

2022 Convention Proceedings



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

Concordia University, St. Paul

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” – Colossians 3:12-17 (ESV)

CONVENTION CHAIR.....Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, President
Minnesota South District - LCMS

SYNODICAL REPRESENTATIVES.....Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President
Rev. Nabil Nour, 4th Vice President

CONVENTION MANAGERS.....Debbie Borchardt
Dr. Phil Johnson

BIBLE STUDY LEADERS.....Rev. Stefan Wismar
Rev. Vue Lee
Rev. Dr. Samuel Deressa
Rev. Dr. Mark Koschmann

CONVENTION CHAPLAIN.....Rev. Greg Snow
Senior Pastor of St. John's, Chaska

CONVENTION PARLIAMENTARIAN.....Rev. Robert Frank

CONVENTION SECRETARY.....Rev. Keith Grimm, Secretary
Minnesota South District - LCMS

HOST CONGREGATION.....St. John Lutheran Church & School
Chaska, MN

CONVENTION MUSIC DIRECTOR.....Julie Pallas
Director of Music and Worship at St. John's, Chaska

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR.....Nadine Meyer

SESSION 1

Thursday, June 9, 2022

Registration (8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

Convention Floor Committee Hearings were held as needed 8:30 a.m.

Convention Registration (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Vendor Area open (9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

Interest Centers

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

How a District Convention Works (Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, leader)

Multi-Ethnic Church Plants (Rev. Dr. William Utech, leader)

Network and Collaboration in Congregations (Dr. Phillip Johnson, leader)

Public Policy Advocate (Rev. Fred Hinz, leader)

State of Lutheran Education (Mr. Sean Martens, leader)

The second round of Interest Centers were held from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Topics presented were:

Multi-Ethnic Church Plants (Rev. Dr. William Utech, leader)

Network and Collaboration in Congregations (Dr. Phillip Johnson, leader)

Public Policy Advocate (Rev. Fred Hinz, leader)

State of Lutheran Education (Mr. Sean Martens, leader)

Prison Ministry: Past, Present, and Future (Dr. James Seemann, leader)

CONVENTION SESSION 1

Call to Order

The seventy-ninth convention of the Minnesota South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was called to order at 1:25 p.m. by Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, President, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. He briefly explained the convention theme and logo.

Opening Devotion: Bible Study 1 – Everything IN THE NAME OF JESUS – Colossians 3:17. Rev. Stefan Wismar, Executive Assistant to the President

The assembly began by singing “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds” (LSB 524). Rev. Stefan Wismar led a Bible study focusing on the Convention’s theme verse, Colossians 3:17, specifically “Everything in the Name of Jesus.” The goal of his Bible study was reminding every participant to not only believe *Jesus* is the name above all names, but also to faithfully live under that name’s power. Rev. Wismar concluded his Bible study with prayer. The assembly prayed the Lord’s Prayer.

Welcome and Report: Concordia University, St. Paul (Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, President)

President Woodford introduced Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, who began serving as the 10th President of Concordia University, St. Paul, on January 1, 2020. President Friedrich welcomed those attending the convention and reported on the status of the University.

Constitution & Membership Committee (Rev. Matthew Moss, Chair)

Rev. Moss reported that from September 2012 through their most recent meeting on April 9, 2022, the Committee reviewed 75 constitutions. Twenty-two constitutions were recommended for approval to the Board of Directors. The 75 total submissions represent 33 congregations. In addition, the Committee

returned 53 constitutions to congregations with recommended changes. Finally, 12 congregations have received their materials back with our comments, but have not yet submitted an approved Constitution & Bylaws. Rev. Moss strongly encouraged congregations planning on revising their constitution and bylaws to utilize the helps and checklist available on the district's website and also that a series of tutorial videos on the process was in the works.

Welcome of New Workers and New School

Newly ordained and colloquized workers that joined the MN South District during the last triennium (2018-2022) were introduced first; then commissioned workers; finally, a new school was recognized.

New Ordained Ministers

(Candidate and Colloquy)

Joshua B. Arndt (Candidate)
Matthew L. Albright (Candidate)
Jesse C. Baker (Candidate)
Dinko L. Bato (Colloquy)
Martin D. Cornes (SMP Candidate)
Samuel Y. Deressa (Colloquy)
Dean Dunavan (SMP Candidate)
Karl M. Grant (Colloquy)
Gen Hashimoto (Colloquy)
David L. Jander (Candidate)
Brian Johnston (Candidate)
Tyler R. LaGrave (Colloquy)
Ellioyt R. Malm (Colloquy)
Craig McCourt (SMP Candidate)
Joshua C. Miller (Colloquy)
Andrew C. Mussell (Candidate)
Joshua Parrish (Candidate)
Craig A. Quiring (SMP Colloquy)
Gatluk L. Reat (EIIT Candidate)
Christopher M. Ryan (SMP Candidate)
Richard H. Stadler (Colloquy)
Tyler C. Werner (Candidate)

New School

Rosebuds Early Learning Center

New Commissioned Workers

(Candidate and Colloquy)

Jens Acamo (Candidate)
Sarah Albachten (Candidate)
Bradley Asmus (Candidate)
Kiah Bakken (Candidate)
Erin Banks (Colloquy)
Peyton Barrett (Candidate)
Noah Bauer (Candidate)
Jenna Bents (Candidate)
Harold Bohrer (Colloquy)
Brenna Bowland (Colloquy)
Bethany Brandvold (Candidate)
John Dolde (Candidate)
Christin Frey (Colloquy)
Kathryn Griffin (Colloquy)
Rebecca Gustafson (Colloquy)
Sierra Jacob (Candidate)
Christopher Jacobson (Colloquy)
Jennifer Jarocki (Colloquy)
Danielle Mahlum (Candidate)
Mary Mehrl (Colloquy)
Kellsey Meyer (Colloquy)
Brittany Moen (Colloquy)
Susan Nash (Colloquy)
Katherine Parrish (Candidate)
Emily Peterson (Candidate)
Joshua Pingel (Candidate)
Megan Polzin (Candidate)
Jazmin Roste (Colloquy)
Cara Schmidtke (Candidate)
Renee Siegle (Colloquy)
Sarah Steinborn (Candidate)
Kevin Stripling (Candidate)
Mary Stuedeman (Colloquy)
Megan Tews (Candidate)
Mackenzie Thiesfeld (Candidate)
Joel Wetzstein (Candidate)
Sarah Willis (Candidate)

Registration, Credentials & Attendance Committee (Rev. Nickolas Kooi, Chair)

Rev. Kooi reported 27 Advisory Delegates, 45 Guests / Vendors, and 271 Voting Delegates have registered for the convention at this time. The requirements have been met for a quorum. A motion was made and seconded to accept this report. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Recognition of Missionaries, Armed Service Chaplains, Specialized Chaplains and Others

The following individuals were recognized:

Missionaries: Rev. Timothy Beckendorf; Rev. Vance Becker; Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram

Armed Services Chaplains: Rev. Robert Alsleben; Rev. Robert Burmeister; Rev. Chad Czischke; Rev. Matthew Franke; Rev. Steven Frentz; Rev. Sol Grosskopf; Rev. Adam Hengst; Rev. Dr. William Keller; Rev. Howard Krienke; Rev. John Meyer; Rev. Mark Moss; Rev. Merlin Stephan; Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Williams

Specialized Ministry Chaplains: Rev. Dr. Gordon Bynum; Rev. Mark Moss; Rev. Nathaniel Schwartz; Rev. Joel Sund; Rev. Aaron Unseth; Rev. Thomas Volker; Rev. Dr. Jared Yogerst

Board of Directors (Completed three consecutive terms): Rosa Summers

2018 Outstanding Lutheran Educator Award: Bruce Urban

2021 Outstanding Early Childhood Teacher: Kimberly Link

2021 Outstanding Elementary Teacher: Julie Herrmann

2021 Outstanding High School Teacher: David Lane

2021 Outstanding Administrator/Principal: Rev. Dr. Tim Berner

2021 Outstanding DCE/DCO/Deaconess: Melanie Appelquist

Outstanding School Shepherd: Rev. LeRoy LaPlant

Rev. Greg Snow, Conference Chaplain, offered a prayer and blessing for all of these wonderful servants.

Introduction of Convention Parliamentarian

Rev. Robert Frank was introduced as the Parliamentarian for the convention. He is the Pastor of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Duluth, Minnesota. In addition, he has served as the Parliamentarian for several MN North District Conventions. Rev. Frank read the Convention Rules from the Convention Workbook. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Convention Rules. The motion carried by voice vote.

Adoption of the Revised Convention Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Revised Convention Agenda. The motion carried by voice vote.

Introduction of Convention Participants

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford introduced a number of guests: LCMS Synod President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison; LCMS Fourth Vice President Rev. Nabil Nour; Bible Study leaders: Rev. Stefan Wismar, Rev. Vue Lee, Rev. Dr. Samuel Deressa and Rev. Dr. Mark Koschmann; Convention Chaplain: Rev. Greg Snow; Convention Music Director: Julie Pallas; District Secretary: Rev. Keith Grimm; Convention Timekeeper: Sean Martens; Convention Manager: Debbie Borchardt.

Devotion and Bible Study 2 – CLOTHED in the name of Jesus – Colossians 3:12-14. Rev. Vue Lee, Associate Pastor at King of Kings Lutheran Church and School in Roseville

The assembly sang “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (LSB 686). Rev Lee explained emotional intelligence. Then he emphasized how the Holy Spirit works these qualities within us through the power of the gospel: compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Clothed with Christ’s righteousness, we are empowered to love others and proclaim God’s good news.

Convention Greetings

Ms. Deb Vinkemeier, President, MN South District LWML (video)
Mr. Doyle Benson, President, MN South Lutheran Layman’s League (video)
Mr. Bob LaCroix, Executive Director, Camp Omega (video)
Mr. Kai Larson, MN South District LCEF Vice President
Rev. Dr. James Baneck, Church Worker Initiative (“Set Apart to Serve” video)
Rev. James Vehling, SAGES, the older adult ministry of the MN South District (video)
Mr. Nader Alaraj, Missionary for People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO)

Prayer before Meal and Recess (Rev. Greg Snow, Convention Chaplain)

Convention Opening Service

Host Congregation: St. John’s Lutheran Church & School, Chaska, MN
Celebrant/Chaplain: Rev. Greg Snow, Senior Pastor, St. John’s Chaska
Preacher: Rev. Nabil Nour, LCMS Fourth Vice President
Organist: Kristin Johnson
Mission Offering: POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach) received an offering of \$4,003.05

Memorial Observance of Departed Servants

Ordained Ministers:

Rev. Ronald A. Bongard
Rev. Richard L. Buege
Rev. J. Nevin Crowther
Rev. Ronald G. Dommer
Rev. Roger K. Dramstad
Rev. Eugene C. Glade
Rev. David E. Hinck
Rev. Donald R. Howard
Rev. Roy R. Karner
Rev. Harvey G. Kath
Rev. Donald E. Knick
Rev. Luther A. Koehler
Rev. Albert S. Kresken
Rev. Richard A. Krogen
Rev. Robert H. Krueger
Rev. Steven J. Kuehne
Rev. Royce C. Leckband
Rev. David W. Maki
Rev. Keith E. Meyer
Rev. Dr. Michael J. Nirva
Rev. Thomas N. Oie
Rev. Theodore E. Schoewe

Rev. Theodore W. Schroeder
Rev. Deane L. Schuessler
Rev. Dr. Kenneth J. Siess
Rev. Robert E. Snyder, Jr.
Rev. Marvin L. Soulek
Rev. Maynard A. Spitzack
Rev. George P. Steinkamp
Rev. Stephen C. Stohlmann
Rev. Donald E. Urbach
Rev. Gerald B. Wunrow
Rev. Ronald R. Yungmann

Commissioned Ministers:

Paul Berg
Kathryn Ehlers
Joseph Fountain
Tim Hansen
Eugene Heuton
John Kirchner
Robert Leininger
Carroll Peter
Arnold Scholz
Susan Schutte

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford presented a token of appreciation to the families of the faithful departed.

Reception

A reception, hosted by Concordia University, St. Paul, was held following the Convention opening service.

SESSION 2

Friday, June 10, 2022

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford called Convention Session 2 to order at 8:10 a.m.

Devotion and Bible Study 3 – PEACE in the Name of Jesus – Colossians 3:15. Rev. Dr. Samuel Deressa, Assistant Professor Religion and Theology at Concordia University, St. Paul

The assembly sang “When Peace, Like a River” (LSB 763). The goal of Dr. Deressa’s presentation is that participants understand peace in relation to God, ourselves, each other, and the whole creation. Dr. Deressa noted that the passive verb “you have been raised” (Col. 3:1) points to God’s action in our lives. Setting our hearts/minds on things above is not self-contrived, but enabled and brought only by God’s grace. Peace is far more than the absence of war. Peace results from God reconciling sinful humanity to Himself through Christ. God is the giver of peace “in Christ” through baptism and faith. Finally, only those who are “in Christ” are one in Christ and with each other.

Registration, Credentials and Attendance Committee (Rev. Nickolas Kooi)

Rev. Kooi reported at this time there are 27 Advisory Delegates; 57 Registered Guests; and 307 Voting Delegates. A motion was made and seconded to accept this report. The motion carried by voice vote.

Greetings

Rev. Brady Finnern, newly elected President of the MN North District, brought greetings to the convention.

President Emeritus Rev. Dr. Lane Seitz, who served as District President from 1992 to 2012, was unable to be present for the convention. The District Secretary read a letter of greeting from Dr. Seitz.

President Emeritus Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, who served as District President from 2012 to 2018, shared a greeting to the convention.

Nominations from the Floor

President Woodford requested that all paperwork for nominations from the floor for any of the election positions be turned in at this time.

Nominations from the Floor (read by Nominations Committee Chair Mr. Christian Preus)

Vice-President Region IV – Rev. Dennis Heiden

Board of Directors (Ordained) Region II – Rev. Mark Shockey

Board of Directors (Ordained) Region II – Rev. Matthew Johnson

Board of Directors (Ordained) Region IV – Rev. Dennis Heiden

Board of Directors (Region I) Lay East Metro North – Mr. Virgil Rose

Board of Directors (Region I) Lay East Metro North – Mr. Daniel Thao

Board of Directors (Region I) Lay East Metro South – Ms. Alfrieda Baldwin

Board of Directors (Region II) Lay West Metro East – Mr. Michael Hentges

Board of Directors (Region II) Lay West Metro East – Mr. Bill Summers

Board of Directors (Region II) Lay West Metro West – Mr. Travis Barclay

Board of Directors (Region II) Lay West Metro West – Mr. John Branstad

Board of Directors (Region III) Lay Southeast Minnesota West – Mr. David Kenow

Board of Directors (Region III) Lay Southeast Minnesota West – Mr. Leonard Marquardt

Board of Directors (Region IV) Lay Southwest Minnesota West – Mr. Daniel Uttech

Board of Regents Concordia University, St. Paul (Ordained) – Rev. John Niebuhr

Board of Regents Concordia University, St. Paul (Ordained) – Rev. Jeffrey B. Williams

Board of Regents Concordia University, St. Paul (Commissioned) – Mr. Harold “Andy” Frerich
Board of Regents Concordia University, St. Paul (Commissioned) – Mr. William Johnson
Board of Regents Concordia University, St. Paul (Commissioned) – Mr. Jay Schutte
Board of Regents Concordia University, St. Paul (Commissioned) – Mr. Gary Volberding
2025 District Convention Nominations Committee (ordained) – Rev. Daniel R. Burns
2025 District Convention Nominations Committee (ordained) – Rev. Steven N. Frentz
2025 District Convention Nominations Committee (ordained) – Rev. Nickolas Kooi
2025 District Convention Nominations Committee (ordained) – Rev. Mark R. Meier, Sr.
2025 District Convention Nominations Committee (Commissioned) – Ms. Sarah Culbert
2025 District Convention Nominations Committee (Lay) – Ms. Katherine Mennicke

2022 Slate of Nominations

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

DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Rev. Thomas L. Evans
Rev. Kurt R. Klaus
Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION I

Rev. Thomas L. Evans
Rev. Todd D. Stocker
Rev. Timothy B. Vaughan

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION II

Rev. David A. Kind
Rev. Steven J. Wheeler

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION III

Rev. David C. Mumme
Rev. Nathaniel R. Schwartz
Rev. Jonathan H. Vollrath

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION IV

Rev. Dennis Heiden
Rev. Mark S. Loder
Rev. Eric M. Nelson – chose to withdraw

DISTRICT SECRETARY

Rev. Keith H. Grimm
Rev. Matthew P. Johnson

ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION I

Rev. Christopher P. Horton
Rev. Kurt R. Klaus

ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION II

Rev. Matthew Johnson
Rev. Mark Shockey

ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION III

Rev. Jonathan H. Vollrath
Rev. Loel A. Wessel

ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION IV

Rev. Dennis Heiden
Rev. Eric M. Nelson

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (elect two)

Mr. Harold “Andy” Frerich
Mr. Joel Landskroener

LAY, EAST METRO NORTH

Mr. Virgil E. Rose
Mr. Daniel Thao

LAY, EAST METRO SOUTH

Ms. Alfrieda Baldwin

LAY, WEST METRO EAST

Mr. Michael Hentges
Mr. Bill Summers

LAY, WEST METRO WEST

Mr. Travis Barclay
Mr. John Branstad

LAY, SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA EAST

Ms. Sara Sorenson

LAY, SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA WEST

Mr. David Kenow
Mr. Leonard Marquardt

LAY, SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA EAST
Mr. David Koosman

LAY, SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA WEST
Mr. Daniel Uttech

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

ORDAINED MINISTER
Rev. Jeremiah D. Johnson
Rev. Jon Niebuhr
Rev. William H. Otte
Rev. Jeffrey B. Williams

COMMISSIONED MINISTER
Mr. Harold "Andy" Frerich
Mr. William Johnson
Mr. Jay Schutte
Mr. Gary Volberding

LAY MEMBER (elect two)
Mr. James Anderson
Ms. Jocelyn Benson
Ms. Rosa Summers
Ms. Lori L. Utech

2025 DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

ORDAINED MINISTER (elect four)
Rev. Daniel R. Burns
Rev. Steven N. Frenz
Rev. Nickolas Kooi
Rev. Kyle D. Krueger
Rev. Mark R. Meier, Sr.
Rev. Eric M. Nelson
Rev. Jon Niebuhr

COMMISSIONED MINISTER
Ms. Sarah Culbert

LAY MEMBER (elect four)
Mr. David Koosman
Mr. Glen Meints
Ms. Katherine Mennicke
Mr. Bill Summers

2023 COMMITTEE FOR SYNOD CONVENTION
NOMINATIONS (elect one lay committee member
and one alternate)
Mr. Dave Kenow
Mr. Christian Preus

Orientation to the Electronic Response System (Rev. Eric Nelson, Chair of Elections Committee)

Prayer for the Elections (Rev. Greg Snow, Convention Chaplain)

Nominations and Elections Committees (Mr. Christian Preus, Chair, Nominations Committee & Rev. Eric Nelson, Chair, Elections Committee)

(Please note that an "X" in a results column indicates that a candidate received either the least number of votes or less than 15% of the votes on a previous ballot. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot. This follows the procedure mandated by Bylaw 4.7.3 of the 2019 LCMS Handbook).

DISTRICT PRESIDENT

	Ballot 1
Evans	23 / 7.93%
Klaus	37 / 12.76%
Woodford	230 / 79.31%

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford was elected President on the first ballot.

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION I

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
Evans	123 / 44.73%	162 / 56.25%
Stocker	52 / 18.9%	X
Vaughan	100 / 36.36%	126 / 43.75%

Rev. Thomas Evans was elected on the second ballot.

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION II

	Ballot 1
Kind	158 / 53.92%
Wheeler	135 / 46.08%

Rev. David Kind was elected.

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION III

	Ballot 1
Mumme	156 / 52.17%
Schwartz	52 / 17.39%
Vollrath	91 / 30.43%

Rev. David Mumme was elected on the first ballot.

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION IV

	Ballot 1
Heiden	122 / 42.07%
Loder	168 / 57.93%

Rev. Mark Loder was elected.

RANKING OF VICE PRESIDENTS

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2	Ballot 3
Evans	109 / 38.65%	126 / 42.75%	129 / 43.43%
Kind	51 / 18.09%	34 / 11.49%	X
Loder	24 / 8.51%	X	X
Mumme	98 / 34.75%	136 / 45.95%	168 / 56.57%

Rev. David Mumme was elected the First Vice President on the third ballot.

	Ballot 1
Evans	171 / 57.97%
Kind	95 / 32.20%
Loder	29 / 9.83%

Rev. Thomas Evans was elected the Second Vice President on the first ballot.

	Ballot 1
Kind	153 / 55.04%
Loder	125 / 44.96%

Rev. David Kind was elected the Third Vice President on the first ballot.

Rev. Mark Loder will be the Fourth Vice President.

District President's Triennium Address

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford addressed the assembly stating that we do everything in the powerful name of Jesus across our District. He noted how he is intentionally trying to bridge the gap between confessional and missional mindsets. It's time to be faithful and bold sharing the name and message of Christ as we face the challenges and opportunities before us.

Resolutions A-B-C-D

President Woodford mentioned Omnibus resolutions are overtures that have been declined by respective floor committees. The motion was made to approve Omnibus Resolution B, which declined Overture 5-02: *To Reduce Redundancy*. This overture is already addressed by 2018 District Res. 4-03a. The resolution was adopted. Yes: 270 / 88.1% No: 32 / 11.9%

Now we will consider Omnibus Resolution C which includes Overture 2-02 and Overture 2-03. First, Overture 2-02: *To Encourage Proper Pastoral Oversight in Administration of the Lord's Supper through Visitation of Ecclesiastical Supervisors*. The reason given for declining this overture is this matter has already addressed by Bylaws 4.4.4 and 4.4.5 in the 2019 LCMS Handbook. Second, Overture 2-03 *To Develop Further Depth and Theological Oversight in the Training of Pastors from Immigrant Communities*. The reasons given for declining this overture are:

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. The assembly may now consider whether it concurs with this action of declining Overtures 2-02, and 2-03 for these reasons. The resolution was adopted.

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

Comments by Elected President.

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford gave an inspiring appeal to follow Jesus and joyfully "go first" in sharing the gospel and extending his love. The goal for the next triennium is empowered by Christ (who always goes first in grace, love and forgiveness), we will "go first" in praying, repentance, reconciliation, trusting others, and loving our neighbors.

Prayer and Recess (Rev. Greg Snow, Convention Chaplain)

SESSION 3

Friday, June 10

Devotion and Bible Study 4 – WORSHIP in the Name of Jesus – Colossians 3:16. Rev. Dr. Mark Koschmann, Associate Vice President of Faith & Ministry and Chair of the Department of Theology & Ministry at Concordia University, St. Paul.

The assembly began by singing "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (LSB 790). Dr. Koschmann emphasized how the world is desperately in need of Christ's hope and care during this pandemic. By the power of the gospel, our everyday life can be worship. We can let "Christ in us" show through our daily lives and words of grace. We were made to be sent.

LCMS Report - Part I & II (Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President, LCMS)

President Harrison has served as president of the LCMS since 2010. He gave a thorough report updating the work of the Synod. He wrapped up his report with Q & A.

Floor Committee 1: Missions (Rev. Loel Wessel, Chair)

Resolution 1-01

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

The resolution was adopted.

Yes: 260 / 96.3% No: 10 / 3.7%

Resolution 1-02

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

The resolution was adopted.

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

Resolution 1-03

To Evangelize Our Unchurched / Unclaimed Students and Their Parents

The resolution was adopted.

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

Resolution 1-04

To Encourage Revitalization of Existing Congregations of the Minnesota South District

The resolution was adopted.

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

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

Floor Committee 2: Theology & Church Relations (Rev. Dr. Lowell Sorenson, Chair)

Resolution 2-01

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

A motion was made to close debate. The motion was seconded. The motion carried. The resolution was adopted.

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

Resolution 2-02A

To Reject the Practice of Internet Communion

A motion was made and seconded to substitute the original Overture 2-01. The motion was defeated.

A motion was made, seconded to replace the words "refrain from" with the word "reject" throughout the resolution. A motion was made and seconded to end debate. The motion carried. The amended resolution was adopted.

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

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

Nominations and Elections Committee (Mr. Christian Preus, Chair, Nominations Committee & Rev. Eric Nelson, Chair, Elections Committee)

DISTRICT SECRETARY

Ballot 1

Grimm 179 / 64.39%

Johnson 99 / 35.61%

Rev. Keith Grimm was elected.

ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION I

Ballot 1

Horton 123 / 43.93%

Klaus 157 / 56.07%

Rev. Kurt Klaus was elected.

ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION II

Ballot 1

Johnson 136 / 50.56%

Shockey 133 / 49.44%

Rev. Matthew Johnson was elected.

ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION III

Ballot 1

Vollrath 140 / 50.54%

Wessel 137 / 49.46%

Rev. Jonathan Vollrath was elected.

ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION IV

Ballot 1

Heiden 115 / 41.67%

Nelson 161 / 58.33%

Rev. Eric Nelson was elected.

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (elect two)

Mr. Harold "Andy" Frerich and Mr. Joel Landskroener were elected by common consent.

LAY, EAST METRO NORTH

Ballot 1

Rose 99 / 36.67%

Thao 171 / 63.33%

Mr. Daniel Thao was elected.

LAY, EAST METRO SOUTH

Ms. Alfreida Baldwin was elected by common consent.

LAY, WEST METRO EAST

Ballot 1

Hentges 149 / 57.75%

Summers 109 / 42.25%

Mr. Bill Summers was elected.

LAY, WEST METRO WEST

Ballot 1

Barclay 132 / 51.36%

Branstad 125 / 48.64%

Mr. Travis Barclay was elected.

LAY, SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA EAST

Ms. Sara Sorenson was elected by common consent.

LAY, SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA WEST

Ballot 1

Kenow 130 / 50%

Marquardt 130 / 50%

Ballot 2

144 / 52.75%

129 / 47.25%

Mr. David Kenow was elected on the second ballot.

LAY, SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA EAST

Mr. David Koosman was elected by common consent.

SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA WEST

Daniel Uttech was elected by common consent.

Floor Committee 3: Church and Culture (Rev. David Mumme, Chair)

Resolution 3-04

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

A motion was made and seconded to amend the resolution to read: "That we reject the worldview of CRT *because* it is contrary to Scripture." This amendment was adopted. An amendment was made to add these words: "To reject and condemn the groups Black Lives Matter and Lutherans for Racial Justice" to the third to last resolve. This amendment was defeated. The amended resolution was adopted.

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

Prayer and Recess (Rev. Greg Snow, Convention Chaplain)

SESSION 4

Friday, June 10

Nominations and Elections Committee (Mr. Christian Preus, Chair, Nominations Committee & Rev. Eric Nelson, Chair, Elections Committee)

BOARD OF REGENTS, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL

ORDAINED MINISTER

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
Johnson	94 / 45.19%	116 / 51.79 %
Niebuhr	51 / 24.52 %	66 / 29.46 %
Otte	48 / 23.08%	42 / 18.75%
Williams	15 / 7.21%	X

Rev. Jeremiah Johnson was elected on the second ballot.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
Frerich	48 / 25.53%	25 / 11.68%
Johnson	26 / 13.83%	X
Schutte	47 / 25%	65 / 30.37%
Volberding	67 / 35.64%	124 / 57.94%

Mr. Gary Volberding was elected on the second ballot.

LAY MEMBER (elect two)

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2	Ballot 3
Anderson	34 / 15.24%	X	X
Benson	44 / 19.73%	27 / 11.84 %	X
Summers	66 / 29.60%	90 / 39.47%	107 / 47.56%
Utech	79 / 35.43%	111 / 48.68%	118 / 52.44%

Dr. Lori Utech was elected on the third ballot.

LAY MEMBER

	Ballot 1
Anderson	39 / 16.96%
Benson	42 / 18.26%
Summers	149 / 64.78%

Ms. Rosa Summers was elected on the first ballot.

2025 DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

ORDAINED MINISTER (elect four)

	Ballot 1	Ballot 2	Ballot 3
Burns	22 / 9.78%	X	X
Frentz	6 / 2.67%	X	X
Kooi	49 / 21.78%	65 / 28.14%	X
Krueger	28 / 12.44%	X	X
Meier, Sr.	22 / 9.78%	X	X
Nelson	41 / 18.22%	80 / 34.63	109 / 47.39%
Niebuhr	57 / 25.33%	86 / 37.23%	121 / 52.61%

Rev. Jon Niebuhr was elected on the third ballot.

ORDAINED MINISTER

	Ballot 1
Burns	13 / 5.7%
Frentz	5 / 2.19%
Kooi	50 / 21.93%
Krueger	23 / 10.09%
Meier, Sr.	12 / 5.26%
Nelson	125 / 54.82%

Rev. Eric Nelson was elected on the first ballot.

ORDAINED MINISTER

	Ballot 1
Burns	15 / 6.58%
Frentz	9 / 3.95%
Kooi	138 / 60.53%
Krueger	46 / 20.18%
Meier, Sr.	20 / 8.77%

Rev. Nickolas Kooi was elected on the first ballot.

ORDAINED MINISTER

	Ballot 1
Burns	25 / 11.01%
Frentz	10 / 4.41%
Krueger	142 / 62.56%
Meier, Sr.	50 / 22.02%

Rev. Kyle Krueger was elected on the first ballot.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Ms. Sarah Culbert was elected by common consent.

LAY MEMBER (elect four)

David Koosman, Glen Meints, Katherine Mennicke and Bill Summers were elected by common consent.

SYNOD NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

	Ballot 1
Kenow	65 / 28.26%
Preus	165 / 71.74%

Mr. Christian Preus was elected .

Floor Committee 4: Congregational Services (Rev. Dennis Heiden, Chair)

Resolution 4-01

To Challenge Every Congregation to Seek Collaborations toward Ministry Stabilization and Growth.
The resolution was adopted.

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

Resolution 4-02

To Exhort Congregations to Actively Encourage Current and Future Lutheran School Teachers.
The resolution was adopted.

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

Resolution 4-03

To Encourage and Support Evangelism through Lutheran Schools.
The resolution was adopted.

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

President Woodford had all the delegates who are serving with a school ministry stand to receive applause.

Resolution 4-04

To Provide Ongoing Support for Older Adult Ministry through S.A.G.E.S.
The resolution was adopted.

Yes: 210 / 91.7% No: 19 / 8.3%

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

Floor Committee 5: Administration & Finance (Rev. Jonathan Vollrath)

Resolution 5-01

To Amend the Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota South District.
The resolution was adopted.

Yes: 209 / 95.43% No: 10 / 4.57%

Resolution 5-02

To Clarify Sharing Gifts on a 50% / 50% Basis with the Synod.
The resolution was adopted.

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

Resolution 5-03a

To Provide Financial Support to Camp Omega.

A substitute Resolution to Resolution 5-03 was offered. The Chairman ruled this out of order because it wasn't germane to the original subject matter. It was moved and seconded to debate this appeal. The Chair's ruling was affirmed by the assembly. Then a motion was made to amend line 22 of the resolution to change the words "three years" to "next triennium." This motion was affirmed by consent of the assembly. The motion was made to end debate. This motion was approved. The amended resolution was adopted.

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

Prayer and Recess (Rev. Greg Snow, Convention Chaplain)

After our chaplain's prayer, the convention stands in recess until we reconvene tomorrow morning.

A dessert reception was sponsored by the LCEF.

SESSION 5

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford called the convention to order.

Devotion and Bible Study 5 - EVERYTHING in the Name of Jesus - Colossians 3:17. Rev. Stefan Wismar, Executive Assistant to the President.

The assembly began by singing "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen" (LSB 474) and "Earth and All Stars" (LSB 817). The goal of Pastor Wismar's Bible study was that participants would live out their various callings through faith in the Lordship of Jesus, who is the "Theology of Everything." We live with a biblical worldview that Jesus is the Unifier, whose person and work answers every important question (origin, meaning, morality and destiny). We closed by saying Luther's Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Floor Committee 6: Ministerial Health (Rev. Thomas Evans, Chair)

Resolution 6-01

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

The resolution was adopted.

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

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.

The resolution was adopted.

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

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.

The resolution was adopted.

Yes: 195 / 95.12% No: 10 / 4.88%

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

Floor Committee 3: Church and Culture (Rev. David Mumme, Chair)

Resolution 3-02

To Remind All That God Has Appointed Parents to Be the Primary Authority in the Life of Their Children.

The resolution was adopted. A motion was made to remove two words ("the state's") from lines 18-19 of the resolution. This motion was adopted by common assent. The resolution was adopted.

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

Resolution 3-03

To Encourage Members of LCMS Congregations to Seek Political Office.

A motion was made and seconded to change the words "individual members" in the first resolved to "members of our congregations." The amendment to the resolution passed. A motion was made to change the words in the last resolved from "our republican form of government" to "our form of government (democratic republic)." This amendment to the resolution passed. A motion was made to add the words "in the name of Jesus and according to Holy Scripture" to line 46 of the second last resolved. This amendment to the resolution passed. The amended resolution was adopted.

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

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

Floor Committee 5: Administration & Finance (Rev. Jonathan Vollrath, Chair)

The Finance and Committee made a motion that Resolution 5-01, which was approved by the Minnesota South District Convention yesterday (June 10, 2022), be modified as follows to correct one typo in order to be in compliance with Synod Bylaw 3.10.6.2:

- Section 4.11.3.3 of the MN South District Bylaws be modified to remove the phrase “one lay member” and replace it with “two lay members.

This motion was adopted by common consent

Resolution 5-04

To Be Gospel Centered in Corporate and Spiritual Missions

A motion was made to change the word “their” in line 31 of the resolution with the word “the.” This amendment passed by common consent. The amended resolution was adopted.

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

Resolution 5-05

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

The resolution was adopted.

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

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

A motion was made and seconded to bring the following resolution to the convention floor:

To Encourage Camp Omega to Adjust Programming to Allow Attendance at the Sunday Divine Service

WHEREAS, Camp Omega, Inc. ("Camp Omega") offers camps that conclude on Sunday mornings; and

WHEREAS, this Sunday programming keeps campers and staff and parents traveling to retrieve participants from camp from attending the regular Sunday services of their home congregations or, in the case of some camp staff, the congregations they attend as guests through the summer; and

WHEREAS, at our District congregations is received Sunday after Sunday the gifts of our Lord’s Word and His very Body and Blood; and

WHEREAS, attendance at the Divine Service is in keeping with the Third Commandment as explained in the Small Catechism, that we not “despise preaching and [our Lord’s] Word, but hold it sacred” and with the example of the early church faithful who “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42) and with the instruction in Hebrews 10:25 that stirring one another to love and good works includes “not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some;” and

WHEREAS, the “granting of Recognized Service Organization status by the Synod signifies that a service organization, while independent of the Synod, fosters the mission and ministry of the church, engages in program activity that is in harmony with the programs of the boards of Synod, and respects and does not act contrary to the doctrine and practice of the Synod” (LCMS Bylaw 6.2.1); and

WHEREAS, the “mission and ministry of the church” and the “doctrine and practice of the Synod” includes the faithful reception of our Lord’s gifts at the Divine Service, which for most congregations is only offered on the Lord’s Day (Sunday); therefore be it

Resolved, that the Minnesota South District in convention encourage Camp Omega to provide programming which guards Sunday morning for attendance at the Divine Service for all those associated with the camp; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Minnesota South District in convention encourage the granting agency for Camp Omega's Recognized Service Organization status to evaluate whether offering Sunday programming is in keeping with what is asked of Synod's Registered Service Organizations in LCMS Bylaw 6.2.1.

A motion was made and seconded to end debate on this resolution. This motion carried.

The resolution was defeated.

Yes: 44 / 20.95% No: 166 / 79.05%

President Woodford thanked all of our convention committees and floor committees for their excellent work in serving us.

Ratification of Elected Circuit Visitors

A motion was made and seconded to ratify this list of newly-elected Circuit Visitors:

(The only change is that Rev. Kurt Klaus was elected to the Board of Directors and thus not able to serve as a Circuit Visitor for the Southeast Suburban Circuit).

Circuit 1: Northeast Suburban	Rev. Paul Strawn, Prince of Peace, Spring Lake Park
Circuit 2: St. Paul East Metro	Rev. Steven Bielenberg, King of Kings, Roseville
Circuit 3: St. Croix River	Rev. Ted Diedrick, Good Shepherd, Circle Pines
Circuit 4: Southeast Suburban	Rev. Kurt Klaus, Messiah, Lakeville
Circuit 5: Northwest Suburban	Rev. Steven Jones, Peace, Robbinsdale
Circuit 6: Minneapolis Metro	Rev. William Hugo, St. Matthew, Columbia Heights
Circuit 7: Southwest Suburban	Rev. Ryan Alvey, St. Michael's, Bloomington
Circuit 8: Lake Minnetonka	Open
Circuit 9: Carver County	Rev. David Hormann, St. John's, Winsted
Circuit 10: Carver South	Rev. Greg Snow, St. John's, Chaska
Circuit 11: Lake Pepin	Rev. Lowell Sorenson, Immanuel, Red Wing
Circuit 12: Winona	Rev. Richard Moore, St. Martins, Winona
Circuit 13: Rochester	Rev. Joel Haak, Trinity, Rochester
Circuit 14: Austin	Rev. Jesse Krusemark, St. Paul's, Waltham
Circuit 15: Waseca	Rev. Michael Mathews, First / St. John, Waldorf / MN Lake
Circuit 16: Faribault	Rev. Brent Klein, Trinity, Northfield
Circuit 17: Litchfield	Rev. Michael Trask, Life in Christ, Albertville
Circuit 18: McLeod	Rev. Russell Reed, Immanuel, Brownston
Circuit 19: Arlington	Rev. James King, Immanuel, Gaylord
Circuit 20: Mankato	Rev. Adam Finney, St. Peter, Vernon Center
Circuit 21: Blue Earth	Rev. Wade Daul, Immanuel, Fairmont
Circuit 22: Sherburn	Rev. Russell Reimers, St. Paul's/Our Savior's, Wilbert/Ceylon
Circuit 23: Worthington	Rev. Paul Sajban, Our Savior's, Windom
Circuit 24: Pipestone	Rev. Shawn Ethridge, St. Paul's, Fulda

This motion was adopted by common consent.

Advisory delegates to the 2023 Synodical Convention

The following Commissioned Ministers will serve as advisory delegates for the Synodical Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 29 - August 3, 2023.

- Aislinn Anderson
- April Beckman
- Jeff Boehlke
- Robin Kruse
- Joel Landskroener
- Brenda Lovhaug
- Ladonna Peterson
- Dean Scheele
- Lonnie Strohschein

Registration & Credential Committee (Rev. Nickolas Kooi, Chair)

The final registration numbers are: 22 Advisory; 52 Registered Guests; and 308 Voting Delegates for a total attendance of 382 people. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report. The motion was carried.

Outgoing Board Members

President Woodford thanked the following Board of Directors members who were not re-elected or who chose not to run again:

- Rev. Dennis Heiden
- Rev. Steve Wheeler
- Rev. Christopher Horton
- Rev. Isaac Williams
- Ms. Rosa Summers
- Mr. John Branstad
- Rev. Lowell Wessel
- Mr. Benjamin Hagemann
- Mr. Lee Huebner
- Mr. Neil Breitbarth (Called to glory on March 18, 2022)

Staff Departures

President Woodford recognized and thanked the following people who moved on from serving as District Staff during the last triennium:

- Gae Ash retired in 2018 (Administrative Assistant Schools and Commissioned Ministers)
- Billy Schulz departed for another job in October 2018 (Communications Director)
- Rev. Bob Schulz retired in 2019 (Executive Assistant to the President)
- Rick Marko retired as Business Manager in 2020 (but is still serving as District Treasurer)
- Deb Connolly retired in 2021 (Many years as the Administrative Assistant to the President)
- Sarabeth Marcello departed for another job in 2021 (Communications Director)

The assembly gratefully applauded all of their faithful service.

Circuit Visitors

The following pastors, who completed their service as Circuit Visitors, were thanked:

- Matthew Johnson
- Kurt Weber
- Michael Michalk
- Scott Fiege
- Rudy Maurer

Convention Personnel

President Woodford thanked all these individuals who faithfully served and assisted with this convention:

- Convention Managers: Debbie Borchardt and Phil Johnson
- Convention Chaplain: Rev. Greg Snow
- Convention Worship Director: Julie Pallas
- Convention Organists: Kristin Johnson, Shirlee Landskroener, Susan Parrish
- The many musicians and choir members
- Convention Bible Study Leaders: Rev. Stefan Wismar, Rev. Vue Lee; Rev. Dr. Samuel Deressa, and Rev. Dr. Mark Koschmann
- Convention Secretary: Rev. Keith Grimm
- Convention Parliamentarian: Rev. Robert Frank
- Convention Pages: Gae Ash, Deb Connolly, Matthew Frentz, Natalie Marose, Martin Miller, Lori Utech, and Haley Van Winkle
- Communications Director: Nadine Meyer
- Convention Timekeeper: Sean Martens
- CSP Staff: Jennifer Sila, Alaine Scoles, Jason Rahn and the SODEXO Staff who kept us well fed
- Padgett Communications: Shani Quintana

- Audio Logic Systems: Edward Contu
- Convention Logo: Mr. Chris Roth

Closing Worship and Installation of Officers (Rev. Greg Snow & Rev. Nabil Nour)

Rev. Greg Snow, Conference Chaplain, was the preacher during the convention's closing worship service. Rev. Nabil Nour, LCMS Fourth Vice President, installed Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford as the re-elected President of the Minnesota South District. Finally, President Woodford installed the Minnesota South District Vice Presidents, Circuit Visitors, members of the Board of Directors, and the Board of Regents of Concordia University St. Paul.

Adjournment

The 78th Convention of the Minnesota South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was adjourned at 11:35 a.m. in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Keith Grimm, District Secretary

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, its 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); 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	Rationale
<p align="center">Articles of Incorporation Article II</p> <p align="center">Section 2. The Relationship between Synod and District</p> <p>b) It submits to the authority of the Synod and the Synod's conventions.</p> <p>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 Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, as currently in effect and as may hereafter be amended from time to time.</p> <p>Section 3. Membership and Voting</p> <p>b) At the meetings of the District, every member congregation or parish is entitled to two votes, one of which is to be cast by the ordained minister called by the subject congregation or parish, as the case may be, and the other by the lay delegate of the member congregation or Parish. For purposes of these Articles of Incorporation, a "parish" consists of two or more congregations in the District who are affiliated with the LCMS and that are served by one called pastor who is serving said parish on a permanently called basis.</p>	<p align="center">Articles of Incorporation Article II</p> <p align="center">Section 2. The Relationship between Synod and District</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 of the Synod shall be the primary Bylaws of the Minnesota South District.</u></p> <p>c) It accedes to, recognizes, and accepts the doctrine taught and practiced in the Synod (Art. II.) and also the provisions of the <u>Articles of Incorporation, and Constitution, and Bylaws, and the resolutions</u> of the Synod, as currently in effect and as may hereafter be amended from time to time; <u>all provisions of these Articles and Bylaws are subject to said Synod provisions.</u></p> <p>Section 3. Membership and Voting</p> <p>b) At the meetings of the District, every member congregation or parish is entitled to two votes, one of which is to be cast by the ordained minister called by the subject congregation or parish, as the case may be, and the other by the lay delegate of the member congregation or parish. For purposes of these Articles of Incorporation, a "parish" consists of two <u>two or more congregations in the District who are affiliated with the LCMS and that are served by one called pastor who is serving said parish on a permanently called basis.</u> <u>the total number of congregations regularly cared for (served) by a pastor or</u></p>	<p align="center">1</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> <p align="center">2</p> <p><i>New wording better reflects Synod bylaw 3.1.6.2(c)</i></p> <p align="center">3</p> <p><i>Synod bylaw 2.5.5 provides specific language.</i></p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Article III</p> <p>a) The number and the official title of the officers of this corporation, by and through whom this corporation shall act, shall be: a President, Vice-presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, and they, together with the persons elected thereto by the voting members, as provided in the bylaws of this corporation, shall constitute the Board of Directors. Other than the Treasurer, the officers and directors shall be elected by the voting members at the regular meeting of the Corporation. Each officer and director shall hold office as prescribed in the bylaws and shall serve until their successors are duly elected and have qualified. The Treasurer of this Corporation shall be elected by the Board of Directors of this Corporation and such person shall serve for such term and on such conditions as determined by the Board of Directors.</p> <p>Section 2 Meetings <i>(First Sentence only)</i></p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;">BYLAWS CHAPTER 2: MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>2.20.3 Signing the Constitution</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Article III</p> <p>a) The number and the official title of the officers of this corporation, by and through whom this corporation shall act, shall be: a President, Vice-presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, and they, together with the persons elected thereto by the voting members, as provided in the bylaws of this corporation, shall constitute the Board of Directors. Other than the Treasurer, the officers and directors shall be elected by the voting members at the regular meeting of the Corporation. Each officer and director shall hold office as prescribed in the bylaws and shall serve until their successors are duly elected and have qualified. The Treasurer of this Corporation shall be elected by the Board of Directors of this Corporation and such person shall serve for such term as specified in the Bylaws of the District.</p> <p>Section 2 Meetings <i>(First Sentence only)</i></p> <p>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 <u>regular</u> meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BYLAWS CHAPTER 2: MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>2.20.3 Signing the Constitution</p> <p>a) If an application for membership of a congregation is approved, the president and one other officer <u>secretary</u> 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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p><i>The Treasurer's terms of service is now specified in Bylaw 4.3.5 (b)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p><i>CCM - suggested change of wording from "Annual" meeting to "regular" meeting to better reflect Synod bylaw 3.12.2(a).</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p><i>New wording designates the secretary of the congregation as the cosignatory of the constitution in keeping with Synod bylaw 2.3.1(b)</i></p>
--	--	---

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.

2.20.5 Advisory Members

Advisory members of the district are as defined in the governing documents of the LCMS.

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~~ 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 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.

2.20.5 ~~6~~ 6 Advisory Members Delegates

~~Advisory members of the district are as defined in the governing documents of the LCMS.~~ 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.~~ Also included among advisory delegates are the advisory lay delegates of congregations in multi-congregation parishes not sending voting lay delegates.

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.

9

New wording better reflects Synod Bylaw 4.2.2

<p>2.20.6 Duties of Members 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>2.20.7 Duties of Advisory Members 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>2.20.8 Reviewing Continued Eligibility of Members 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 style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER 3: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(final paragraph of this section)</i></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>2.20.6 4 Duties of Members 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>2.20.7 Duties of Non-Voting Individual Members as Advisory Delegates 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>2.20.8 Reviewing Continued Eligibility of Members 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 style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER 3: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(final paragraph of this section)</i></p> <p>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 <u>latter</u>. The foregoing procedure shall constitute certification for purposes of these bylaws.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10 <i>Change in numbering only.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">11 <i>Changes to wording pertaining to Advisory Members and Advisory Delegates better reflect Synod Bylaws 3.1.3 - Non-voting Advisory Delegates</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">12 <i>CCM Suggestion: "Synod Bylaws provide at length for this feature in the context of ecclesiastical supervision." Synod Bylaw 2.13.2</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">13 <i>Clarifies district process for assessing costs, and how those funds are collected</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">14 <i>Second use of "secretary of the LCMS" was deemed redundant and changed to "latter."</i></p>
--	---	---

<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER 4: DISTRICT ORGANIZATION</p> <p>4.2.11 Time of Regular Meeting/Convention, and Special Meetings</p> <p>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.</p> <p>4.2.13 Agenda</p> <p>a) The agenda for the District convention shall be prepared and arranged by the praesidium in consultation with the board of directors.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>4.2.13.1 Memorials and Overtures</p> <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER 4: DISTRICT ORGANIZATION</p> <p>4.2.11 Time of Regular Meeting/Convention, and Special Meetings</p> <p>b) Special meetings <u>sessions</u> of the District may be called by the District President, he having previously obtained <u>with the</u> 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.</p> <p>4.2.13 Agenda</p> <p>The agenda for the District convention shall be prepared and arranged by the praesidium in consultation with the board of directors.</p> <p>4.2.13.1 Memorials and Overtures</p> <p>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 <i>Convention Workbook</i>.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p><i>Use of term "sessions" replaced "meetings" to reflect wording of Synod Bylaws (i.e. 3.1.2.2) and other wording changed for clarity</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
---	---	--

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 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.

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 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

18
Wording more clearly reflects Synod Bylaws 3.12.2.

19
New wording is consistent with Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.7

<p>Nominations from the floor shall be listed on the ballot thereafter in the order nominated.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>4.3.5 Term of Office and Successive 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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p><u>nominees</u>, shall be listed alphabetically. Nominations from the floor shall be listed on the ballot thereafter in the order nominated.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>i) The <u>District</u> Committee for Convention Nominations is to be regarded as an ad hoc committee, to which limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply.</p> <p>4.3.5 Term of Office and Successive Terms b) All other officers and board members, elected or appointed, shall be limited to 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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p><i>Similar to comment 19 above new wording is consistent with Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.7</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p><i>Second referenced Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.7 (c) was removed because it does not apply to elections at the district level.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p><i>Circuit Visitors are also excluded from nomination by this committee</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p><i>Clarification that this paragraph is speaking to the MNS District committee, not the committee for Synodical elections.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p><i>Recommended that the term of District Treasurer needs to be defined, but not limited.</i></p>
--	---	---

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

28
A paragraph was added to reflect Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.2 (a).

<p>4.5.16 Removal from Office 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>4.5.16 Removal from Office All officers of the District, full-time assistants to the district president, chaplains, 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>4.11.3.3 Board of Regents for Concordia University St. Paul <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>CHAPTER 7: AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS</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;">29</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;">30</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;">31</p> <p><i>New paragraph to clearly delineate relationship of MNS District guiding documents to those of the LCMS</i></p>
---	--	--

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%

The resolution was adopted during Convention Session 5.