of Synod Bylaws (i.e. 3.1.2.2) and other wording changed for clarity*

16

*This bylaw seemed unclear and possibly in conflict with ordinary parliamentary procedures for matters requiring referral by consent or the decision of the body to a committee.*

**4.2.13.1 Memorials and Overtures**

All memorials or other like overtures to the district convention which, at the discretion of the praesidium are to appear in print, shall be submitted in triplicate to the district president at least 90 days prior to the opening day of the district convention.

**4.2.13.3 Membership and Representation**

b) A multiple congregation parish shall be entitled to one lay vote.

**4.2.15.2 Nominations for President and Vice-presidents**

a) Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate one clergyman from the 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 upon assuming office and during the entire course of their tenures.

g) The three candidates receiving the highest number of nominating forms for each position shall be listed alphabetically. All names shall be listed without any distinctive mark, except where regional representation is a requirement of these bylaws. Nominations from the floor shall be listed on the ballot thereafter in the order nominated.

**4.2.15.4 Board of Directors**

a) Between nine and eight months before an election, the secretary of the district

**4.2.13.1 Memorials and Overtures**

All memorials or other like overtures to the District convention which, ~~at the discretion of the praesidium~~ are to appear in print shall be submitted in triplicate to the District President at least 90 days prior to the opening day of the District convention. Late overtures may be accepted if adjudged by a committee consisting of the President, First Vice-President, and Secretary to be matters of overriding importance and urgency not adequately covered by documents already before the convention. The president shall determine on the basis of the criteria indicated in the Bylaws of the Synod for handling of overtures which shall be accepted for consideration and assigned to floor committees, and which of these shall be published in the *Convention Workbook*.

**4.2.13.3 Membership and Representation**

b) A multiple congregation parish shall be entitled to one lay vote and, if not vacant, one pastoral vote.

**4.2.15.2 Nominations for President and Vice-presidents**

a) Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate one ~~clergyman~~ ordained minister from the ~~clergy~~ roster of the Synod as a candidate for president and one ~~clergyman who is on the district roster~~ ordained minister with membership in a congregation from its region as a vice-president. If elected, nominees shall be members of member congregations of the District (and, if elected to a regional office, of the respective region) upon assuming office and during the entire course of their tenures.

g) The three candidates receiving the highest number of nominating forms, as well as any floor nominees, for each position shall be listed alphabetically. All names shall be listed without any distinctive mark, except where regional representation is a requirement of these bylaws. ~~Nominations from the floor shall be listed on the ballot thereafter in the order nominated.~~

**4.2.15.4 Board of Directors**

a) Between nine and eight months before an election, the secretary of the District

17

*The president of the district may disapprove publication of only those overtures that fall in the categories described in Synod Bylaw 3.1.6.2 A means was added to accept late overtures when such is deemed urgent.*

18

*Wording more clearly reflects Synod Bylaws 3.12.2.*

19

*New wording is consistent with Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.7*

shall send nominating forms to all voting congregations of the district requesting them to nominate up to two ordained ministers from their region, up to two lay persons from their conference, and up to two commissioned ministers from their region as candidates for the board of directors. The nominating forms shall be signed by the president and secretary (or the equivalent positions) of the voting congregation and shall be sent to the secretary of the district not later than four months and ten days prior to the district convention for tabulation. Such tabulation and the nominating forms shall be delivered by the secretary to the elections committee which must place the names of at least two candidates for each position on the ballot. The candidates for each position shall be listed alphabetically. Nominations from the floor shall be listed on the ballot thereafter in the order nominated.

**4.2.15.6 Committee on Nominations**

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], and 3.12.3.7 (c).

f) This committee shall nominate candidates for all elective offices except for the office of president, the office of vice-president, and any regional offices.

i) The Committee for Convention Nominations is to be regarded as an ad hoc committee, to which limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply.

**4.3.5 Term of Office and Successive Terms**

b) All other officers and board members, elected or appointed, shall be limited to

shall send nominating forms to all voting congregations of the District requesting them to nominate up to two ordained ministers from their region, up to two lay persons from their conference, and up to two commissioned ministers from their region as candidates for the board of directors. The nominating forms shall be signed by the president and secretary (or the equivalent positions) of the voting congregation and shall be sent to the secretary of the District not later than four months and ten days prior to the District convention for tabulation. Such tabulation and the nominating forms shall be delivered by the secretary to the elections committee which must place the names of at least two candidates for each position on the ballot. The candidates for each position, as well as any floor nominees, shall be listed alphabetically. ~~Nominations from the floor shall be listed on the ballot thereafter in the order nominated.~~

**4.2.15.6 Committee on Nominations**

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f) This committee shall nominate candidates for all elective offices except for the office of president, the office of vice-president, circuit visitors, and any regional offices.

i) The District Committee for Convention Nominations is to be regarded as an ad hoc committee, to which limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply.

**4.3.5 Term of Office and Successive Terms**

b) All other officers and board members, elected or appointed, shall be limited to

20

*Similar to comment 19 above new wording is consistent with Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.7*

21

*Second referenced Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.7 (c) was removed because it does not apply to elections at the district level.*

22

*Circuit Visitors are also excluded from nomination by this committee*

23

*Clarification that this paragraph is speaking to the MNS District committee, not the committee for Synodical elections.*

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.

**4.4.10 Minnesota South District President**

a) The district president, in accordance with the governing documents of the LCMS and in addition to the duties set forth in the articles of incorporation, shall supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration on the part of the ordained and commissioned ministers of the district, and shall inquire into the prevailing religious conditions of the congregations of the district. Therefore, as often as possible, he shall attend the conferences of ordained and commissioned ministers held in the district, advise the congregations of the district as to the calling of ordained and commissioned ministers, give counsel when requested, and reply to inquiries. He may call upon the vice-presidents and circuit visitors to assist him.

**4.4.11 Vice-presidents**

a) Vice-presidents shall be elected one for each of the regions of the district:

**4.5.5 Personnel**

The board of directors shall consist of the district officers (president, vice-presidents, secretary, and treasurer), one ordained minister from each of the four regions, one lay person from each of the eight conferences, and two commissioned ministers of congregations or parishes in the district elected at large.

**4.5.7 Organization**

d) The executive committee shall consist of the district president, the secretary of the district, the district treasurer and two lay persons appointed by the president and ratified by the board of directors.

three complete successive 3-year terms in the same office, with the exception of the treasurer who, following initial election by the board of directors to a term of 3 years, may be reappointed by the board of directors to additional terms of the same length as many times as the board shall determine.

**4.4.10 Minnesota South District President**

a) The District President, in accordance with the governing documents of the LCMS and in addition to the duties set forth in the articles of incorporation, shall supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration on the part of the ordained and commissioned ministers of the District, and shall inquire into the prevailing religious conditions of the congregations of the District. Therefore, as often as possible, he shall attend the conferences of ordained and commissioned ministers held in the District, visit and advise the congregations of the District as to the calling of ordained and commissioned ministers, give counsel when requested, and reply to inquiries. He may call upon the vice-presidents and circuit visitors to assist him.

**4.4.11 Vice-presidents**

a) Vice-presidents ~~shall be elected one for each of the regions of the district:~~ are elected ordained ministers with membership in a congregation within each of these regions of the District:

**4.5.5 Personnel**

The board of directors shall consist of the District officers (president, vice-presidents, secretary, and treasurer), one ordained minister ~~from~~ with membership in a congregation of each of the four regions, one lay person ~~from~~ with membership in a congregation of each of the eight conferences, and two commissioned ministers ~~of~~ with membership in the District and in congregations or parishes of the District elected at large.

**4.5.7 Organization**

d) The executive committee shall consist of the District President, the secretary of the District, the District treasurer and two lay persons appointed by the District President and ratified by the board of directors.

24

*Recommended that the term of District Treasurer needs to be defined, but not limited.*

25

*Addition of "visit and" advise added to better reflect Synod Bylaw 4.4.4.*

26

*First sentence of paragraph amended to better reflect wording of Synod Bylaw 3.3.2.*

27

*Similar to 26 above the wording was changed to avoid confusion and clarify intent.*

<p>The executive committee shall act in matters referred to it by the board of directors. All actions of this committee shall be reported at the next meeting of the board of directors for review and ratification if ratification is deemed necessary.</p> <p><b>4.5.16 Removal from Office</b> All officers of the district, full-time assistants to the district president, chaplains, and others under the immediate direction of the board of directors may be suspended and removed from office by 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:</p>	<p><u>The Executive committee may not perform acts specifically required by statute or by legislation or the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod to be performed by the board of directors, nor may they overturn actions of the board of directors.</u></p> <p>The executive committee shall act in times of emergency between plenary meetings and in matters referred to it by the board of directors. All actions of this committee shall be reported at the next meeting of the board of directors for review and ratification if ratification is deemed necessary.</p> <p><b>4.5.16 Removal from Office</b> All officers of the District, <del>full-time assistants to the district president, chaplains,</del> and others under the immediate direction of the board of directors, with the exception of the District President, may be suspended and removed from office by 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:</p> <p><b>4.11.3.3 Board of Regents for Concordia University St. Paul</b> <u>Members of the Board of Regents of Concordia University St. Paul elected at the District convention are comprised of one ordained minister, two lay members and one commissioned minister. Regent members elected by the District take office at the close of the convention at which elected.</u></p> <p><b>CHAPTER 7: AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS</b></p> <p><u>7.3 District Compliance to Synod Constitution and Bylaw Changes</u></p> <p><u>When necessitated by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise expressly directed by a resolution of the Synod in convention, amendments may be made by a two-thirds majority of the District board of directors. Such amendments shall be drafted by the District secretary and shall be reviewed and approved in advance by the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>28</b></p> <p><i>A paragraph was added to reflect Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.2 (a).</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>29</b></p> <p><i>Full time assistants to the president and chaplains do not fall under the immediate supervision of the Board of Directors. New wording in 4.5.16 – 4.5.16.1 better reflects Synod Bylaws 1.5.7 – 1.5.7.1</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>30</b></p> <p><i>Paragraph added to clearly reflect the role of the District in regards to Concordia University St. Paul Board of Regents elections and synod bylaw 3.2.4(a) and 3.10.6.2</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>31</b></p> <p><i>New paragraph to clearly delineate relationship of MNS District guiding documents to those of the LCMS</i></p>
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Yes: 209 / 95.43% No: 10 / 4.57%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 4

## Resolution 5-02

### To Clarify Sharing Gifts on a 50% / 50% Basis with the Synod

WHEREAS, God has always provided for the Minnesota South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ("District"); and

WHEREAS, the 2000 District Convention (Resolution 3-01) directed the District to split all offering receipts 50%/50% with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ("Synod"); and

WHEREAS, the resolutions of the convention and practical application of those resolutions would benefit from clarification; and

WHEREAS, donors interested in the work of the District are not always aware of the 50%/50% split and have expressed an interest in keeping their gifts within the District; and

WHEREAS, the District would like to provide transparency to donors regarding the allocation of their gifts; therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That any undesignated gifts that come to the District be split 50%/50% with the Synod; and be it further

*Resolved,* That any donor-designated gift to Synod or an existing fund of the District be retained by the District in accordance with the donor's designation and such gift be passed through or added to the designated fund accordingly; and be it further

*Resolved,* That any donor-designated gift for a purpose not within an existing fund be held aside until its acceptance and fund approval by the District Board of Directors; and be it finally

*Resolved,* That any profits from investments of District funds may be retained 100% by the District.

Yes: 195 / 88.64% No: 25 / 11.36%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 4

## Resolution 5-03A

### To Provide Financial Support to Camp Omega

WHEREAS, Camp Omega, Inc. ("Camp Omega") is a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod ("LCMS") in the Minnesota South District ("District"); and

WHEREAS, the District has financially supported the ministry of Camp Omega for more than twenty years; and

WHEREAS, the District gifted the camp property to Camp Omega in late 2020 thereby shifting responsibility for insurance, property taxes, and other expenses to Camp Omega; and

WHEREAS, Camp Omega faithfully serves the children, youth, and adults of our District congregations and many others; therefore, be it

*Resolved,* that the District provide annual financial support in the amount of \$20,000 for the 2022 Triennium to Camp Omega; and be it further;

*Resolved,* that Camp Omega provide an annual report to the Board of Directors of the District; and be it finally

*Resolved,* that the Board of Directors can deny annual financial support if Camp Omega loses its standing as a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS or if the Board of Directors deems Camp Omega is not operating in accordance with the accepted doctrines and practices of the LCMS.

Yes: 172 / 81.9% No: 38 / 18.10%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 4.

#### **Resolution 5-04**

##### **To Be Gospel Centered in Corporate and Spiritual Missions**

WHEREAS, the ministry of the Gospel is to be foremost and central in our life together in the District; and

WHEREAS The Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws should reflect this Gospel centrality; therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That The Articles of Incorporation, Article I, Section 2, a) be amended, as follows, The general purposes of this Corporation shall be: a) To provide services and assistance to those congregations of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD, (herein from time to time "the LCMS or "the Synod), in the ministry of the Gospel, located within the territorial limits of this Corporation in furtherance of their respective corporate and spiritual missions, including, but not limited to, providing assistance in the process of calling those church workers ordained or otherwise in or by the LCMS.

Yes: 192 / 94.58% No: 11 / 5.42%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 5.

#### **Resolution 5-05**

##### **To Encourage the Practice of Biblical Stewardship in the Congregation and the District**

WHEREAS, St. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians, chapter 9:6-9 – "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.'" [ESV] therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District encourages Biblical stewardship practices in our congregations, and be it further

*Resolved,* That pastors, church workers, and congregations be encouraged to use synodical resources concerning stewardship, and be it finally

*Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District in convention thank God for cheerful stewardship by rising to sing the Doxology.

Yes: 193 / 94.61% No: 11 / 5.39%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 5.

## Resolution 6-01

### **To Encourage Congregational Leadership to Support Their Church Workers through the Many Resources Available to Them for Mental Health Care.**

WHEREAS, ministry for all church workers can be very difficult and can take a toll upon their mental wellness; and

WHEREAS, congregational leadership desires to care for their church workers but are unaware of the information that is available in the area of mental health resources for their workers; and

WHEREAS, the God of our Church has provided many resources and gifted health care workers to minister to God's servants, therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District set up a webinar to educate congregational leadership on the mental health care resources available for their workers; and be it further

*Resolved,* That this webinar include representatives from a multitude of caregivers; and be it finally

*Resolved,* That this webinar be recorded and be made available to church workers and congregational leadership at a convenient time. Leadership to include parish council, elders, parish nurse, and other leaders who have a heart for the workers.

Yes: 193 / 96.98% No: 6 / 3.02%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 5.

## Resolution 6-02

### **To Give Thanks and Praise to Our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for the Faithful and Persevering Service of All Our Church Workers in the Midst of the Ongoing Pandemic.**

WHEREAS, St. Peter encourages you to rejoice at being born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ even though, "for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise in glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ," (I Pt. 1:6-7); and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has created trials for all of our church workers that have tested and proven the genuineness of their faith and whose persevering service is most certainly more precious than gold; therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That their faithful and persevering service result in praise, glory and honor not only at the revelation of Jesus Christ, but now as the convention sings the Doxology.

Yes: 192 / 94.12% No: 12 / 5.88%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 5.



## Resolution 6-03

### **To Give Thanks and Praise to Our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for the Faithful and Persevering Service of All Our Frontline Workers in Our Communities in the Midst of the Ongoing Pandemic.**

WHEREAS, the Word of God counsels us that if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, then “in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:1-4); and

WHEREAS, countless frontline workers have done that very thing by risking their own health in fulfilling that calling by putting the well-being of others ahead of their own; therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That MN South District Convention give thanks and praise for their sacrificial service on behalf of their neighbor by lifting them up with a word of prayer by the convention chaplain. (“Lord Jesus, You are the heavenly Physician who is able to give health to the body, wholesomeness to the mind, and peace to the soul. Conduct Your ministry of mercy in all the hospitals and nursing homes of our communities and grant Your healing to the distressed. Give patience, wisdom, and perseverance to all of our frontline workers as they minister to those in need. Grant each of these workers a special measure of Your love and understanding toward those that are frightened and in pain. Lord Jesus Christ, we call on you to be present according to your Word in every place to hold up those who work to bring mercy and healing care at great risk to themselves. When they are weary and tired of serving, when the burden has become too heavy may they accept Your invitation to come to you, whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light, and find rest for their souls. In Your name we pray, Amen.” (Adapted from a prayer for Workers in Hospitals and Nursing Homes, My Prayer Book, p. 173-174).

Yes: 195 / 95.12%    No: 10 / 4.88%

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