



CLOTHED IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

LCMS ND District convention 2025

Sunday, January 19, 2025

Today's Business

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
North Dakota District
60th Convention
Minot, ND



The Grand Hotel, Minot
January 19-22, 2025

Dear delegates,

What joy it is to know that “for our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 *Corinthians* 5:21) and be “Robed in Christ’s Righteousness”! Preparations continue for our bathing for the 60th Regular Convention of the LCMS North Dakota District which will be held January 19-22, 2025, at the Grand Hotel in Minot.

Welcome to the 60th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod North Dakota District!

By now you should have received a copy of the convention workbook. In order that you may be prepared as a convention delegate, it would be good for you to thoroughly read through the entire workbook.

Today's Business

There will be a copy of *Today's Business* printed each day of the convention. These “newsletters” will contain additional resolutions and/or changes or amendments to the previously published resolutions. Also included will be the minutes from the previous day and general convention information and announcements.

Tuesday and Wednesday editions of *Today's Business* will be available as you enter the convention floor. You will need the convention workbook and each published edition of *Today's Business* in order to follow the work of the convention.

The page numbers used in *Today's Business* are a continuation of the page numbers in the workbook. This will expedite being able to find specific material quickly during the course of the convention. Editions of *Today's Business* also provide line numbering to further enable delegates to quickly find their place on an individual page as the work of the convention proceeds.

Resolutions

Overtures (suggested resolutions) were submitted to the district president over the last year. These overtures were then assigned to floor committees. The floor committees considered these overtures and wrote them into resolutions. These overtures and resolutions are contained in the workbook without line numbers. Line number versions of all overtures and resolutions are included in this edition of *Today's Business* and will be the versions used on the convention floor for all discussions.

Open Hearings

Open hearings conducted by the floor committees will be held Sunday evening in the convention center. The purpose of these hearings is to allow you the opportunity to speak to a floor committee about the proposed resolutions.

At the open hearing, floor committees are instructed to allow delegates to speak in order to seek clarification if needed, but not to engage in debate. The floor committee will not engage in debating dialog over a specific proposed resolution at the open hearing. Delegates may still introduce their idea on the convention floor for consideration.

Convention Mission Offering

Just a reminder that the Convention Mission Offering will go to the support of the ministry Grace Lutheran School in Fargo and Martin Luther School in Bismarck, with an equal split. You will bring this offering to the Opening Divine Service on Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church (2209 Fourth Ave NW).

Nominations from the Floor

If you will be making additional nominations for one of the elected offices from the convention floor, "nominations from the floor may only be made from the list of names that have been offered to the Committee on Nominations prior to the final deadline for the submission of nominations, unless the convention shall otherwise order by a simple majority vote" (ND District Bylaw 2.9.3). Additionally, remember that you must have the nominee's "prior written consent" and "written pertinent information relative to the qualifications of the nominee" ready to be "presented immediately to the Secretary of the District" (ND District Bylaw 2.9.3). Floor nominations may delay an election for that office so that written information on the nominee may be distributed to delegates.

Technology

This convention will once again utilize current technology. There will be an individual responsible for all material projected on the screens in front of the convention. Electronic voting will be utilized to expedite our voting process and give us other flexibilities. Delegates will be instructed how to use the electronic voting devices before the first ballot occurs.

Evening Session

Tuesday's evening session may or may not be needed. The district president will decide if the extra time is needed in order to complete our work. A decision will be made on Tuesday afternoon if the session is needed. Wednesday morning's schedule should also allow time, if needed, to complete our work. However, if our work is finished prior to the agenda ending time on Wednesday, we will end early.

1 **Amended Agenda**

2 As there has been concern over the limited amount of time to discuss the numerous
3 resolutions before the convention, the following amended agenda is put forward for
4 consideration.

5 **Sunday, January 19, 2025**

6 ***Evening Schedule at the Grand Hotel, Minot, ND***

7 5:00-6:00 p.m. Registration (Floor Committee #4)

8 6:00-7:30 p.m. Open Hearings (Floor Committees #1-3)

9 **Monday, January 20, 2025**

10 ***Clothed in Christ's Righteousness...Witness***

11 7:30-8:00 a.m. Registration at the Grand Hotel (Floor Committee #4)

12 8:30-10:00 a.m. Opening Divine Service at St. Mark's Lutheran (Harrison/Neuendorf)
13 Recognition of those Called to Glory; Hymn #677 For All the Saints
14 (Harrison/Bertsch)

15 10:00-10:30 a.m. Registration at the Grand Hotel

16 10:30-10:40 a.m. Convention Opens & Call to Order (Bertsch)
17 Registration and Credentials Report (Floor Committee #4)
18 Adopt Agenda & Convention Rules (Floor Committee #4)
19 Recognition of New Members of Synod

20 10:40 a.m. District President's Report (Bertsch)

21 11:10 a.m. Greetings from Convention Guests (Regional Vice President Rev. Nabil Nour, DPs,
22 CUS, CSP)

23 11:40 a.m. Adoption of Slate and Balloting for District President (Floor Committee #4)
24 Prayer—(Neuendorf)

25 12:00 p.m. Meal Prayer/Group Meal (Neuendorf)

26 1:00 p.m. Adoption of Slate and Balloting for District Vice Presidents (Floor Comm. #4)
27 Prayer (Neuendorf)

28 1:20 p.m. Essay Part 1: "Clothed in Christ: The New Life of the Christian" (Seifrid)

29 2:20 p.m. BREAK

30 2:30 p.m. Adoption of Slate and Balloting for Remaining Offices (Floor Committee #4)
31 Prayer (Neuendorf)

32 3:30 p.m. Presentation: Witness (Proposed Resolutions) (Floor Committee #1)

33 5:00 p.m. Vespers (Peters/Neuendorf)

34 5:40 p.m. Recess

35 6:00 p.m. Banquet – (Recognitions/Greetings/Awards)

36 **Tuesday, January 21, 2025**

37 ***Clothed in Christ's Righteousness--Mercy...***

38 8:00 a.m. Matins (Chepulis/Neuendorf)

39 8:45 a.m. Minutes (Voth)

1	8:55 a.m.	Synod President's Report (Harrison)
2	9:55 a.m.	BREAK
3	10:15 a.m.	Synod President Q&A (Harrison)
4	10:45 a.m.	Installation of District President Elect (Synod President Harrison)
5	11:00 a.m.	Together in the Word: "Clothed in the Blood" (Peters)
6	11:40 a.m.	Reports
7		Campus Ministry Report at UND/NDSU (Suelzle/Johnson)
8		1-1-1 Stewardship (Rev. Dennis Voss)
9		Life Coordinator (Rev. Matthew Tooman)
10	12:00 p.m.	Meal Prayer/Group Meal (Neuendorf)
11	1:00 p.m.	Essay Part 2 "The New Mind in Christ Jesus, Our Lord", (Seifrid)
12	2:00 p.m.	Reports
13		Board of Director's Report (Chair/Langer)
14		Business Manager and Treasurers Report (Ulland & Kreklau)
15	2:20 p.m.	Essay Part 3: "Who am I? New Identity in Christ" (Seifrid)
16	3:20 p.m.	BREAK
17	3:30 p.m.	Lutheran Family Service (Rev. Max Philips)
18	3:40 p.m.	Presentation: Mercy Proposed Resolutions (Floor Committee #2)
19	5:30 p.m.	Vespers (Voth/Neuendorf)
20	6:30 p.m.	Group Meal
21		(Greetings from: LWML, LLL, LYF, DBGR, SHCR, LCMS Foundation, Dakota Hope
22		Clinic)
23	8:00 p.m.	Presentation: Life Together Proposed Resolutions (Floor Committee #3)
24	8:55 p.m.	Recess
25	9:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Evening Session for Resolution Work (if necessary)

26

Wednesday, January 22, 2025
Clothed in Christ's Righteousness—Life Together...

28	8:00 a.m.	Matins (Bertsch/Neuendorf)
29	8:45 a.m.	Minutes (Voth)
30	8:50 a.m.	Together in the Word: "Clothed in Christ's Righteousness: Jacob and Esau"
31		(Chepulis)
32	9:25 a.m.	Omnibus Resolutions A & B (Floor Committees #1, #2, #3)
33	9:40 a.m.	Unfinished Business & Resolution Work as needed
34	10:40 a.m.	BREAK
35	10:50 a.m.	Unfinished Business & Resolution Work as needed
36	11:35 a.m.	Final Registration and Credentials Report (Floor Committee #4)
37	11:45 a.m.	Installation of Elected Officers (District President)
38	12:00 p.m.	Closing of Convention/Adjournment (District President)

39

Synod Representation

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison is planning on being at our convention through Tuesday noon. President Harrison will preach during the Opening Divine Service, present a report on the Synod, and participate in a Q&A session. First Vice-President Rev. Peter Lange will also be present through Tuesday noon. Synod regional Vice-President Rev. Nabil Nour, will be with us for the entirety of our convention. Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, president of the Concordia University System (CUS), will be our convention parliamentarian this year. Dr. Mark Seifrid, senior professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will be our essayist.

Circuit Visitor Slate

The slate of circuit visitors for election was not listed in the workbook. Below are the circuit visitors as elected by circuit for convention to ratify.

(1) Central Circuit	Rev. Paul Preus
(2) East Circuit	Rev. Christopher Waldvogel
(3) Northeast Circuit	Rev. Daniel Provost
(4) Northwest Circuit	Rev. Timothy Stout
(5) Southeast Circuit	Rev. Michael Grieve
(6) Southwest Circuit	Rev. Jonathan Walla

Numbers you should know

If you have questions about the conventions, please contact:

Mrs. Tami Ulland	701-360-1469 or lcms.nd.busman@gmail.com
Pres. Arie Bertsch	701-720-2232 or lcms.nd.dp@gmail.com
Mrs. Doris Bertsch	701-509-2889 or lcms.nd.aa@gmail.com

OVERTURES

Overture 1-01

To Condemn Lutherans for Racial Justice

WHEREAS, On June 19, 2020, the organization Lutherans for Racial Justice (LRJ), founded by the Rev. Matthew Ryan Gonzalez, pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in The Bronx, New York, and Joshua Salzberg, of First Lutheran Church in Culver City, California, released a petition entitled, “A Call for Racial Justice Reform in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” on the website change.org, in which The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) was accused of harboring “systems of racism within our congregations, communities, and church body”; and

WHEREAS, This accusation was based, not upon concrete instances of hatred or mistreatment toward black neighbors, but upon the spurious framework of “systemic racism” and therefore constitutes the bearing of false witness against the LCMS and her congregations and institutions; and

WHEREAS, LRJ has released a “Call to Action” in which one of their stated goals is to “Mobilize LCMS congregations, schools, circuits, districts, RSOs, and Synodical leadership to form a sustainable racial justice initiative to assess the barriers to racial diversity, equity, and inclusion that exist within their particular context”; and

WHEREAS, “Diversity, equity, and inclusion” (DEI) is the hallmark phrase of a movement that seeks to dismantle the traditional structures of Western society, including our present form of government, the Church, and the family; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of an office of diversity, equity, and inclusion is a critical step in the takeover of traditional institutions to divert them from their original purpose toward the promotion of cultural Marxist values; and

WHEREAS, LRJ in its YouTube videos has made common cause with Sikhism and Islam, even denying that Christianity “has a corner on grace” due to Islam’s supposed teaching of the graciousness of Allah, and is therefore publicly guilty of syncretism; and

WHEREAS, LRJ was welcomed to involve itself in the 2022 Youth Gathering, spreading its doctrine of DEI and “systemic racism” among the youth of the LCMS; be it therefore

Resolved, That the North Dakota District in Convention publicly condemn LRJ and call its organizers, participants, and followers to repentance for their bearing of false witness against the LCMS through accusations of racism, for their seeking to establish offices of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the institutions of the LCMS, and for their open practice of syncretism; and be it further

Resolved, That the North Dakota District in Convention call upon the organizers of the 2022 National Youth Gathering to repent for their involving of LRJ in the Gathering; and be it finally

1 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention be memorialized to condemn LRJ and call its
2 organizers, participants, and followers to repentance for their false witness, for their attempted
3 institutional takeover through the establishment of offices of diversity, equity, and inclusion,
4 and for their syncretism, that the relevant ecclesiastical supervisors be admonished to pursue
5 church discipline until such repentance is forthcoming.
6

7 *Submitted by: Central Circuit*
8
9

10 **Overture 1-03 To Condemn Lutherans for Racial Justice**
11

12 WHEREAS, On June 19, 2020, the organization Lutherans for Racial Justice (LRJ), founded by
13 the Rev. Matthew Ryan Gonzalez, pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in The Bronx,
14 New York, and Joshua Salzberg, of First Lutheran Church in Culver City, California, released a
15 petition entitled, "A Call for Racial Justice Reform in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod"
16 on the website change.org, in which The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) was
17 accused of harboring "systems of racism within our congregations, communities, and church
18 body"; and
19

20 WHEREAS, This accusation was based, not upon concrete instances of hatred or mistreatment
21 toward black neighbors, but upon the spurious framework of "systemic racism" and therefore
22 constitutes the bearing of false witness against the LCMS and her congregations and
23 institutions, and subverts the 2019 convention resolution 11-04a; and
24

25 WHEREAS, LRJ has released a "Call to Action" in which one of their stated goals is to "Mobilize
26 LCMS congregations, schools, circuits, districts, RSOs, and Synodical leadership to form a
27 sustainable racial justice initiative to assess the barriers to racial diversity, equity, and inclusion
28 that exist within their particular context"; and
29

30 WHEREAS, "Diversity, equity, and inclusica" (DEI) is the hallmark phrase of a movement that
31 seeks to dismantle the traditional st,uctures of Western society, including our present form of
32 government, the Church, and the family; and
33

34 WHEREAS, The establishment of an office of diversity, equity, and inclusion is a critical step in
35 the takeover of traditional institutions to divert them from their original purpose toward the
36 promotion of cultural Marxist values; and
37

38 WHEREAS, LRJ in its YouTube videos has made common cause with Sikhism and Islam, even
39 denying that Christianity "has a corner on grace" due to Islam's supposed teaching of the
40 graciousness of Allah, and is therefore publicly guilty of syncretism; and
41

42 WHEREAS, LRJ was welcomed to involve itself in the 2022 National Youth Gathering spreading
43 its doctrine of DEI and "systemic racism" among the youth of the LCMS; be it therefore
44

45 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention publicly condemn LRJ and call its
46 organizers, participants, and followers to repentance for their bearing of false witness against
47 the LCMS through accusations of racism, for their seeking to establish offices of diversity,
48 equity, and inclusion in the institutions of the LCMS, and for their open practice of syncretism;
49 and be it further
50

1 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention call upon the organizers of the 2022
2 National Youth Gathering to repent for their involving of LRJ in the Gathering; and be it finally

3
4 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention be memorialized to condemn LRJ and call its
5 organizers, participants, and followers to repentance for their false witness, for their attempted
6 institutional takeover through the establishment of offices of diversity, equity, and inclusion,
7 and for their syncretism, that the relevant ecclesiastical supervisors be admonished to pursue
8 church discipline until such repentance is forthcoming.

9
10 *Submitted by: Southeast Circuit*

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13 **Overture 1-04**

14 **To Condemn Lutherans for Racial Justice**

15 WHEREAS, On June 19, 2020, the organization Lutherans for Racial Justice (LRJ), founded by
16 the Rev. Matthew Ryan Gonzalez, pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in The Bronx,
17 New York, and Joshua Salzberg, of First Lutheran Church in Culver City, California, released a
18 petition entitled, “A Call for Racial Justice Reform in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod”
19 on the website change.org, in which The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) was
20 accused of harboring “systems of racism within our congregations, communities, and church
21 body”; and

22
23 WHEREAS, This accusation was based, not upon concrete instances of hatred or mistreatment
24 toward black neighbors, but upon the spurious framework of “systemic racism” and therefore
25 constitutes the bearing of false witness against the LCMS and her congregations and
26 institutions; and

27
28 WHEREAS, LRJ has released a “Call to Action” in which one of their stated goals is to “Mobilize
29 LCMS congregations, schools, circuits, districts, RSOs, and Synodical leadership to form a
30 sustainable racial justice initiative to assess the barriers to racial diversity, equity, and inclusion
31 that exist within their particular context”; and

32
33 WHEREAS, “Diversity, equity, and inclusion” (DEI) is the hallmark phrase of a movement that
34 seeks to dismantle the traditional structures of Western society, including our present form of
35 government, the Church, and the family; and WHEREAS, The establishment of an office of
36 diversity, equity, and inclusion is a critical step in the takeover of traditional institutions to divert
37 them from their original purpose toward the promotion of cultural Marxist values; and

38
39 WHEREAS, LRJ in its YouTube videos has made common cause with Sikhism and Islam, even
40 denying that Christianity “has a corner on grace” due to Islam’s supposed teaching of the
41 graciousness of Allah, and is therefore publicly guilty of syncretism; and

42
43 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention publicly condemn the false theology,
44 harmful ideology, and false witness of LRJ which is still available on their website and
45 YouTube channel and call its organizers, participants, and followers to repentance for their
46 bearing of false witness against the LCMS through accusations of racism, for their seeking to
47 establish offices of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the institutions of the LCMS, and for their
48 open practice of syncretism; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention be memorialized to condemn LRJ and call its
2 organizers, participants, and followers to repentance for their false witness, for their attempted
3 institutional takeover through the establishment of offices of diversity, equity, and inclusion,
4 and for their syncretism, that the relevant ecclesiastical supervisors be admonished to pursue
5 church discipline until such repentance is forthcoming.

6 *Submitted by: Northwest Circuit*

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9 **Overture 1-05 To Condemn the Erroneous and Offensive Content in the**
10 **Volume Luther’s Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications**

11
12 WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House released the volume Luther’s Large Catechism with
13 Annotations and Contemporary Applications early in 2022; and

14
15 WHEREAS, This volume includes instances of the adoption of the framework of Critical Race
16 Theory, the employing of heterodox teachers to write some of the essays, the inclusion of
17 essays written by women in a volume intended to provide authoritative teaching for the
18 Church, the denial of the right to self-defense, and the following of anti-white AP guidelines
19 (“Black” capitalized, “white” left uncapitalized); and

20
21 WHEREAS, The marketing and binding of Luther’s Large Catechism with Annotations and
22 Contemporary Applications present it as an authoritative volume comparable to those
23 containing the Small Catechism and the Book of Concord; be it therefore

24
25 *Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention be memorialized to
26 instruct Concordia Publishing House to cease distribution of the volume Luther’s Large
27 Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications until these issues have been
28 corrected; and be it further

29
30 *Resolved*, That Concordia Publishing House consider republishing the essays as a standalone
31 volume so as to avoid giving the impression that these constitute the official confession of our
32 Church; and be it finally

33
34 *Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention be memorialized to call
35 to repentance those responsible for the offense this volume has caused.

36
37 *Submitted by St. Paul, Minot*

38
39 **Overture 1-06 To express concern for the Erroneous and Offensive Content in the**
40 **Volume Luther’s Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications**

41
42 WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House released the volume Luther’s Large Catechism with
43 Annotations and Contemporary Applications early in 2022; and

44
45 WHEREAS, This volume includes instances of the adoption of the framework of Critical Race
46 Theory, the employing of heterodox teachers to write some of the essays, the inclusion of
47 essays written by women in a volume intended to provide authoritative teaching for the
48 Church, the denial of the right to self-defense, and the following of anti-white AP guidelines
49 (“Black” capitalized, “white” left uncapitalized); and

1 WHEREAS, The marketing and binding of Luther's Large Catechism with Annotations and
2 Contemporary Applications present it as an authoritative volume comparable to those
3 containing the Small Catechism and the Book of Concord; be it therefore
4

5 *Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention be memorialized to
6 instruct Concordia Publishing House to cease distribution of the volume Luther's Large
7 Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications until these issues have been
8 corrected; and be it further
9

10 *Resolved*, That Concordia Publishing House consider republishing the essays as a standalone
11 volume so as to avoid giving the impression that these constitute the official confession of our
12 Church; and be it finally
13

14 *Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod in convention be memorialized to call
15 to repentance those responsible for the offense this volume has caused.
16

17 *Submitted by: Northwest Circuit*
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19

20 **Overture 1-07 To Condemn the Erroneous and Offensive Content in the**
21 **Volume Luther's Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications**
22

23 WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House released the volume Luther's Large Catechism with
24 Annotations and Contemporary Applications early in 2022; and
25

26 WHEREAS, This volume includes instances of the adoption of the framework of Critical Race
27 Theory, the employing of heterodox teachers to write some of the essays, the inclusion of
28 essays written by women in a volume intended to provide authoritative teaching for the
29 Church, the denial of the right to self-defense, and the following of anti-white AP guidelines
30 ("Black" capitalized, "white" left uncanceled); and
31

32 WHEREAS, The marketing and binding of Luther's Large Catechism with Annotations and
33 Contemporary Applications present it as an authoritative volume comparable to those
34 containing the Small Catechism and the Book of Concord; be it therefore
35

36 *Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention be memorialized to
37 instruct Concordia Publishing House to cease distribution of the volume Luther's Large
38 Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications until these issues have been
39 corrected; and be it further
40

41 *Resolved*, That Concordia Publishing House consider republishing the essays as a standalone
42 volume so as to avoid giving the impression that these constitute the official confession of our
43 Church; and be it finally
44

45 *Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention be memorialized to call
46 to repentance those responsible for the offense this volume has caused.
47

48 *Submitted by: Central Circuit*
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**Overture 1-08 To Condemn the Erroneous and Offensive Content in the Volume
Luther's Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications**

WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House released the volume *Luther's Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications* early in 2022; and

WHEREAS, This volume includes instances of the adoption of the framework of Critical Race Theory, the employing of heterodox teachers to write some of the essays, the denial of the right to self-defense, and the following of anti-white AP guidelines ("Black" capitalized, "white" left uncapitalized); and

WHEREAS, The marketing and binding of *Luther's Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications* present it as an authoritative volume comparable to those containing the Small Catechism and the Book of Concord; be it therefore

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention be memorialized to instruct Concordia Publishing House to cease distribution of the volume *Luther's Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications* until these issues have been corrected or the essays are republished as a standalone volume; and be it finally

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention be memorialized to call to repentance those responsible for the offense this volume has caused.

Submitted by: Southeast Circuit

Overture 1-09 To Condemn the Stone Choir Podcast

WHEREAS, Twitter/X personalities Corey J. Mahler (@CoreyJMahler) and "Woe" (@treblewoe) began releasing episodes of the Stone Choir podcast on Oct. 19, 2022, to tackle issues relevant to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) that, in their judgment, the pastors and leadership of the LCMS were not addressing, leaving Mahler and "Woe" to function as "the very stones" who must "cry out" because the clergy are silent (Luke 19:40); and

WHEREAS, These issues on which the pastors and leadership of the LCMS are accused by the Stone Choir hosts of remaining silent include the ostensible necessity of the reintroduction of racial segregation; the ostensible sinfulness of interracial marriage; the ostensibly pernicious nature of the Jewish race today; and the ostensibly fictitious nature of the Jewish Holocaust perpetrated by the National Socialists during World War II; and

WHEREAS, None of Stone Choir's positions on these aforementioned issues is taught in Holy Scripture, and indeed their positions on these issues cause great offense to many Christians of good will; and

WHEREAS, Stone Choir hosts Mahler and "Woe" are active on Twitter/X, and Stone Choir listeners are likely to be influenced not only by what Mahler and "Woe" teach on the Stone Choir podcast, but also by what they post on Twitter/X; and

WHEREAS, On Twitter/X, Corey Mahler and "Woe," among other outrageously offensive behaviors, openly praise Adolf Hitler, call for the deportation of Jews, Muslims, and blacks from

1 the United States, and condemn as sin the practice of interracial marriage and adoption,
2 causing great offense to Christian consciences; and
3

4 WHEREAS, Through their activity on the Stone Choir podcast and on Twitter/X, Mahler and
5 “Woe” have sought to associate confessional Lutheranism with devotion to Adolf Hitler,
6 opposition to the Jewish race, and a desire for segregation of blacks from white society; and
7

8 WHEREAS, Mahler and “Woe” have publicly denounced all pastors of the LCMS as “either
9 apostate or derelict” and on their podcast and on Twitter have attempted to turn their listeners
10 against their pastors; and
11

12 WHEREAS, Mahler and “Woe” are not currently active members of any LCMS congregation and
13 are therefore beyond the reach of church discipline; therefore be it
14

15 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention publicly condemn the Stone Choir
16 podcast and its hosts, Corey J. Mahler and “Woe,” for the offense they cause by their public
17 devotion to Adolf Hitler, their stirring up of antipathy toward our Jewish and black neighbors,
18 their denunciation as sin of that which God has not called sin, and their open hostility toward
19 the pastors and leadership of the LCMS; and be it further
20

21 *Resolved*, That the laity of the North Dakota District be warned against the Stone Choir
22 podcast and its hosts, and that the pastors of the North Dakota District be encouraged to
23 admonish members of their congregations whose approval of Stone Choir and its hosts has
24 become known; and be it further
25

26 *Resolved*, That pastors of the North Dakota District who are found to be promoting the Stone
27 Choir podcast or its hosts be brought under discipline by their ecclesiastical supervisor for the
28 offense they cause thereby; and be it further
29

30 *Resolved*, That qualified pastors and teachers of the LCMS be encouraged to examine the
31 teachings of Stone Choir according to the norm of the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran
32 Confessions, demonstrating from clear and firm testimonies of the same how Stone Choir is in
33 error; and be it further
34

35 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention recognize that the laxness and
36 lukewarmness of the teaching and practice of the LCMS has provided fertile soil for such
37 errors of teaching and wickedness of life as are associated with Stone Choir and its hosts and
38 followers, and that whatever suffering has been inflicted upon the pastors and people of the
39 LCMS through Stone Choir is to be received as a chastisement of God for our sins and as an
40 occasion for heartfelt repentance; and be it finally
41

42 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention be memorialized to condemn the Stone Choir podcast
43 and its hosts and followers, to take action against pastors who promote the same, and to
44 repent of the sins for which God has allowed Stone Choir and its followers to arise within the
45 LCMS.
46

47 *Submitted by: Northwest Circuit*
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50 **Overture 1-10**

To Condemn the Stone Choir Podcast

1
2 WHEREAS, Twitter/X personalities Corey J. Mahler (@CoreyJMahler) and “Woe” (@treblewoe)
3 began releasing episodes of the Stone Choir podcast on Oct. 19, 2022, to tackle issues
4 relevant to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) that, in their judgment, the pastors
5 and leadership of the LCMS were not addressing, leaving Mahler and “Woe” to function as “the
6 very stones” who must “cry out” because the clergy are silent (Luke 19:40); and
7

8 WHEREAS, These issues on which the pastors and leadership of the LCMS are accused by the
9 Stone Choir hosts of remaining silent include the ostensible necessity of the reintroduction of
10 racial segregation; the ostensible sinfulness of interracial marriage; the ostensibly pernicious
11 nature of the Jewish race today; and the ostensibly fictitious nature of the Jewish genocide
12 perpetrated by the National Socialists during World War II; and
13

14 WHEREAS, None of Stone Choir’s positions on these aforementioned issues is taught in Holy
15 Scripture, and indeed their positions on these issues cause great offense to many Christians of
16 good will; and
17

18 WHEREAS, Stone Choir hosts Mahler and “Woe” are active on Twitter/X, and Stone Choir
19 listeners are likely to be influenced not only by what Mahler and “Woe” teach on the Stone
20 Choir podcast, but also by what they post on Twitter/X; and
21

22 WHEREAS, On Twitter/X, Corey Mahler and “Woe,” among other outrageously offensive
23 behaviors, openly praise Adolf Hitler, call for the deportation of Jews, Muslims, and blacks from
24 the United States, and condemn as sin the practice of interracial marriage and adoption,
25 causing great offense to Christian consciences; and
26

27 WHEREAS, Through their activity on the Stone Choir podcast and on Twitter/X, Mahler and
28 “Woe” have sought to associate confessional Lutheranism with devotion to Adolf Hitler,
29 opposition to the Jewish race, and a desire for segregation of blacks from white society; and
30

31 WHEREAS, Mahler and “Woe” have publicly denounced all pastors of the LCMS as “either
32 apostate or derelict” and on their podcast and on Twitter have attempted to turn their listeners
33 against their pastors; and
34

35 WHEREAS, Mahler and “Woe” are not currently active members of any LCMS congregation and
36 are therefore beyond the reach of church discipline; therefore be it
37

38 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention publicly condemn the Stone Choir
39 podcast and the false teaching of its hosts, Corey J. Mahler and “Woe,” for the offense they
40 cause by their public devotion to Adolf Hitler, their stirring up of antipathy toward our Jewish
41 and black neighbors, their denunciation as sin of that which God has not called sin, and their
42 open hostility toward the pastors and leadership of the LCMS; and be it further
43

44 *Resolved*, That the laity of the North Dakota District be warned against the Stone Choir
45 podcast and its hosts, and that the pastors of the North Dakota District be encouraged to
46 admonish members of their congregations whose approval of Stone Choir and its hosts has
47 become known; and be it further
48

49 *Resolved*, That qualified pastors and teachers of the LCMS be encouraged to examine the
50 teachings of Stone Choir according to the norm of the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran

1 Confessions, demonstrating from clear and firm testimonies of the same how Stone Choir is in
2 error; and be it further

3
4 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention recognize that the laxness and
5 lukewarmness of the teaching and practice of the LCMS has provided fertile soil for such
6 errors of teaching and wickedness of life as are associated with Stone Choir and its hosts and
7 followers, and that whatever suffering has been inflicted upon the pastors and people of the
8 LCMS through Stone Choir is to be received as a chastisement of God for our sins and as an
9 occasion for heartfelt repentance; and be it finally

10
11 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention be memorialized to condemn the Stone Choir podcast
12 and the false teaching of its hosts and followers, to take action against pastors who promote
13 the same, and to repent of the sins for which God has allowed Stone Choir and its followers to
14 arise within the LCMS.

15
16 *Submitted by: Central Circuit*

17
18
19 **Overture 1-11 To Condemn the Stone Choir Podcast**

20
21 WHEREAS, X.com personalities Corey J. Mahler (@CoreyJMahler) and “Woe” (@treblewoe)
22 began releasing episodes of the *Stone Choir* podcast on Oct. 19, 2022, to tackle issues
23 relevant to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) that, in their judgment, the pastors
24 and leadership of the LCMS were not addressing, leaving Mahler and “Woe” to function as “the
25 very stones” who must “cry out” because the clergy are silent (Luke 19:40); and

26
27 WHEREAS, These issues on which the pastors and leadership of the LCMS are accused by the
28 *Stone Choir* hosts of remaining silent include the ostensible necessity of the reintroduction of
29 racial segregation; the ostensible sinfulness of interracial marriage; the ostensibly pernicious
30 nature of the Jewish race today; and the ostensibly fictitious nature of the Jewish Holocaust
31 perpetrated by the National Socialists during World War II; and

32
33 WHEREAS, None of *Stone Choir’s* positions on these aforementioned issues is taught in Holy
34 Scripture, and indeed their positions on these issues cause great offense to many Christians of
35 good will; and

36
37 WHEREAS, *Stone Choir* hosts Mahler and “Woe” are active on X.com, and Stone
38 Choir listeners are likely to be influenced not only by what Mahler and “Woe” teach on the
39 Stone Choir podcast, but also by what they post on X.com; and

40
41 WHEREAS, On X.com, Corey Mahler and “Woe,” among other outrageously offensive
42 behaviors, openly praise Adolf Hitler, call for the deportation of Jews, Muslims, and blacks from
43 the United States, and condemn as sin the practice of interracial marriage and adoption,
44 causing great offense to Christian consciences; and

45
46 WHEREAS, Through their activity on the *Stone Choir* podcast and on X.com, Mahler and “Woe”
47 have sought to associate confessional Lutheranism with devotion to Adolf Hitler, opposition to
48 the Jewish religion, and a desire for segregation of blacks from white society; and

1 WHEREAS, Mahler and “Woe” have publicly denounced all pastors of the LCMS as “either
2 apostate or derelict” and on their podcast and on Twitter have attempted to turn their listeners
3 against their pastors; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Mahler and “Woe” are not currently active members of any LCMS congregation and
6 are therefore beyond the reach of church discipline; therefore be it
7

8 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention publicly condemn the *Stone Choir*
9 podcast and its hosts, Corey J. Mahler and “Woe,” for the offense they cause by their public
10 devotion to Adolf Hitler, their stirring up of antipathy toward our Jewish and black neighbors,
11 their denunciation as sin of that which God has not called sin, and their open hostility toward
12 the pastors and leadership of the LCMS; and be it further
13

14 *Resolved*, That the laity of the North Dakota District be warned against the *Stone Choir*
15 podcast and its hosts, and that the pastors of the North Dakota District be encouraged to
16 admonish members of their congregations whose approval of *Stone Choir* and its hosts has
17 become known; and be it further
18

19 *Resolved*, That pastors of the North Dakota District who are found to be promoting the *Stone*
20 *Choir* podcast or its hosts be brought under discipline by their ecclesiastical supervisor for the
21 offense they cause thereby; and be it further
22

23 *Resolved*, That qualified pastors and teachers of the LCMS be encouraged to examine the
24 teachings of *Stone Choir* according to the norm of the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran
25 Confessions, demonstrating from clear and firm testimonies of the same how *Stone Choir* is in
26 error; and be it further
27

28 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention be memorialized to condemn the Stone Choir Podcast
29 and its hosts and followers and be it further
30

31 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention be memorialized act against any pastor who opposes
32 interracial marriage and interracial adoption and recognize such opposition as a sin and
33 offense against God, and be it further
34

35 *Resolved* that the LCMS in convention be memorialized to act against any pastor who denies
36 the genocide of Jews, Christians, and political activists opposed to the Nazi party in Germany
37 in WWII.
38

39 *Submitted by: Southeast Circuit*
40
41

42 **Overture 1-12 Encourage the North Dakota Lutheran Youth Fellowship to** 43 **Utilize District LCMS Pastors** 44

45 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District has well-trained and qualified pastors; and
46

47 WHEREAS, The District Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) has typically invited speakers from
48 outside North Dakota for District youth events; and
49

1 WHEREAS, Speakers from outside the North Dakota District cost extra due to travel expenses;
2 and

3
4 WHEREAS, The District LYF is subsidized by the North Dakota District to cover expenses;
5 therefore be it

6
7 *Resolved*, That the District LYF be encouraged to use local North Dakota Pastors for teaching,
8 music, worship, and services; and be it finally

9
10 *Resolved*, That all speakers at LYF events be approved beforehand by the North Dakota
11 District President in consultation with the Circuit Visitors.

12
13 *Submitted by: Northwest Circuit*
14

15
16 **Overture 1-13 Encourage the North Dakota Lutheran Youth Fellowship to Utilize**
17 **District LCMS Pastors**
18

19 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District has well-trained and qualified pastors; and

20
21 WHEREAS, The District Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) has typically invited speakers from
22 outside North Dakota for District youth events; and

23
24 WHEREAS, Speakers from outside the North Dakota District cost extra due to travel expenses;
25 and

26
27 WHEREAS, The District LYF is subsidized by the North Dakota District to cover expenses;
28 therefore be it

29
30 *Resolved*, That the District LYF be encouraged to use local North Dakota Pastors for teaching,
31 music, worship, and services; and be it finally

32
33 *Resolved*, That all speakers at LYF events be approved beforehand by the North Dakota
34 District President.

35
36 *Submitted by: Central Circuit*
37

38
39 **Overture 1-14 Encourage the North Dakota Lutheran Youth Fellowship to Utilize**
40 **District LCMS Pastors**
41

42 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District has well-trained and qualified pastors; and

43
44 WHEREAS, The District Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) has typically invited speakers from
45 outside North Dakota for District youth events; and

46
47 WHEREAS, Speakers from outside the North Dakota District cost extra due to travel expenses;
48 and
49

1 WHEREAS, The District LYF is subsidized by the North Dakota District to cover expenses;
2 therefore be it

3
4 *Resolved*, That the District LYF be encouraged to use local North Dakota Pastors for
5 teaching, music, worship, and services; and be it finally

6
7 *Resolved*, That all speakers at LYF events be approved beforehand by the North Dakota
8 District President.

9
10 *Submitted by: Southeast Circuit*
11
12

13 **Overture 1-15 To Require the Use of Synodically Approved Hymnbooks at**
14 **Gatherings of the North Dakota District Lutheran Youth Fellowship**

15
16 WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
17 requires as a condition of membership in Synod “Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda,
18 hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school”; and

19
20 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod makes available for use by our churches
21 and schools hymnbooks whose doctrinal purity has been established to the satisfaction of all
22 concerned; and

23
24 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) of the North Dakota (ND) District, insofar as it
25 hosts gatherings for the purpose of worship and instruction in the Christian faith, falls by nature
26 under the category of “church” and is therefore constitutionally bound to the use of “doctrinally
27 pure ... hymnbooks”; and

28
29 WHEREAS, The ND District LYF is subsidized by the ND District; and

30
31 WHEREAS, The ND District LYF has in recent years featured assemblies at which the worship
32 materials used have been taken from sources outside those published under the authority of
33 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and whose doctrinal purity is therefore in doubt;
34 therefore be it

35
36 *Resolved*, That the ND District LYF be instructed henceforth to draw all worship materials
37 strictly from hymnbooks published under the authority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
38 Synod; and be it further

39
40 *Resolved*, That the ND District Board of Directors withhold subsidization for all District LYF
41 events that do not make exclusive use of agendas and hymnbooks published under the
42 authority of the LCMS; and be it finally

43
44 *Resolved*, That the ND District LYF be forbidden from referencing the ND District in
45 promotional materials for gatherings not restricted to the use of agendas and hymnbooks
46 published under the authority of the LCMS.

47
48 *Submitted by: Northwest Circuit*
49

1
2
3 **Overture 1-16 To Require the Use of Synodically Approved Agendas and**
4 **Hymnbooks at the LCMS Youth Gathering**
5

6 WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
7 requires as a condition of membership in Synod "Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda,
8 hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school"; and
9

10 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod makes available for use by our churches
11 and schools hymnbooks whose doctrinal purity has been established to the satisfaction of all
12 concerned; and
13

14 WHEREAS, The LCMS Youth Gathering falls by nature under the category of "church" and is
15 therefore constitutionally bound to the use of "doctrinally pure ... hymnbooks"; and
16

17 WHEREAS, The LCMS Youth Gathering has in recent years featured assemblies at which the
18 worship and non-worship materials used have been taken from sources outside those
19 published under the authority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and whose doctrinal
20 purity is therefore in doubt; therefore be it
21

22 *Resolved*, That Synod in convention be memorialized to instruct the LCMS Youth Gathering
23 henceforth to draw all worship and non-worship materials strictly from agendas, hymnals, and
24 hymnbooks published under the authority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ; and be it
25 finally
26

27 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District withhold all promotion, endorsements, and financial
28 support from the LCMS Youth Gathering until previous heterodox errors are corrected.
29

30 *Submitted by: Bethel Lutheran Church, Bismarck*
31
32

33 **Overture 1-17 To Require the Use of Synodically Approved Hymnbooks at**
34 **Gatherings of the North Dakota District Lutheran Youth Fellowship**
35

36 WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
37 requires as a condition of membership in Synod "Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda,
38 hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school"; and
39

40 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod makes available for use by our churches
41 and schools hymnbooks whose doctrinal purity has been established to the satisfaction of all
42 concerned; and
43

44 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) of the North Dakota (ND) District, insofar as it
45 hosts gatherings for the purpose of worship and instruction in the Christian faith, falls by nature
46 under the category of "church" and is therefore constitutionally bound to the use of "doctrinally
47 pure ... hymnbooks"; and
48

49 WHEREAS, The ND District LYF is subsidized by the ND District; and
50

1 WHEREAS, The ND District LYF has in recent years featured assemblies at which the worship
2 materials used have been taken from sources outside those published under the authority of
3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and whose doctrinal purity is therefore in doubt;
4 therefore be it

5
6 *Resolved*, That the ND District LYF be instructed henceforth to draw all worship materials
7 strictly from hymnbooks published under the authority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
8 Synod; and be it further

9
10 *Resolved*, That the ND District Board of Directors withhold subsidization for all District LYF
11 events that do not make exclusive use of agendas and hymnbooks published under the
12 authority of the LCMS; and be it finally

13
14 *Resolved*, That the ND District LYF be forbidden from referencing the ND District in
15 promotional materials for gatherings not restricted to the use of agendas and hymnbooks
16 published under the authority of the LCMS.

17
18 *Submitted by: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Minot*
19

20
21 **Overture 1-18 To Require the Use of Synodically Approved Agendas and**
22 **Hymnbooks at the LCMS Youth Gathering**
23

24 WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
25 requires as a condition of membership in Synod “Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda,
26 hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school”; and

27
28 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod makes available for use by our churches
29 and schools hymnbooks whose doctrinal purity has been established to the satisfaction of all
30 concerned; and

31
32 WHEREAS, The LCMS Youth Gathering falls by nature under the category of “church” and is
33 therefore constitutionally bound to the use of “doctrinally pure ... hymnbooks”; and

34
35 WHEREAS, The LCMS Youth Gathering has in recent years featured assemblies at which the
36 worship materials used have been taken from sources outside those published under the
37 authority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and whose doctrinal purity is therefore in
38 doubt; therefore be it

39
40 *Resolved*, That Synod in convention be memorialized to instruct the LCMS Youth Gathering
41 henceforth to draw all worship materials strictly from hymnals published under the authority of
42 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it finally

43
44 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District withhold all promotion, endorsements, and financial
45 support from the LCMS Youth Gathering until previous heterodox errors are corrected.

46
47 *Submitted by: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Minot*
48
49

Overture 1-19 To Require the Use of Synodically Approved Hymnbooks at Gatherings of the North Dakota District Lutheran Youth Fellowship

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod requires as a condition of membership in Synod "Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda, hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school"; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod makes available for use by our churches and schools hymnbooks whose doctrinal purity has been established to the satisfaction of all concerned; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) of the North Dakota (ND) District, insofar as it hosts gatherings for the purpose of worship and instruction in the Christian faith, falls by nature under the category of "church" and is therefore constitutionally bound to the use of "doctrinally pure ... hymnbooks"; and

WHEREAS, The ND District LYF is subsidized by the ND District; and

WHEREAS, The ND District LYF has in recent years featured assemblies at which the worship and non-worship materials used have been taken from sources outside those published under the authority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and whose doctrinal purity is therefore in doubt; therefore be it

Resolved, That the ND District LYF be instructed henceforth to draw all worship and non-worship materials strictly from agendas, hymnbooks, and catechisms published under the authority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ; and be it further

Resolved, That the ND District Board of Directors withhold subsidization for all District LYF events that do not make exclusive use of agendas, hymnbooks, and catechisms published under the authority of the LCMS; and be it finally

Resolved, That the ND District LYF be forbidden from referencing the ND District in promotional materials for gatherings not restricted to the use of agendas, hymnbooks, and catechisms published under the authority of the LCMS.

Submitted by: Bethel Lutheran Church, Bismarck

Overture 1-20 To Require the Use of Synodically Approved Hymnbooks at Gatherings of the North Dakota District Lutheran Youth Fellowship

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod requires as a condition of membership in Synod "Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda, hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school"; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod makes available for use by our churches and schools hymnbooks whose doctrinal purity has been established to the satisfaction of all concerned; and

1 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) of the North Dakota (ND) District, insofar as it
2 hosts gatherings for the purpose of worship and instruction in the Christian faith, falls by nature
3 under the category of “church” and is therefore constitutionally bound to the use of “doctrinally
4 pure ... hymnbooks”; and

5
6 WHEREAS, The ND District LYF is subsidized by the ND District; and

7
8 WHEREAS, The ND District LYF has in recent years featured assemblies at which the worship
9 materials used have been taken from sources outside those published under the authority of
10 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and whose doctrinal purity is therefore in doubt;
11 therefore be it

12
13 *Resolved*, That the ND District LYF be instructed henceforth to draw all worship materials
14 strictly from hymnbooks published under the authority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
15 Synod; and be it further

16
17 *Resolved*, That the ND District Board of Directors withhold subsidization for all District LYF
18 events that do not make exclusive use of agendas and hymnbooks published under the
19 authority of the LCMS; and be it finally

20
21 *Resolved*, That the ND District LYF be forbidden from referencing the ND District in
22 promotional materials for gatherings not restricted to the use of agendas and hymnbooks
23 published under the authority of the LCMS.

24
25 *Submitted by: Central Circuit*

26
27
28 **Overture 1-21 To Require the Use of Synodically Approved Agendas and**
29 **Hymnbooks at the LCMS Youth Gathering**

30
31 WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
32 requires as a condition of membership in Synod “Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda,
33 hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school”; and

34
35 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod makes available for use by our churches
36 and schools hymnbooks whose doctrinal purity has been established to the satisfaction of all
37 concerned; and

38
39 WHEREAS, The LCMS Youth Gathering falls by nature under the category of “church” and is
40 therefore constitutionally bound to the use of “doctrinally pure ... hymnbooks”; and

41
42 WHEREAS, The LCMS Youth Gathering has in recent years featured assemblies at which the
43 worship materials used have been taken from sources outside those published under the
44 authority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and whose doctrinal purity is therefore in
45 doubt; therefore be it

46
47 *Resolved*, That Synod in convention be memorialized to instruct the LCMS Youth Gathering
48 henceforth to draw all worship materials strictly from hymnals published under the authority of
49 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it finally

1 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District withhold all promotion, endorsements, and financial
2 support from the LCMS Youth Gathering until previous heterodox errors are corrected.

3
4 *Submitted by: Central Circuit*
5
6

7 **Overture 1-22 To Require the Use of Synodically Approved Agendas and**
8 **Hymnbooks at the LCMS Youth Gathering**
9

10 WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
11 requires as a condition of membership in Synod “Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda,
12 hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school”; and
13

14 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod makes available for use by our churches
15 and schools hymnbooks whose doctrinal purity has been established to the satisfaction of all
16 concerned; and
17

18 WHEREAS, The LCMS Youth Gathering falls by nature under the category of “church” and is
19 therefore constitutionally bound to the use of “doctrinally pure ... hymnbooks”; and
20

21 WHEREAS, The LCMS Youth Gathering has in recent years featured assemblies at which the
22 worship materials used have been taken from sources outside those published under the
23 authority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and whose doctrinal purity is therefore in
24 doubt; therefore be it
25

26 *Resolved*, That Synod in convention be memorialized to instruct the LCMS Youth Gathering
27 henceforth to draw all worship materials strictly from hymnals published under the authority of
28 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it finally
29

30 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District withhold all promotion, endorsements, and financial
31 support from the LCMS Youth Gathering until previous heterodox errors are corrected.
32

33 *Submitted by: Northwest Circuit*
34
35

36 **Overture 1-23 To Memorialize Synod to Declare the Gideons a Heterodox Tract and**
37 **Mission Society**
38

39 WHEREAS, Article VI.2.c of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod requires
40 of all members “Renunciation of unionism and syncretism of every description, such as ...
41 Participating in heterodox tract and missionary activities”; and
42

43 WHEREAS, The Gideons are by nature a unionistic society, involving Christians of all
44 denominations in their public teaching; and
45

46 WHEREAS, The Gideons promote a form of the “Sinner’s Prayer” as an integral part of their
47 efforts to distribute the Bible, even including such “Sinner’s Prayer” within the front matter of
48 the Bibles they distribute; and
49

1 WHEREAS, The practice of the “Sinner’s Prayer” is heterodox by virtue of its ascribing to the
2 unregenerate man the ability to pray to God and be heard, and its making conversion
3 dependent not upon the sole grace of Almighty God, but upon the efforts and preparations of
4 the unconverted; therefore be it

5
6 *Resolved*, That Synod in convention be memorialized to designate the Gideons a heterodox
7 tract and missionary society for purposes of the enforcement of Article VI.2.c. of the
8 constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

9
10 *Submitted by: Central Circuit*
11

12
13 **Overture 1-24 To Condemn the Establishment of Offices of Diversity, Equity, and**
14 **Inclusion at Institutions of the Concordia University System**
15

16 WHEREAS, The establishment of an office of diversity, equity, and inclusion is a means of the
17 Marxist subversion of an institution; and

18
19 WHEREAS, Offices of diversity, equity, and inclusion have been established under the name of
20 “Office of Multicultural Engagement” at Concordia University Ann Arbor, Concordia University
21 Chicago, and Concordia University Wisconsin; and

22
23 WHEREAS, The principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion are also used to introduce
24 LGBTQIP2SAA+ sin into our Concordias; be it therefore

25
26 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in convention condemn the establishment of offices of
27 diversity, equity, and inclusion under any name at our Concordias; and be it therefore

28
29 *Resolved*, That students from congregations on the North Dakota District be discouraged from
30 attending any university that hosts an office of diversity, equity, and inclusion, including our
31 Concordias; and be it therefore

32
33 *Resolved*, that student from congregations of the North Dakota District not be eligible for
34 District CTAP funds if the student attended any university that hosts an office of DEI, including
35 our Concordias; and be it finally

36
37 *Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention be memorialized to
38 instruct our Concordias to dismantle their offices of diversity, equity, and inclusion under
39 whatever name they are masked.

40
41 *Submitted by: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Minot*
42

43
44 **Overture 1-25 To Condemn the Establishment of Offices of Diversity, Equity, and**
45 **Inclusion at Institutions of the Concordia University System**
46

47 WHEREAS, The establishment of an office of diversity, equity, and inclusion is a means of the
48 Marxist subversion of an institution; and

1 WHEREAS, Offices of diversity, equity, and inclusion have been established under the name of
2 “Office of Multicultural Engagement” at Concordia University Ann Arbor, Concordia University
3 Chicago, and Concordia University Wisconsin; and
4

5 WHEREAS, The principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion are also used to introduce
6 LGBTQIP2SAA+ sin into our Concordias; be it therefore
7

8 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in convention condemn the establishment of offices of
9 diversity, equity, and inclusion under any name at our Concordias; and be it therefore
10

11 *Resolved*, That students from congregations on the North Dakota District be discouraged from
12 attending any university that hosts an office of diversity, equity, and inclusion, including our
13 Concordias; and be it finally
14

15 *Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention be memorialized to
16 instruct our Concordias to dismantle their offices of diversity, equity, and inclusion under
17 whatever name they are masked.
18

19 *Submitted by: Central Circuit*
20
21

22 **Overture 1-26 The Development of Short and Long Range District Planning to Meet**
23 **the Current and Upcoming Challenges of the North Dakota District and ND Churches**
24

25 WHEREAS, It has been reported in the LCMS Reporter that “since their peak in the late 1950s,
26 child baptisms are down 70% and adult converts are down 47%” in The Lutheran Church—
27 Missouri Synod; and
28

29 WHEREAS, The decline in church attendance is not just a problem in the LCMS, but Christians
30 make up a smaller and smaller proportion of the American population every year; and
31

32 WHEREAS, The North Dakota demographic is changing every year with smaller families, fewer
33 farms, and shrinking small towns, resulting in challenges to North Dakota rural churches; and
34

35 WHEREAS, Recent surveys of American Christianity are finding that year after year, there is an
36 increasing grip of relativism in our culture causing deep theological confusion in the church,
37 resulting in churches not even understanding the most fundamental beliefs of the Christian
38 faith but being dominated by the spirit of this age; and
39

40 WHEREAS, It has been reported that every subsector of the United States nonprofit sector is
41 experiencing an unprecedented “philanthropic contraction,” with decreased giving from
42 Generation Xers and Millennials, meaning that churches can no longer presume increased
43 giving in churches for the foreseeable future; therefore be it
44

45 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District Board of Directors develop strategic plans for the
46 next 5, 15, and 25 years in light of where the District currently is and where the District will be
47 in the future concerning the points mentioned above; and be it further
48

1 *Resolved*, That the strategic plan examine current and future financial stewardship challenges,
2 church demographic challenges, cultural demographics challenges, and theological
3 challenges; and be it further
4

5 *Resolved*, That the strategic plans explore practical topics such as, but not limited to: A) How
6 to invest today's money and resources from the District and Local Churches in ways to benefit
7 and sustain the Word and Sacrament for the next generation who may not have the money
8 and resources to do so; B) How to establish centralized churches that minister to local
9 congregations with circuit riding pastors (from the centralized church) to travel far and wide to
10 smaller rural congregations unable to support their own pastors; C) Ways in which ND
11 churches and the ND District can financially support/subsidize churches in the District in places
12 that it is essential to keep Word and Sacrament but not financially feasible; D) Ways in which
13 our Lutheran theology and practice can be supported, maintained, and encouraged within an
14 increasingly pluralistic culture and among churches that will find themselves more and more
15 isolated due to geographical distance; E) Plans to help "closing churches" reallocate resources
16 and parishioners to other churches for the sake of maintaining the continuation of Word and
17 Sacrament in a particular location; and be it finally
18

19 *Resolved*, that the North Dakota Board of Directors and Churches be in prayer for the current
20 and upcoming challenges that we will face together in the ministry of the Word and
21 Sacraments.
22

23 *Submitted by: Northwest Circuit*
24
25

26 **Overture 1-27 The Development of Short and Long Range District Planning to Meet**
27 **the Current and Upcoming Challenges of the North Dakota District and ND Churches**
28

29 WHEREAS, It has been reported in the LCMS Reporter that "since their peak in the late 1950s,
30 child baptisms are down 70% and adult converts are down 47%" in The Lutheran Church—
31 Missouri Synod; and
32

33 WHEREAS, The decline in church attendance is not just a problem in the LCMS, but Christians
34 make up a smaller and smaller proportion of the American population every year; and
35

36 WHEREAS, The North Dakota demographic is changing every year with smaller families, fewer
37 farms, and shrinking small towns, resulting in challenges to North Dakota rural churches; and
38

39 WHEREAS, Recent surveys of American Christianity are finding that year after year, there is an
40 increasing grip of relativism in our culture causing deep theological confusion in the church,
41 resulting in churches not even understanding the most fundamental beliefs of the Christian
42 faith but being dominated by the spirit of this age; and
43

44 WHEREAS, It has been reported that every subsector of the United States nonprofit sector is
45 experiencing an unprecedented "philanthropic contraction," with decreased giving from
46 Generation Xers and Millennials, meaning that churches can no longer presume increased
47 giving in churches for the foreseeable future; therefore be it
48

1 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District Board of Directors develop strategic plans for the
2 next 5, 15, and 25 years in light of where the District currently is and where the District will be
3 in the future concerning the points mentioned above; and be it further

4
5 *Resolved*, That the strategic plan examine current and future financial stewardship challenges,
6 church demographic challenges, cultural demographics challenges, and theological
7 challenges; and be it further

8
9 *Resolved*, That the strategic plans explore practical topics such as, but not limited to: A) How
10 to invest today's money and resources from the District and Local Churches in ways to benefit
11 and sustain the Word and Sacrament for the next generation who may not have the money
12 and resources to do so; B) How to establish centralized churches that minister to local
13 congregations with circuit riding pastors (from the centralized church) to travel far and wide to
14 smaller rural congregations unable to support their own pastors; C) Ways in which ND
15 churches and the ND District can financially support/subsidize churches in the District in places
16 that it is essential to keep Word and Sacrament but not financially feasible; D) Ways in which
17 our Lutheran theology and practice can be supported, maintained, and encouraged within an
18 increasingly pluralistic culture and among churches that will find themselves more and more
19 isolated due to geographical distance; E) Plans to help "closing churches" reallocate resources
20 and parishioners to other churches for the sake of maintaining the continuation of Word and
21 Sacrament in a particular location; and be it finally

22
23 *Resolved*, that the North Dakota Board of Directors and Churches be in prayer for the current
24 and upcoming challenges that we will face together in the ministry of the Word and
25 Sacraments.

26
27 *Submitted by: Central Circuit*

28
29
30 **Overture 1-28 To Require the Use of Synodically Approved Hymnbooks at**
31 **Gatherings of the North Dakota District Lutheran Youth Fellowship**

32
33 WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
34 requires as a condition of membership in Synod "Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda,
35 hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school"; and

36
37 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod makes available for use by our churches
38 and schools hymnbooks whose doctrinal purity has been established to the satisfaction of all
39 concerned; and

40
41 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) of the North Dakota (ND) District, insofar as it
42 hosts gatherings for the purpose of worship and instruction in the Christian faith, falls by nature
43 under the category of "church" and is therefore constitutionally bound to the use of "doctrinally
44 pure ... hymnbooks"; and

45
46 WHEREAS, The ND District LYF is subsidized by the ND District; and

47
48 WHEREAS, The ND District LYF has in recent years featured assemblies at which the worship
49 materials used have been taken from sources outside those published under the authority of

1 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and whose doctrinal purity is therefore in doubt;
2 therefore be it

3
4 *Resolved*, That the ND District LYF be instructed henceforth to draw all worship materials
5 strictly from hymnbooks published under the authority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
6 Synod; and be it further

7
8 *Resolved*, That the ND District Board of Directors withhold subsidization for all District LYF
9 events that do not make exclusive use of agendas and hymnbooks published under the
10 authority of the LCMS; and be it finally

11
12 *Resolved*, That the ND District LYF be forbidden from referencing the ND District in
13 promotional materials for gatherings not restricted to the use of agendas and hymnbooks
14 published under the authority of the LCMS.

15
16
17 *Submitted by: Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale*
18
19

20 **Overture 1-29 Encourage the North Dakota Lutheran Youth Fellowship to Utilize**
21 **District LCMS Pastors**
22

23 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District has well-trained and qualified pastors; and

24
25 WHEREAS, The District Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) has typically invited speakers from
26 outside North Dakota for District youth events; and

27
28 WHEREAS, Speakers from outside the North Dakota District cost extra due to travel expenses;
29 and

30
31 WHEREAS, The District LYF is subsidized by the North Dakota District to cover expenses;
32 therefore be it

33
34 *Resolved*, That the District LYF be encouraged to use local North Dakota Pastors for teaching,
35 music, worship, and services; and be it finally

36
37 *Resolved*, That all speakers at LYF events be approved beforehand by the North Dakota
38 District President.

39
40
41 *Submitted by: Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale*
42
43

44 **Overture 1-30 To Require the Use of Synodically Approved Agendas and**
45 **Hymnbooks at the LCMS Youth Gathering**
46

47 WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
48 requires as a condition of membership in Synod “Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda,
49 hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school”; and

1 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod makes available for use by our churches
2 and schools hymnbooks whose doctrinal purity has been established to the satisfaction of all
3 concerned; and
4

5 WHEREAS, The LCMS Youth Gathering falls by nature under the category of “church” and is
6 therefore constitutionally bound to the use of “doctrinally pure ... hymnbooks”; and
7

8 WHEREAS, The LCMS Youth Gathering has in recent years featured assemblies at which the
9 worship materials used have been taken from sources outside those published under the
10 authority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and whose doctrinal purity is therefore in
11 doubt; therefore be it
12

13 *Resolved*, That Synod in convention be memorialized to instruct the LCMS Youth Gathering
14 henceforth to draw all worship materials strictly from hymnals published under the authority of
15 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it finally
16

17 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District withhold all promotion, endorsements, and financial
18 support from the LCMS Youth Gathering until previous heterodox errors are corrected.
19
20

21 *Submitted by: Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale*
22
23

24 **Overture 1-31 To Condemn the Stone Choir Podcast**

25

26 WHEREAS, Twitter/X personalities Corey J. Mahler (@CoreyJMahler) and “Woe” (@treblewoe)
27 began releasing episodes of the Stone Choir podcast on Oct. 19, 2022, to tackle issues
28 relevant to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) that, in their judgment, the pastors
29 and leadership of the LCMS were not addressing, leaving Mahler and “Woe” to function as “the
30 very stones” who must “cry out” because the clergy are silent (Luke 19:40); and
31

32 WHEREAS, These issues on which the pastors and leadership of the LCMS are accused by the
33 Stone Choir hosts of remaining silent include the ostensible necessity of the reintroduction of
34 racial segregation; the ostensible sinfulness of interracial marriage; the ostensibly pernicious
35 nature of the Jewish race today; and the ostensibly fictitious nature of the Jewish genocide
36 perpetrated by the National Socialists during World War II; and
37

38 WHEREAS, None of Stone Choir’s positions on these aforementioned issues is taught in Holy
39 Scripture, and indeed their positions on these issues cause great offense to many Christians of
40 good will; and
41

42 WHEREAS, Stone Choir hosts Mahler and “Woe” are active on Twitter/X, and Stone Choir
43 listeners are likely to be influenced not only by what Mahler and “Woe” teach on the Stone
44 Choir podcast, but also by what they post on Twitter/X; and
45

46 WHEREAS, On Twitter/X, Corey Mahler and “Woe,” among other outrageously offensive
47 behaviors, openly praise Adolf Hitler, call for the deportation of Jews, Muslims, and blacks from
48 the United States, and condemn as sin the practice of interracial marriage and adoption,
49 causing great offense to Christian consciences; and
50

1 WHEREAS, Through their activity on the Stone Choir podcast and on Twitter/X, Mahler and
2 “Woe” have sought to associate confessional Lutheranism with devotion to Adolf Hitler,
3 opposition to the Jewish race, and a desire for segregation of blacks from white society; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Mahler and “Woe” have publicly denounced all pastors of the LCMS as “either
6 apostate or derelict” and on their podcast and on Twitter have attempted to turn their listeners
7 against their pastors; and
8

9 WHEREAS, Mahler and “Woe” are not currently active members of any LCMS congregation and
10 are therefore beyond the reach of church discipline; therefore be it
11

12 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention publicly condemn the Stone Choir
13 podcast and the false teaching of its hosts, Corey J. Mahler and “Woe,” for the offense they
14 cause by their public devotion to Adolf Hitler, their stirring up of antipathy toward our Jewish
15 and black neighbors, their denunciation as sin of that which God has not called sin, and their
16 open hostility toward the pastors and leadership of the LCMS; and be it further
17

18 *Resolved*, That the laity of the North Dakota District be warned against the Stone Choir
19 podcast and its hosts, and that the pastors of the North Dakota District be encouraged to
20 admonish members of their congregations whose approval of Stone Choir and its hosts has
21 become known; and be it further
22

23 *Resolved*, That qualified pastors and teachers of the LCMS be encouraged to examine the
24 teachings of Stone Choir according to the norm of the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran
25 Confessions, demonstrating from clear and firm testimonies of the same how Stone Choir is in
26 error; and be it further
27

28 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention recognize that the laxness and
29 lukewarmness of the teaching and practice of the LCMS has provided fertile soil for such
30 errors of teaching and wickedness of life as are associated with Stone Choir and its hosts and
31 followers, and that whatever suffering has been inflicted upon the pastors and people of the
32 LCMS through Stone Choir is to be received as a chastisement of God for our sins and as an
33 occasion for heartfelt repentance; and be it finally
34

35 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention be memorialized to condemn the Stone Choir podcast
36 and the false teaching of its hosts and followers, to take action against pastors who promote
37 the same, and to repent of the sins for which God has allowed Stone Choir and its followers to
38 arise within the LCMS.
39
40

41 *Submitted by: Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale*
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43

44 **Overture 1-32 To Condemn Lutherans for Racial Justice** 45

46 WHEREAS, On June 19, 2020, the organization Lutherans for Racial Justice (LRJ), founded by
47 the Rev. Matthew Ryan Gonzalez, pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in The Bronx,
48 New York, and Joshua Salzberg, of First Lutheran Church in Culver City, California, released a
49 petition entitled, “A Call for Racial Justice Reform in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod”
50 on the website change.org, in which The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) was

1 accused of harboring “systems of racism within our congregations, communities, and church
2 body”; and
3

4 WHEREAS, This accusation was based, not upon concrete instances of hatred or mistreatment
5 toward black neighbors, but upon the spurious framework of “systemic racism” and therefore
6 constitutes the bearing of false witness against the LCMS and her congregations and
7 institutions; and
8

9 WHEREAS, LRJ has released a “Call to Action” in which one of their stated goals is to “Mobilize
10 LCMS congregations, schools, circuits, districts, RSOs, and Synodical leadership to form a
11 sustainable racial justice initiative to assess the barriers to racial diversity, equity, and inclusion
12 that exist within their particular context”; and
13

14 WHEREAS, “Diversity, equity, and inclusion” (DEI) is the hallmark phrase of a movement that
15 seeks to dismantle the traditional structures of Western society, including our present form of
16 government, the Church, and the family; and
17

18 WHEREAS, The establishment of an office of diversity, equity, and inclusion is a critical step in
19 the takeover of traditional institutions to divert them from their original purpose toward the
20 promotion of cultural Marxist values; and
21

22 WHEREAS, LRJ in its YouTube videos has made common cause with Sikhism and Islam, even
23 denying that Christianity “has a corner on grace” due to Islam’s supposed teaching of the
24 graciousness of Allah, and is therefore publicly guilty of syncretism; and
25

26 WHEREAS, LRJ was welcomed to involve itself in the 2022 National Youth Gathering,
27 spreading its doctrine of DEI and “systemic racism” among the youth of the LCMS; be it
28 therefore
29

30 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention publicly condemn LRJ and call its
31 organizers, participants, and followers to repentance for their bearing of false witness against
32 the LCMS through accusations of racism, for their seeking to establish offices of diversity,
33 equity, and inclusion in the institutions of the LCMS, and for their open practice of syncretism;
34 and be it further
35

36 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention call upon the organizers of the 2022
37 National Youth Gathering to repent for their involving of LRJ in the Gathering; and be it finally
38

39 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention be memorialized to condemn LRJ and call its
40 organizers, participants, and followers to repentance for their false witness, for their attempted
41 institutional takeover through the establishment of offices of diversity, equity, and inclusion,
42 and for their syncretism, that the relevant ecclesiastical supervisors be admonished to pursue
43 church discipline until such repentance is forthcoming.
44

45
46 *Submitted by: Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale*
47
48

49 **Overture 1-33 To Condemn the Erroneous and Offensive Content in the Volume**
50 **Luther’s Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications**

WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House released the volume Luther's Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications early in 2022; and

WHEREAS, This volume includes instances of the adoption of the framework of Critical Race Theory, the employing of heterodox teachers to write some of the essays, the inclusion of essays written by women in a volume intended to provide authoritative teaching for the Church, the denial of the right to self-defense, and the following of anti-white AP guidelines ("Black" capitalized, "white" left uncapitalized); and

WHEREAS, The marketing and binding of Luther's Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications present it as an authoritative volume comparable to those containing the Small Catechism and the Book of Concord; be it therefore

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention be memorialized to instruct Concordia Publishing House to cease distribution of the volume Luther's Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications until these issues have been corrected; and be it further

Resolved, That Concordia Publishing House consider republishing the essays as a standalone volume so as to avoid giving the impression that these constitute the official confession of our Church; and be it finally

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention be memorialized to call to repentance those responsible for the offense this volume has caused.

Submitted by: Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale

Overture 1-34 To Memorialize Synod to Declare the Gideons a Heterodox Tract and Mission Society

WHEREAS, Article VI.2.c of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod requires of all members "Renunciation of unionism and syncretism of every description, such as ... Participating in heterodox tract and missionary activities"; and

WHEREAS, The Gideons are by nature a unionistic society, involving Christians of all denominations in their public teaching; and

WHEREAS, The Gideons promote a form of the "Sinner's Prayer" as an integral part of their efforts to distribute the Bible, even including such "Sinner's Prayer" within the front matter of the Bibles they distribute; and

WHEREAS, The practice of the "Sinner's Prayer" is heterodox by virtue of its ascribing to the unregenerate man the ability to pray to God and be heard, and its making conversion dependent not upon the sole grace of Almighty God, but upon the efforts and preparations of the unconverted; therefore be it

1 *Resolved*, That Synod in convention be memorialized to designate the Gideons a heterodox
2 tract and missionary society for purposes of the enforcement of Article VI.2.c. of the
3 constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
4

5
6 *Submitted by: Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale*
7
8

9 **Overture 1-35 To Condemn the Establishment of Offices of Diversity, Equity, and**
10 **Inclusion at Institutions of the Concordia University System**
11

12 WHEREAS, The establishment of an office of diversity, equity, and inclusion is a means of the
13 Marxist subversion of an institution; and
14

15 WHEREAS, Offices of diversity, equity, and inclusion have been established under the name of
16 “Office of Multicultural Engagement” at Concordia University Ann Arbor, Concordia University
17 Chicago, and Concordia University Wisconsin; and
18

19 WHEREAS, The principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion are also used to introduce
20 LGBTQQIP2SAA+ sin into our Concordias; be it therefore
21

22 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in convention condemn the establishment of offices of
23 diversity, equity, and inclusion under any name at our Concordias; and be it therefore
24

25 *Resolved*, That students from congregations on the North Dakota District be discouraged from
26 attending any university that hosts an office of diversity, equity, and inclusion, including our
27 Concordias; and be it finally
28

29 *Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention be memorialized to
30 instruct our Concordias to dismantle their offices of diversity, equity, and inclusion under
31 whatever name they are masked.
32

33 *Submitted by: Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale*
34
35

36 **Overture 1-36 The Development of Short and Long Range District Planning to Meet**
37 **the Current and Upcoming Challenges of the North Dakota District and ND Churches**
38

39 WHEREAS, It has been reported in the LCMS Reporter that “since their peak in the late 1950s,
40 child baptisms are down 70% and adult converts are down 47%” in The Lutheran Church—
41 Missouri Synod; and
42

43 WHEREAS, The decline in church attendance is not just a problem in the LCMS, but Christians
44 make up a smaller and smaller proportion of the American population every year; and
45

46 WHEREAS, The North Dakota demographic is changing every year with smaller families, fewer
47 farms, and shrinking small towns, resulting in challenges to North Dakota rural churches; and
48

49 WHEREAS, Recent surveys of American Christianity are finding that year after year, there is an
50 increasing grip of relativism in our culture causing deep theological confusion in the church,

1 resulting in churches not even understanding the most fundamental beliefs of the Christian
2 faith but being dominated by the spirit of this age; and
3

4 WHEREAS, It has been reported that every subsector of the United States nonprofit sector is
5 experiencing an unprecedented “philanthropic contraction,” with decreased giving from
6 Generation Xers and Millennials, meaning that churches can no longer presume increased
7 giving in churches for the foreseeable future; therefore be it
8

9 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District Board of Directors develop strategic plans for the
10 next 5, 15, and 25 years in light of where the District currently is and where the District will be
11 in the future concerning the points mentioned above; and be it further
12

13 *Resolved*, That the strategic plan examine current and future financial stewardship challenges,
14 church demographic challenges, cultural demographics challenges, and theological
15 challenges; and be it further
16

17 *Resolved*, That the strategic plans explore practical topics such as, but not limited to: A) How
18 to invest today’s money and resources from the District and Local Churches in ways to benefit
19 and sustain the Word and Sacrament for the next generation who may not have the money
20 and resources to do so; B) How to establish centralized churches that minister to local
21 congregations with circuit riding pastors (from the centralized church) to travel far and wide to
22 smaller rural congregations unable to support their own pastors; C) Ways in which ND
23 churches and the ND District can financially support/subsidize churches in the District in places
24 that it is essential to keep Word and Sacrament but not financially feasible; D) Ways in which
25 our Lutheran theology and practice can be supported, maintained, and encouraged within an
26 increasingly pluralistic culture and among churches that will find themselves more and more
27 isolated due to geographical distance; E) Plans to help “closing churches” reallocate resources
28 and parishioners to other churches for the sake of maintaining the continuation of Word and
29 Sacrament in a particular location; and be it finally
30

31 *Resolved*, that the North Dakota Board of Directors and Churches be in prayer for the current
32 and upcoming challenges that we will face together in the ministry of the Word and
33 Sacraments.
34
35

36 *Submitted by: Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale*
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Overture 2-01 To Continue International Mission Opportunities in Santiago, Chile

WHEREAS, each LCMS District is encouraged to support a foreign mission; and

WHEREAS, Regional Director, Rev. Ted Krey and LCMS South American Missions are developing a Word and Sacrament mission model that other international regional directors are striving to emulate; and

WHEREAS, partnerships are needed to educate and encourage pastors, teachers, and congregations in Chile, and provide mercy care to the same; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota District in 2015 resolved to enter into partnership with Rev. Krey and international missions in Chile, South America; and

WHEREAS, the body of Christ (the churches of the North Dakota District) have succeeded in fulfilling this mission opportunity with the blessings that the Lord has granted to His Church; and

WHEREAS, this partnership has resulted with blessings from the Lord so that another triennium of partnership may make them self-sufficient in continuing the mission of the Church to reach the lost and serve the faithful; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the North Dakota District continue to support the partnership with Rev. Ted Krey and LCMS South American Missions in Santiago, Chile at \$25,000 per year for the triennium

Submitted by: LCMS North Dakota District Board of Directors

Overture 2-02 Christ Care for Children/Kenya

WHEREAS, James 1:27 says “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress”; and

WHEREAS, laymen from North Dakota and Minnesota started Project 24, 15 years ago and have engaged the congregations of those districts in support of providing boarding facilities for vulnerable children in Kenya to care for their physical and spiritual needs; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota and Minnesota North districts of the LCMS at their respective 2012 Conventions entered a partnership to build three Project 24 boarding facilities; and

WHEREAS, the LCMS Office of International Mission (LCMS OIM), the East African Regional Director Rev. Shauen Trump, and Archbishop Joseph Omolo Ochola of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) are faithfully working to resolve the ELCK’s membership in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) since the changing of its bylaws to declare membership is fellowship with all other member bodies; and

WHEREAS, Project 24 is counted as an anchor in mission strategy in east Africa by the LCMS OIM; and has been asked by government officials to care for abandoned children based on

1 performance and care; holistically deals with children and cares for many even through high
2 school and beyond; and

3
4 WHEREAS, Minnesota North District continues support and active fund raising; therefore, be it
5
6 *Resolved*, that the North Dakota District in convention continue to provide support for
7 vulnerable children through the LCMS Program Christ's Care for Children – Kenya in the
8 amount of \$10,000 per year for the triennium.

9
10 *Submitted by: LCMS North Dakota District Board of Directors*

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12
13 **Overture 2-03 Christ Care for Children/Kenya**

14
15 WHEREAS, James 1:27 says "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is
16 this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress"; and

17
18 WHEREAS, laymen from North Dakota and Minnesota started Project 24, 15 years ago and
19 have engaged the congregations of those districts in support of providing boarding facilities for
20 vulnerable children in Kenya to care for their physical and spiritual needs; and

21
22 WHEREAS, the North Dakota and Minnesota North districts of the LCMS at their respective
23 2012 Conventions entered a partnership to build three Project 24 boarding facilities; and

24
25 WHEREAS, the LCMS Office of International Mission (LCMS OIM), the East African Regional
26 Director Rev. Shauen Trump, and Archbishop Joseph Omolo Ochola of the Evangelical
27 Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) are faithfully working to resolve the ELCK's membership in
28 the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) since the changing of its bylaws to declare membership
29 is fellowship with all other member bodies; and

30
31 WHEREAS, Project 24 is counted as an anchor in mission strategy in east Africa by the LCMS
32 OIM; and has been asked by government officials to care for abandoned children based on
33 performance and care; holistically deals with children and cares for many even through high
34 school and beyond; and

35
36 WHEREAS, Minnesota North District continues support and active fund raising; therefore, be it
37
38 *Resolved*, that the North Dakota District in convention to provide support for vulnerable
39 children through the LCMS Program Christ's Care for Children – Kenya in the amount of
40 \$10,000 per year for the triennium; and be it further

41
42 *Resolved*, that the \$10,000 per year be generated from increased congregational giving and
43 designated gifts.

44
45 *Submitted by: Northeast Circuit*

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WHEREAS, Laymen from North Dakota and Minnesota started Project 24 nearly 20 years ago and have engaged the congregations of those Districts in support of providing boarding facilities for vulnerable children in Kenya to care for their physical and spiritual needs, and

WHEREAS, Project 24 and child support program Christ's Care for Children – Kenya are mission projects of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod under the direction of the LCMS Office of International Mission through the African Regional Director working alongside LCMS Partner Church Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya, and

Be It Resolved, That the North Dakota District in convention covenant to continue to support vulnerable children through the LCMS Program Christ's Care for Children – Kenya in the amount of \$10,000 per year for the triennium.

Submitted by: Southeast Circuit

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) is a partner church body of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), in full altar and pulpit fellowship with the same; and

WHEREAS, The LWF includes member churches, e.g., the heterodox Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), that engage in anti-biblical teachings and practices such as the ordination of women and the performance same-sex “marriages”; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the LCMS, Article VI.2, requires of its members “renunciation of unionism and syncretism of every description”; and

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1
2 WHEREAS, This support of a church body in fellowship with the LWF suggests fellowship on the
3 part of the ND District with the LWF; therefore be it

4
5 *Resolved*, That the ND District cease participation in Project 24 for the upcoming triennium;
6 and be it further

7
8 *Resolved*, That the ND District President inform the ELCK that its participation in Project 24
9 has ceased (including retraction of financial support) due to the ELCK's membership in the
10 LWF and will resume after the upcoming triennium should the ELCK withdraw from the LWF;
11 and be it further

12
13 *Resolved*, That funds currently directed from the ND District to Project 24 be directed instead
14 to the organization "Lutherans in Africa"; and be it further

15
16 *Resolved*, That should the ELCK not withdraw from the LWF within the upcoming triennium,
17 the ND
18 District will permanently cease participation in Project 24; and be it finally

19
20 *Resolved*, That the Synod in Convention be memorialized to reevaluate the partner church
21 body status of the ELCK in view of the ELCK's membership in the LWF.

22
23 *Submitted by: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Minot*

24
25
26 **Overture 2-06 To Address the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya's Membership**
27 **in the Lutheran World Federation**

28
29 WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) is a partner church body of The
30 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), in full altar and pulpit fellowship with the same;
31 and

32
33 WHEREAS, The ELCK is also a member church of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) as
34 indicated by the LWF website; and

35
36 WHEREAS, The LWF includes member churches, e.g., the heterodox Evangelical Lutheran
37 Church in America (ELCA), that engage in anti-biblical teachings and practices such as the
38 ordination of women and the performance same-sex "marriages"; and

39
40 WHEREAS, Membership in the LWF establishes altar and pulpit fellowship with these member
41 churches and implies agreement with their anti-biblical teachings and practices; and

42
43 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the LCMS, Article VI.2, requires of its members "renunciation of
44 unionism and syncretism of every description"; and

45
46 WHEREAS, The North Dakota (ND) District currently supports the ELCK through Project 24;
47 and

48
49 WHEREAS, This support of a church body in fellowship with the LWF suggests fellowship on the
50 part of the ND District with the LWF; therefore be it

1
2 *Resolved*, That the ND District suspend participation in Project 24 for the upcoming triennium;
3 and be it further

4
5 *Resolved*, That the ND District President inform the ELCK that its participation in Project 24 is
6 suspended (including retraction of financial support) due to the ELCK's membership in the
7 LWF and will resume after the upcoming triennium should the ELCK withdraw from the LWF;
8 and be it further

9
10 *Resolved*, That funds currently directed from the ND District to Project 24 for the upcoming
11 triennium be set aside and given to Project 24 in the next triennium should the ELCK withdraw
12 from the LWF;

13
14 *Resolved*, That should the ELCK not withdraw from the LWF within the upcoming triennium,
15 the ND District will permanently cease participation in Project 24; and be it finally

16
17 *Resolved*, That the Synod in Convention be memorialized to reevaluate the partner church
18 body status of the ELCK in view of the ELCK's membership in the LWF.

19
20 *Submitted by: Central Circuit*

21
22
23 **Overture 2-07 To Address the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya's Membership**
24 **in the Lutheran World Federation**

25
26 WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) is a partner church body of The
27 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), in full altar and pulpit fellowship with the same;
28 and

29
30 WHEREAS, The ELCK is also a member church of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) as
31 indicated by the LWF website; and

32
33 WHEREAS, The LWF includes member churches, e.g., the heterodox Evangelical Lutheran
34 Church in America (ELCA), that engage in anti-biblical teachings and practices such as the
35 ordination of women and the performance same-sex "marriages"; and

36
37 WHEREAS, Membership in the LWF establishes altar and pulpit fellowship with these member
38 churches and implies agreement with their anti-biblical teachings and practices; and

39
40 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the LCMS, Article VI.2, requires of its members
41 "renunciation of unionism and syncretism of every description"; and

42
43 WHEREAS, The North Dakota (ND) District currently supports the ELCK through Project 24;
44 and

45
46 WHEREAS, This support of a church body in fellowship with the LWF suggests fellowship on the
47 part of the ND District with the LWF; therefore be it

48
49 *Resolved* that the ND District LCMS admonish the ELCK to withdraw from the LWF

1 and its associated churches as soon as possible and be it further

2
3 *Resolved*, that should the ELCK not withdraw from the LWF within the next
4 triennium, the ND District will cease participation in Project 24; and be it finally

5
6 *Resolved*, That the Synod in Convention be memorialized to reevaluate the partner
7 church body status of the ELCK in view of the ELCK's membership in the LWF.

8
9 *Submitted by: Southeast Circuit*

10
11
12 **Overture 2-08 To Encourage Secular Vocational Training for Current and Potential**
13 **Ordained and Commissioned Ministers**

14
15 WHEREAS, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should receive their
16 living from the Gospel (see 1 Corinthians 9:3–18); and

17
18 WHEREAS, it is good, right, and salutary for churches to have a pastor (see Titus 1:5); and

19
20 WHEREAS, there is a decline in church membership and attendance due to factors such as (but
21 not limited to): shrinking Midwestern towns, fewer farms, smaller families, and lower birth rates;
22 and

23
24 WHEREAS, there is an increasing struggle among churches to meet adequately the North
25 Dakota District Salary Guidelines for ordained and commissioned ministers because of lower
26 attendance (fewer giving units), as well as lower giving among the younger generations and
27 economic hardship due to factors such as rising inflation; and

28
29 WHEREAS, financial strain and stress can come about for ordained and commissioned
30 ministers and their families when Salary Guidelines are not met; therefore be it

31
32 *Resolved*, the LCMS North Dakota District encourages her congregations to follow the
33 ordained and commissioned ministers district salary guidelines; and be it further

34
35 *Resolved*, the North Dakota District encourage ordained and commissioned ministers to
36 develop other vocational gifts as means of income for the present and future needs of their
37 families; and be it further

38
39 *Resolved*, that the North Dakota District in Convention send this resolution to our seminaries
40 and colleges to encourage them to help future ordained and commissioned ministers develop
41 other vocational gifts; and be it further

42
43 *Resolved*, the NDD memorialize the Synod in convention to encourage current and potential
44 ordained and commissioned ministers to develop other vocational gifts; and be it finally

45
46 *Resolved*, that North Dakota District congregations whose ordained and commissioned
47 ministers cannot be compensated according to district salary scale be admonished to show
48 understanding, reduce expectations, and allot time for ordained and commissioned ministers to

1 seek ways to subsidize their salaries to alleviate any financial strain and stress upon their
2 families.

3
4
5 *Submitted by: Northeast Circuit*
6
7

8 **Overture 2-09 To Encourage Secular Vocational Training for Current and Potential**
9 **Pastors**

10
11 WHEREAS, The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should receive their
12 living from the Gospel (see 1 Corinthians 9:3–18); and

13
14 WHEREAS, It is good, right, and salutary for churches to have a pastor (see Titus 1:5); and

15
16 WHEREAS, There is a decline in church membership and attendance due to factors such as
17 (but not limited to): shrinking Midwestern towns, fewer farms, smaller families, and lower birth
18 rates; and

19
20 WHEREAS, There is an increasing struggle among churches to meet adequately the North
21 Dakota District Salary Guidelines for their pastors because of lower attendance (fewer giving
22 units), as well as lower giving among the younger generations and economic hardship due to
23 factors such as rising inflation; and

24
25 WHEREAS, Financial strain and stress can come about for pastors and their families when
26 Salary Guidelines are not met; therefore be it

27
28 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District encourage pastors to develop other vocational gifts
29 as means of income for the present and future needs of their families; and be it further

30
31 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention send this resolution to our seminaries
32 and colleges to encourage them to help future pastors develop other vocational gifts; and be it
33 finally

34
35 *Resolved*, That North Dakota District congregations whose pastors cannot be compensated
36 according to district scale be admonished to show understanding, reduce expectations, and
37 allot time for pastors to seek ways to subsidize their salaries to alleviate any financial strain
38 and stress upon their families.

39
40 *Submitted by: Central Circuit*
41
42

43 **Overture 2-10 To Encourage Secular Vocational Training for Current and Potential**
44 **Pastors**

45
46 WHEREAS, The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should receive their
47 living from the Gospel (see 1 Corinthians 9:3–18); and

48
49 WHEREAS, It is good, right, and salutary for churches to have a pastor (see Titus 1:5); and
50

1 WHEREAS, There is a decline in church membership and attendance due to factors such as
2 (but not limited to): shrinking Midwestern towns, fewer farms, smaller families, and lower birth
3 rates; and

4
5 WHEREAS, There is an increasing struggle among churches to meet adequately the North
6 Dakota District Salary Guidelines for their pastors because of lower attendance (fewer giving
7 units), as well as lower giving among the younger generations and economic hardship due to
8 factors such as rising inflation; and

9
10 WHEREAS, Financial strain and stress can come about for pastors and their families when
11 Salary Guidelines are not met; therefore be it

12
13 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District encourage pastors to develop other vocational gifts
14 as means of income for the present and future needs of their families; and be it further

15
16 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention send this resolution to our seminaries
17 and colleges to encourage them to help future pastors develop other vocational gifts; and be it
18 finally

19
20 *Resolved*, That North Dakota District congregations whose pastors cannot be compensated
21 according to district scale be admonished to show understanding, reduce expectations, and
22 allot time for pastors to seek ways to subsidize their salaries to alleviate any financial strain
23 and stress upon their families.

24
25 *Submitted by: Northwest Circuit*
26
27

28 **Overture 2-11 To Admonish the Council of Presidents to Prioritize Assignment of**
29 **Seminary Candidates to Sole Vacancies over Associate Positions**
30

31 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod currently has a shortage of pastors for open
32 pulpits/altars; and

33
34 WHEREAS, The difficulty of open pulpits/altars will only get worse due to pastors in the baby
35 boomer segment of the population retiring; and

36
37 WHEREAS, The seminaries are currently graduating each year a number of seminarians that is
38 less than the need of pastors in LCMS congregations; and

39
40 WHEREAS, For proper administration of the sacrament of the altar, a local church needs to
41 have a pastor or share a pastor; therefore be it

42
43 *Resolved*, That the Council of Presidents and Seminary Placement Offices prioritize the
44 assignment of ready seminary candidates to sole vacancies over associate vacancies.

45
46 *Submitted by: Northwest Circuit*
47
48

49 **Overture 2-13 To Admonish the Council of Presidents to Prioritize Assignment of**
50 **Seminary Candidates to Sole Vacancies over Associate Positions**

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod currently has a shortage of pastors for open pulpits/altars; and

WHEREAS, The difficulty of open pulpits/altars will only get worse due to pastors in the baby-boomer segment of the population retiring; and

WHEREAS, The seminaries are currently graduating each year a number of seminarians that is less than the need of pastors in LCMS congregations; and

WHEREAS, For proper administration of the sacrament of the altar, a local church needs to have a pastor or share a pastor; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Council of Presidents and Seminary Placement Offices prioritize the assignment of ready seminary candidates to sole vacancies over associate vacancies.

Submitted by: Central Circuit

Overture 2-14 To Admonish the Council of Presidents to Prioritize Assignment of Seminary Candidates to Sole Vacancies over Associate Positions

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod currently has a shortage of pastors for open pulpits/altars; and

WHEREAS, The difficulty of open pulpits/altars will only get worse due to pastors in the baby-boomer segment of the population retiring; and

WHEREAS, The seminaries are currently graduating fewer seminarians than is needed to serve our LCMS congregations; and

WHEREAS, For proper administration of the sacrament of the altar, a local parish needs to have a pastor; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Council of Presidents and Seminary Placement Offices prioritize the assignment of ready seminary candidates to sole vacancies over associate vacancies.

Submitted by: Southeast Circuit

Overture 2-15 Lutheran Family Service Support

WHEREAS, Whereas, at the 2022 North Dakota District Convention, Resolution 2-03 directed the district president, circuit visitors and the board of directors to “pursue an ongoing partnership with Lutheran Family Service to provide counseling services and training to pastors, church workers and lay people in North Dakota” and “that this partnership would be regularly evaluated by the District Board of Directors and that at the 2025 Convention of the District a long-term partnership would be discussed and pursued if found to be beneficial” and

1 WHEREAS, Resolution 1-06a of the 2023 LCMS convention reaffirmed worker wellness To
2 Direct Districts and Council of Presidents [COP] to Provide Strategic Plan for Addressing
3 Wellness of Church Workers; and
4

5 WHEREAS, A 2017-2019 study of LCMS church workers revealed that 24% of workers had
6 been diagnosed with depression or anxiety, 55% had experienced financial stress, and a
7 majority had a BMI considered overweight or obese.
8

9 WHEREAS, A 2024 LCMS study with responses from 213 congregations and 511 church
10 workers (225 ordained, 108 teachers and 178 other commissioned workers), reveal: Lay
11 leaders recognize their responsibility to care for church workers but are sometimes unsure of
12 how to do so and would appreciate more resources to this end; and
13

14 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service has been a beacon of hope and support for individuals
15 and families of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and beyond for over a century, providing
16 essential services such as adoption, unplanned pregnancy support, mental health, and
17 marriage counseling, family life education, and church worker wellness; and
18

19 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service upholds the values of grace, life, family, compassion, and
20 accountability, with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone of their ministry; and
21

22 WHEREAS, The work of Lutheran Family Service aligns with the Biblical call to “bear one
23 another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2) and to care for the least of these (Matthew 25:40); and
24

25 WHEREAS, The need for such services continues to grow, with wait times from three to eight
26 weeks for an appointment and with many in our communities facing challenges that require the
27 professional and faith-based support that Lutheran Family Service provides; and
28

29 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service, a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS,
30 provides professional services on an ability-to-pay basis through the support of individuals and
31 congregations, without government funding to not limit their intentionally Christ-centered
32 ministry and witness; and
33

34 WHEREAS, The primary aim of Lutheran Family Service is to play a supportive role for pastors
35 and congregations, as their mission is to walk with people who are experiencing hard times
36 and are there for them just as God has been there for us; and
37

38 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service offers telehealth and in-person services to pastors, their
39 families, and members of our congregations through online support groups and HIPPA
40 compliant, confidential telehealth sessions, and
41

42 WHEREAS, 95% of LCMS members and pastors surveyed in the NDD acknowledge a current
43 mental health crisis exists, while 78% of those of those who responded support for financial
44 support of Lutheran Family Service from the LCMS NDD; and
45

46 WHEREAS, the delegates to the 2024 Lutheran Women’s Missionary League North Dakota
47 District convention voted to help fund Lutheran Family Service’s counseling ministry expansion
48 across North Dakota and to educate our congregations and communities about the wonderful
49 blessing Lutheran Family Service offers to our people in their time of need, and
50

1 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District and Lutheran Family Service have had a partnership
2 agreement from February 2023 through February 2024 following the directives of the 2022
3 NDD Convention for LFS to provide counseling services and training to pastors, church
4 workers, and lay people in North Dakota, and

5
6 WHEREAS, LFS and the North Dakota District are seeking ways to expand this service to
7 others in the coming years both in North Dakota, therefore be it

8
9 *Resolved*, The LCMS North Dakota District in convention deems that the relationship with LFS
10 is beneficial; and therefore, be it further

11
12 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District recognizes and commends the work of
13 Lutheran Family Service for their dedication to serving the needs of our communities; and be it
14 further

15
16 *Resolved*, That Lutheran Family Service provide telehealth services with licensed counselors
17 to pastors and lay persons in ND; and be it further

18
19 *Resolved*, That Lutheran Family Service will work with pastors and congregations to seek
20 financial support from LCMS ND congregations and members to establish a physical presence
21 over the next triennium by placing a director of congregational services, two licensed LCMS
22 counselors, and a lead adoption liaison as financial resources permit, and be it further

23
24 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District encourages its member congregations to
25 actively support the mission of Lutheran Family Service through prayer, volunteerism, and
26 financial contributions; and be it further

27
28 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District will partner with Lutheran Family Service to
29 promote awareness of the services they offer and to facilitate access to these services for
30 those in need within our congregations and communities; and be it finally

31
32 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District will seek to collaborate with Lutheran Family
33 Service in outreach efforts and initiatives that align with our shared mission of demonstrating
34 Christ's love through service.

35
36 *Passed at a voters meeting at Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck on 9/15/24.*

37
38
39 **Overture 2-16 Lutheran Family Service Partnership**

40
41 WHEREAS, At the 2022 North Dakota District Convention, Resolution 2-03 directed the district
42 president, circuit visitors and the board of directors to "pursue an ongoing partnership with
43 Lutheran Family Service to provide counseling services and training to pastors, church workers
44 and lay people in North Dakota" and "that this partnership would be regularly evaluated by the
45 District Board of Directors and that at the 2025 Convention of the District a long-term
46 partnership would be discussed and pursued if found to be beneficial" and

47
48 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service (LFS) has been a beacon of hope and support for
49 individuals and families of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and beyond for over

1 a century, providing essential services such as adoption, unplanned pregnancy support,
2 mental health, and marriage counseling, family life education, and church worker wellness; and
3
4 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service upholds the values of grace, life, family, compassion, and
5 accountability, with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone of their ministry; and
6
7 WHEREAS, The work of Lutheran Family Service aligns with the Biblical call to “bear one
8 another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2) and to care for the least of these (Matthew 25:40); and
9
10 WHEREAS, The need for such services continues to grow, with many in our communities facing
11 challenges that require the professional and faith-based support that Lutheran Family Service
12 provides; and
13
14 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service, a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS,
15 provides professional services on an ability-to-pay basis through the support of individuals and
16 congregations, without government funding to not limit their intentionally Christ-centered
17 ministry and witness; and
18
19 WHEREAS, The primary aim of Lutheran Family Service is to play a supportive role for pastors
20 and congregations, as their mission is to walk with people who are experiencing hard times
21 and are there for them just as God has been there for us; and
22
23 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service offers tele-health and in-person services to pastors, their
24 families, and members of our congregations through online support groups and Zoom
25 conference calls, and
26
27 WHEREAS, In a survey of the LCMS NDD members and pastors, 95% of those who responded
28 acknowledge a current mental health crisis exists, while 78% of those surveyed expressed
29 support for financial support of Lutheran Family Service from the LCMS North Dakota District
30 (NDD); and
31
32 WHEREAS, The Lord has blessed the LCMS NDD with the financial resources to adequately
33 support the upfront costs to establish a physical presence for Lutheran Family Service within
34 ND; and
35
36 WHEREAS, The delegates to the 2024 Lutheran Women’s Missionary League North Dakota
37 District convention voted to help fund Lutheran Family Service’s counseling ministry expansion
38 across North Dakota and to educate our congregations and communities about the wonderful
39 blessing Lutheran Family Service offers to our people in their time of need, and
40
41 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District and Lutheran Family Service have had a partnership
42 agreement from February 2023 through February 2024 following the directives of the 2022
43 NDD Convention for LFS to provide counseling services and training to pastors, church
44 workers, and lay people in North Dakota, and
45
46 WHEREAS, LFS is seeking ways to expand this service to others in the coming years both in
47 North Dakota and throughout our geographic region, therefore be it
48
49 *Resolved*, The LCMS North Dakota District in convention deems that the relationship with LFS
50 is beneficial; and therefore be it further

1
2 *Resolved*, The LCMS North Dakota District recognizes and commends the work of Lutheran
3 Family Service for their dedication to serving the needs of our communities; and be it further
4

5 *Resolved*, The LCMS North Dakota District partners with Lutheran Family Service to establish
6 a physical presence in ND over the next triennium by placing a director of congregational
7 services, two licensed LCMS counselors (one in Fargo or Grand Forks and one in Bismarck or
8 Minot), a lead adoption liaison; and be it further
9

10 *Resolved*, The LCMS North Dakota District matches funds that are raised by member
11 congregations, individual donors, and organizations up to \$75,000 per year in matched funds
12 for three years, with the release of funds at \$25,000 increments when those annual goals are
13 met; and be it further
14

15 *Resolved*, The LCMS North Dakota District encourages its member congregations to actively
16 support the mission of Lutheran Family Service through prayer, volunteerism, and financial
17 contributions; and be it further
18

19 *Resolved*, The LCMS North Dakota District will partner with Lutheran Family Service to
20 promote awareness of the services they offer and to facilitate access to these services for
21 those in need within our congregations and communities; and be it finally
22

23 *Resolved*, The LCMS North Dakota District will seek to collaborate with Lutheran Family
24 Service in outreach efforts and initiatives that align with our shared mission of demonstrating
25 Christ's love through service.
26

27 *Submitted by: LCMS North Dakota District Board of Directors*
28
29

30 **Overture 2-17 Subject: LFS & ND District Partnership Overture**
31

32 WHEREAS, At the 2022 North Dakota District Convention, Resolution 2-03 directed the district
33 president, circuit visitors and the board of directors to "pursue an ongoing partnership with
34 Lutheran Family Service to provide counseling services and training to pastors, church workers
35 and lay people in North Dakota" and "that this partnership would be regularly evaluated by the
36 District Board of Directors and that at the 2025 Convention of the District a long-term
37 partnership would be discussed and pursued if found to be beneficial" and
38

39 WHEREAS, Resolution 1-06a of the 2023 LCMS convention reaffirmed worker wellness To
40 Direct Districts and Council of Presidents [COP] to Provide Strategic Plan for Addressing
41 Wellness of Church Workers; and
42

43 WHEREAS, A 2017-2019 study of LCMS church workers revealed that 24% of workers had
44 been diagnosed with depression or anxiety, 55% had experienced financial stress, and a
45 majority had a BMI considered overweight or obese.
46

47 WHEREAS, A 2024 LCMS study with responses from 213 congregations and 511 church
48 workers (225 ordained, 10

1 8 teachers and 178 other commissioned workers), reveal: Lay leaders recognize their
2 responsibility to care for church workers but are sometimes unsure of how to do so and would
3 appreciate more resources to this end; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service has been a beacon of hope and support for individuals
6 and families of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and beyond for over a century,
7 providing essential services such as adoption, unplanned pregnancy support, mental health,
8 and marriage counseling, family life education, and church worker wellness; and
9

10 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service upholds the values of grace, life, family, compassion, and
11 accountability, with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone of their ministry; and
12

13 WHEREAS, The work of Lutheran Family Service aligns with the Biblical call to "bear one
14 another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2) and to care for the least of these (Matthew 25:40); and
15

16 WHEREAS, The need for such services continues to grow, with wait times from three to eight
17 weeks for an appointment and with many in our communities facing challenges that require the
18 professional and faith-based support that Lutheran Family Service provides; and
19

20 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service, a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS,
21 provides professional services on an ability-to-pay basis through the support of individuals and
22 congregations, without government funding to not limit their intentionally Christ-centered
23 ministry and witness; and
24

25 WHEREAS, The primary aim of Lutheran Family Service is to play a supportive role for pastors
26 and congregations, as their mission is to walk with people who are experiencing hard times
27 and are there for them just as God has been there for us; and
28

29 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service offers telehealth and in-person services to pastors, their
30 families, and members of our congregations through online support groups and HIPPA
31 compliant, confidential telehealth sessions, and
32

33 WHEREAS, 95% of LCMS members and pastors surveyed in the NDD acknowledge a current
34 mental health crisis exists, while 78% of those of those who responded support for financial
35 support of Lutheran Family Service from the LCMS NDD; and
36

37 WHEREAS, the delegates to the 2024 Lutheran Women's Missionary League North Dakota
38 District convention voted to help fund Lutheran Family Service's counseling ministry expansion
39 across North Dakota and to educate our congregations and communities about the wonderful
40 blessing Lutheran Family Service offers to our people in their time of need, and
41

42 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District and Lutheran Family Service have had a partnership
43 agreement from February 2023 through February 2024 following the directives of the 2022
44 NDD Convention for LFS to provide counseling services and training to pastors, church
45 workers, and lay people in North Dakota, and
46

47 WHEREAS, LFS and the North Dakota District are seeking ways to expand this service to
48 others in the
49 coming years both in North Dakota, therefore be it
50

1 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District in convention deems that the relationship with
2 LFS is
3 beneficial; and therefore, be it further
4

5 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District recognizes and commends the work of
6 Lutheran Family Service for their dedication to serving the needs of our communities; and be it
7 further
8

9 *Resolved*, That Lutheran Family Service provide telehealth services with licensed counselors
10 to pastors and lay persons in ND; and be it further
11

12 *Resolved*, That Lutheran Family Service will work with pastors and congregations to seek
13 financial support from LCMS ND congregations and members to establish a physical presence
14 over the next triennium by placing a director of congregational services, two licensed LCMS
15 counselors, and a lead adoption liaison as financial resources permit, and be it further
16

17 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District encourages its member congregations to
18 actively support the mission of Lutheran Family Service through prayer, volunteerism, and
19 financial contributions; and be it further
20

21 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District will partner with Lutheran Family Service to
22 promote awareness of the services they offer and to facilitate access to these services for
23 those in need within our congregations and communities; and be it finally
24

25 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District will seek to collaborate with Lutheran Family
26 Service in outreach efforts and initiatives that align with our shared mission of demonstrating
27 Christ's love through service.
28

29 *Submitted by the Circuit Forum of the Southwest Circuit of the North Dakota District*
30
31

32 **Overture 2-19 North Dakota District Convention Encouragement for Shepherd's Hill**
33 ***Late Overture***
34

35 WHEREAS, In Matthew 19 Jesus declared, "Let the little children come to Me"; and
36

37 WHEREAS, Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads is a wonderful resource of the district that serves
38 both young and old alike; and
39

40 WHEREAS, The physical plant at Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads is over 44 years old; and
41

42 WHEREAS, The physical plant is in need of upgrading to meet the needs of the district both young
43 and old; and
44

45 WHEREAS, The camp has made great progress on upgrading the physical plant, including a new
46 playground, reroofing the chapel and adding eave gutters, replacing many of the windows in the
47 chapel, and repair of the shower-house; and
48

49 WHEREAS, The hotel has been demolished and the gym has new windows and doors, and
50 heating system; and

1
2 WHEREAS, Grants have funded two Generac generators, new wi-fi system, new phone system,
3 new outdoor lights, and impact resistant doors; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Archery equipment has been purchased and archery ranges have been renovated;
6 and
7

8 WHEREAS, Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads has acquired the services of an active grant writer;
9 and
10

11 WHEREAS, Grants are easier to fund if an organization is broadly supported by their entire user
12 base; and
13

14 WHEREAS, Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads is a recognized RSO of The Lutheran Church—
15 Missouri Synod; be it
16

17 *Resolved*, That members of congregations be encouraged to make first fruits gifts to Shepherd's
18 Hill at the Crossroads above the amount their congregations' budget; and be it further
19

20 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod add
21 Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads to the ministries supported by the District's direct mission
22 giving in the amount of 2% of congregations' general mission offerings to District (undesignated
23 income) after the Synod pledge is paid, but not less than \$7,500 annually; and be it further
24

25 *Resolved*, That the District Board of Directors forward an overture to each triennial convention
26 of the North Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for support of Shepherd's
27 Hill at the Crossroads as long as Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads continues as an RSO of The
28 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The amount to be 2% of congregations' general mission
29 offerings to District (undesignated income) after the Synod pledge is paid, but not less than
30 \$7,500 annually; and be it further
31

32 *Resolved*, That members of congregations be encouraged to make use of the spaces and
33 offerings for family reunions, retreats and outdoor recreation, including camping; and be it further
34

35 *Resolved*, That the circuits of the district be encouraged to use the Camp for retreats or
36 events; and be it finally
37

38 *Resolved*, That the convention rise and sing the Doxology in support of Shepherd's Hill at
39 Crossroads and its ministry.
40

41 *Submitted by: Messiah Lutheran Church*
42
43

44 **Overture 2-19 To Address the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya's Membership**
45 **in the Lutheran World Federation**
46

47 WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) is a partner church body of The
48 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), in full altar and pulpit fellowship with the same;
49 and
50

1 WHEREAS, The ELCK is also a member church of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) as
2 indicated by the LWF website; and
3

4 WHEREAS, The LWF includes member churches, e.g., the heterodox Evangelical Lutheran
5 Church in America (ELCA), that engage in anti-biblical teachings and practices such as the
6 ordination of women and the performance same-sex “marriages”; and
7

8 WHEREAS, Membership in the LWF establishes altar and pulpit fellowship with these member
9 churches and implies agreement with their anti-biblical teachings and practices; and
10

11 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the LCMS, Article VI.2, requires of its members “renunciation of
12 unionism and syncretism of every description”; and
13

14 WHEREAS, The North Dakota (ND) District currently supports the ELCK through Project 24;
15 and
16

17 WHEREAS, This support of a church body in fellowship with the LWF suggests fellowship on the
18 part of the ND District with the LWF; therefore be it
19

20 *Resolved*, That the ND District suspend participation in Project 24 for the upcoming triennium;
21 and be it further
22

23 *Resolved*, That the ND District President inform the ELCK that its participation in Project 24 is
24 suspended (including retraction of financial support) due to the ELCK’s membership in the
25 LWF and will resume after the upcoming triennium should the ELCK withdraw from the LWF;
26 and be it further
27

28 *Resolved*, That funds currently directed from the ND District to Project 24 for the upcoming
29 triennium be set aside and given to Project 24 in the next triennium should the ELCK withdraw
30 from the LWF;
31

32 *Resolved*, That should the ELCK not withdraw from the LWF within the upcoming triennium,
33 the ND District will permanently cease participation in Project 24; and be it finally
34

35 *Resolved*, That the Synod in Convention be memorialized to reevaluate the partner church
36 body status of the ELCK in view of the ELCK’s membership in the LWF.
37
38

39 *Submitted by: Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale*
40
41

42 **Overture 2-20 To Admonish the Council of Presidents to Prioritize Assignment of**
43 **Seminary Candidates to Sole Vacancies over Associate Positions**
44

45 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod currently has a shortage of pastors for open
46 pulpits/altars; and
47

48 WHEREAS, The difficulty of open pulpits/altars will only get worse due to pastors in the baby-
49 boomer segment of the population retiring; and
50

1 WHEREAS, The seminaries are currently graduating each year a number of seminarians that is
2 less than the need of pastors in LCMS congregations; and
3

4 WHEREAS, For proper administration of the sacrament of the altar, a local church needs to
5 have a pastor or share a pastor; therefore be it
6

7 *Resolved*, That the Council of Presidents and Seminary Placement Offices prioritize the
8 assignment of ready seminary candidates to sole vacancies over associate vacancies.
9

10
11 *Submitted by: Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale*
12

13 **Overture 2-21 To Encourage Secular Vocational Training for Current and Potential**
14 **Pastors**
15

16 WHEREAS, The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should receive their
17 living from the Gospel (see 1 Corinthians 9:3–18); and
18

19 WHEREAS, It is good, right, and salutary for churches to have a pastor (see Titus 1:5); and
20

21 WHEREAS, There is a decline in church membership and attendance due to factors such as
22 (but not limited to): shrinking Midwestern towns, fewer farms, smaller families, and lower birth
23 rates; and
24

25 WHEREAS, There is an increasing struggle among churches to meet adequately the North
26 Dakota District Salary Guidelines for their pastors because of lower attendance (fewer giving
27 units), as well as lower giving among the younger generations and economic hardship due to
28 factors such as rising inflation; and
29

30 WHEREAS, Financial strain and stress can come about for pastors and their families when
31 Salary Guidelines are not met; therefore be it
32

33 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District encourage pastors to develop other vocational gifts
34 as means of income for the present and future needs of their families; and be it further
35

36 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention send this resolution to our seminaries
37 and colleges to encourage them to help future pastors develop other vocational gifts; and be it
38 finally
39

40 *Resolved*, That North Dakota District congregations whose pastors cannot be compensated
41 according to district scale be admonished to show understanding, reduce expectations, and
42 allot time for pastors to seek ways to subsidize their salaries to alleviate any financial strain
43 and stress upon their families.
44

45
46 *Submitted by: Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale*
47
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WHEREAS, St. Paul writes, “I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet” (1 Tim. 2:12); and

WHEREAS, The public reading of Holy Scripture in the context of the Divine Service constitutes interpretation, and therefore teaching, of the Scriptures being read; and

WHEREAS, The public reading of Holy Scripture cannot be carried out in silence; and

Resolved, That the North Dakota District in Convention admonish the congregations of the North Dakota District under no circumstances to make use of women lectors for the public reading of Holy Scripture; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations and pastors found in defiance of this admonition be further warned and, if necessary, be finally subjected to removal from Synod.

Submitted by: Central Circuit

Overture 3-02

WHEREAS, Our confessions state that no one should publicly teach, preach, or administer the sacraments without a proper [public] call (AC XIV); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, along with the Apostle Paul, restricts the public call to men only; therefore be it

Resolved, That the District in Convention condemn the delivery of children's sermons in the Divine Service by laity, especially women; and be it finally

1 *Resolved*, That the District President of the North Dakota District address congregations that
2 include children's sermons in their Divine Service addressed by laity, especially women.

3
4 *Submitted by: Central Circuit*
5
6

7 **Overture 3-03 To Condemn the Use of Worship Leaders and Lay Lectors, with the**
8 **Exception of Elders in the Absence of the Pastor**
9

10 WHEREAS, St. Paul admonishes St. Timothy to devote himself to the public reading of Holy
11 Scripture (1 Tim. 4:13); and
12

13 WHEREAS, St. Paul writes, "I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a
14 man; rather, she is to remain quiet" (1 Tim. 2:12); and
15

16 WHEREAS, St. Paul instructs that women "remain silent" in the churches (1 Cor. 14:34); and
17

18 WHEREAS, The public reading of Holy Scripture in the context of the Divine Service constitutes
19 interpretation, and therefore teaching, of the Scriptures being read; and
20

21 WHEREAS, Pastors are specially trained for the exegesis of Holy Scripture and for the
22 communication of that exegesis through the public reading of the Holy Scriptures; and
23

24 WHEREAS, The public reading of Holy Scripture cannot be carried out in silence; and
25

26 WHEREAS, Women are therefore disqualified by St. Paul not only from holding the office of
27 pastor, but also from the public reading of Holy Scripture; be it therefore
28

29 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in admonish the congregations of the ND district not
30 to make use of men or women lectors for the public reading of holy scripture with the exception
31 of the Elders in the absence of the Pastor.; and be it finally
32

33 *Resolved*, That congregations and pastors found in defiance of this admonition be further
34 warned and, if necessary, be subject to disciplinary procedures as outlined in the LCMS
35 handbook.
36

37 *Submitted by: Southeast Circuit*
38
39

40 **Overture 3-04 Subject: District Fully Fund Mission Projects According to the**
41 **District Spending Plan before Designated Gifts are Applied (v.2 shortened)**
42

43 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Convention
44 approves prayer, fiscal, and other support for mission projects within the District and around
45 world; and
46

47 WHEREAS, The Convention approves a fiscal goal of such support; and
48

49 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the District each year of the triennial cycle prepares a
50 spending plan to meet the goals of Convention; and

1
2 WHEREAS, Congregations in their annual budget process pledge a portion of their income to
3 District and Synod to aid in carrying out the mission of the District and Synod; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Individual members prayerfully consider these projects and designate additional
6 funds for these mission projects above and beyond their periodic tithe/offering to their
7 congregation's pledge; and
8

9 WHEREAS, Congregations have special events to gather additional support such as the 'Chili
10 for Chile' meals, and
11

12 WHEREAS, Individual members and congregations expect these additional gifts to be used in
13 addition to the spending plan of the District rather than to off-set part or all of the District's fiscal
14 support; and
15

16 WHEREAS, In the past, these designated gifts have been used to off-set part or all of the
17 District's support; and
18

19 WHEREAS, Individuals and congregations will be discouraged to separately support these
20 projects when their dedicated gifts are simply used to off-set what the Board of Directors has
21 approved; therefore be it
22

23 *Resolved*, That Board of Directors of the North Dakota District and particularly the Treasurer
24 fully fund mission projects and efforts in accordance with the decisions of the District
25 Convention, when fiscally possible, before designated gifts for a particular project are applied;
26 and be it further
27

28 *Resolved*, That congregations be encouraged to hold special events to support mission
29 projects and designate the funds to District to support the projects, and be it finally
30

31 *Resolved*, That individuals be encouraged to designate funds above and beyond their normal
32 offering to such projects, sending them through their congregation or directly to District.
33

34 *Submitted by: Southwest Circuit*
35
36

37 **Overture 3-05 Subject: To Encourage Congregations of the District to Tithe Their**
38 **Income for Missions**
39

40 WHEREAS, Many times the District has been unable to carry out its work and advance the
41 Gospel into dark corners of North Dakota as well as the world due to lack of funds; and
42

43 WHEREAS, All of our earthly possessions are gifts from God to manage in His kingdoms; and
44

45 WHEREAS, In the Old Testament, the tithe of income was required; and
46

47 WHEREAS, God through Malachi invites believers to test Him by giving the tithe; and
48

49 WHEREAS, St Paul writing to the Corinthians says, "3 For they gave according to their means,
50 as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, 4 begging us earnestly for the

1 favor of taking part in the relief of the saints- ⁵ and this, not as we expected, but they gave
2 themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶ Accordingly, we urged Titus
3 that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷ But as you excel
4 in everything- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you- see
5 that you **excel in this act of grace** also (II Corinthians 8,3- 7);" and

6
7 WHEREAS, Giving less than a tithe would not be considered "excelling" (*Stewardship Under the*
8 *Cross*, Rev Heath Curtis, LCMS Stewardship Ministry coordinator); and

9
10 WHEREAS, Our Lord said, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6,21);
11 and

12
13 WHEREAS, Congregations often urge members to first fruit giving by giving a tithe of their
14 income
15 as they are able; therefore be it

16
17 *Resolved*, That congregations be encouraged to set the example for their members by tithing
18 their income to the District and Missions; and be it further

19
20 *Resolved*, That the congregations of the District **not** presently giving 10 percent or more of
21 their annual income to District and mission work be encouraged to begin moving toward that
22 goal by increasing their offering to missions by one percent per year until achieving
23 10 percent or more; and be it finally

24
25 *Resolved*, This commitment be noted in their annual spending plan.
26

27 *Submitted by: Southwest Circuit*
28

29
30 **Overture 3-06 A Resolution to Encourage the Use of the Chalice in our**
31 **Congregations**
32

33 WHEREAS, The people of God in the Lord's Supper receive the holy body and blood of our Lord
34 Jesus Christ according to the institution of Jesus, and

35
36 WHEREAS, Communion confesses our unity with our brothers and sisters in the Christian
37 congregation, and

38
39 WHEREAS, The Lord Jesus passed a single cup to His disciples at the Last Supper, and

40
41 WHEREAS, Saint Paul speaks of a single "cup of thanksgiving" in 1 Corinthians 10:16, and

42
43 WHEREAS, Artists, across the centuries, depict the common, historical, and regular practice of
44 Christians using the chalice, therefore, be it

45
46 *Resolved*, That North Dakota District of the LCMS encourage its congregations to offer the
47 chalice as an option when the Lord's Supper is celebrated, and be it further
48

1 *Resolved*, That the Synodical Convention likewise memorialize this resolution and encourage
2 the use of the chalice as we strive to be more closely united with one another in doctrine and
3 practice.
4

5 *Submitted by: Southeast Circuit*
6

7
8 **Overture 3-07 To Hold District Conventions in Churches Rather Than in Convention**
9 **Centers**
10

11 WHEREAS, North Dakotans have a long history of being economical with resources and
12 finances; and
13

14 WHEREAS, We Christians are called to be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to our
15 care; and
16

17 WHEREAS, Hotels and Convention Centers have potentially high expenses due to extra fees
18 associated with catered food, conference rooms, equipment rental, etc.; and
19

20 WHEREAS, District Convention Registration Fees have continually increased, sometimes
21 putting a financial burden on churches; and
22

23 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District is substantially smaller in congregational numbers than in
24 previous decades; and
25

26 WHEREAS, The Lord has blessed us with churches in our District that are large enough to host
27 a District Convention; therefore be it
28

29 *Resolved*, That we strive to be good stewards of our resources and finances by relocating
30 future District Conventions to a local church; and be it finally
31

32 *Resolved*, That we strive to keep District Convention Registration Fees to a minimum.
33

34 *Submitted by: Central Circuit*
35
36

37 **Overture 3-08 To Hold District Conventions in Churches Rather Than in Convention**
38 **Centers**
39

40 WHEREAS, North Dakotans have a long history of being economical with resources and
41 finances; and
42

43 WHEREAS, We Christians are called to be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to our
44 care; and
45

46 WHEREAS, Hotels and Convention Centers have potentially high expenses due to extra fees
47 associated with catered food, conference rooms, equipment rental, etc.; and
48

1 WHEREAS, District Convention Registration Fees have continually increased, sometimes
2 putting a financial burden on churches; and

3
4 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District is substantially smaller in congregational numbers than in
5 previous decades; and

6
7 WHEREAS, The Lord has blessed us with churches in our District that are large enough to host
8 a District Convention; therefore be it

9
10 *Resolved*, That we strive to be good stewards of our resources and finances by relocating
11 future District Conventions to a local church; and be it finally

12
13 *Resolved*, That we strive to keep District Convention Registration Fees to a minimum.

14
15 *Submitted by: Northwest Circuit*
16

17
18 **Overture 3-09 Disposition of art, symbols, and sacred furniture at the dissolution of**
19 **a congregation**
20

21 WHEREAS, The use of a building for worship and community activities creates heartfelt
22 connection with a building and its accouterments, and

23
24 WHEREAS, A church building possesses many sacred symbols and artwork, and

25
26 WHEREAS, A congregation used the Altar, Lectern, Pulpit and Font for purposes of the means
27 of grace, and

28
29 WHEREAS, No one can ensure proper use of the aforementioned items, be it

30
31 *Resolved*, That a closing congregation make every effort to remove all Christian Symbols, Art,
32 and especially Sacred furniture (Altar, Pulpit, Lectern, Font) from their building before its sale,
33 and be it finally

34
35 *Resolved*, That the District records this encouragement in the District Handbook.

36
37 *Submitted by: Southeast Circuit*
38
39

40 **Overture 3-10 Constitution Bylaw Resolution**
41

42 WHEREAS, The Standing Constitution Committee has reviewed and recommended approval by
43 the board of directors the constitutions and bylaw revisions for Immanuel Lutheran, Grand
44 Forks; Peace Lutheran, Barney; Peace Lutheran, Garrison; St. Paul's Lutheran, Minot; St.
45 Mark's Lutheran, Minot; Trinity Lutheran, Tolley; Immanuel Lutheran, Ligderwood, Zion
46 Lutheran, Edgeley; and Messiah Lutheran, Mandan; and

47
48 WHEREAS, The board of directors has approved these constitutions and bylaws; therefore, be it
49

1 *Resolved*, That the actions of the board of directors be ratified by this convention of the North
2 Dakota District.

3
4 *Submitted by: LCMS North Dakota District Board of Directors*
5
6

7 **Overture 3-11 To Update and Clarify the LCMS North Dakota District Bylaws**
8

9 WHEREAS, Over the past triennium the need has arisen for clarification to the LCMS North
10 Dakota District bylaws, and

11
12 WHEREAS, To provide consistency within the various offices and boards of the LCMS North
13 Dakota District bylaws; therefore be it

14
15 *Resolved*, The North Dakota District amends the following bylaws:
16

17 **2.3.2 Vacancy**

18 If a vacancy should occur in any vice presidency by succession to the presidential office for
19 the balance of an unexpired term, resignation, moving outside the region, or otherwise, the
20 vacancy shall be filled ~~through election by the Board of Directors in consultation with the~~
21 ~~president~~ in the following manner: the district president shall present two names for vice-
22 president and the board of directors shall vote on the two candidates. They candidates shall
23 ~~choose an~~ be ordained ministers with membership in a congregation of the region in which the
24 vacancy occurs, giving special consideration to the vote of the district convention. If the
25 vacancy occurs in the first vice presidency, the second vice-president shall become the first
26 vice-president, and the replacement shall become second vice-president.
27

28 **2.9.1 Election**

29 The district convention shall elect a Committee on Nominations of six members representing
30 the major geographical areas of the district (Northeast, Central, Eastern, Southeast,
31 Northwest, and Southwest circuits). This committee will include two (2) parish pastors and four
32 (4) lay persons. The term of each member shall be three (3) years and shall be ineligible for
33 reelection to the committee after serving a total of three (3) successive terms. Any qualified
34 member of a district congregation, regardless of how many offices he holds, may serve on this
35 committee. The district secretary shall not serve as a member of the Committee on
36 Nominations, but shall be available, upon call, for consultation. Unless otherwise provided, no
37 member of the Board of Directors may serve on the Committee on Nominations. Each lay
38 member of the Committee on Nominations who is not a delegate of a congregation shall attend
39 the district convention at district expense.
40

41 *Submitted by: LCMS North Dakota District board of directors*
42
43

44 **Overture 3-12 To Update the LCMS North Dakota District Bylaws**
45

46 WHEREAS, Synod bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 requires the Commission on Constitutional Matters examine
47 bylaws of every agency of Synod to ascertain whether they are in harmony with the
48 constitution, bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod; and
49

1 WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters has examined the North Dakota bylaws
2 and requested three issues be addressed in Opinion 20-2948B; therefore be it

3
4 *Resolved*, The North Dakota District amends the following bylaws:

5
6 1.9 Circuit Forum

7 1.9.1 The circuit forum consists of one pastor and one layperson from each member
8 congregation or multi-congregation parish designated by the congregation or parish.
9 Congregations of a multi-congregation parish not contributing a lay voter may send an
10 advisory lay representative, with voice but no vote.

11 1.9.2 Depending on each circuit's adopted objectives, the circuit may provide for
12 additional representation from each congregation. Such additional representatives have
13 no vote in matters assigned to the circuit from by the Bylaws of the Synod.

14 1.9.3 The circuit visitor and any other officers shall have the primary responsibility of
15 preparing the agenda for the circuit forum.

16 1.9.4 The circuit visitor shall ordinarily serve as chairman of the circuit forum.

17 1.9.5 Should a multi-congregation parish involve congregations having membership in
18 different visitation circuits, each lay representative, voting and advisory, shall attend the
19 forum of the circuit of which the representatives congregation is a member. The pastors
20 representative shall attend the forum of that circuit, which he serves a congregation and
21 within the district in which he holds membership, to which he is assigned by his district
22 president. No multi-congregation parish is entitled to more than one pastoral and one
23 lay voting representative.

24 and,

- 25 • 2.7.1.2 All directors shall be a member of a member congregation of the
26 district. Any member of the Board of Directors whose membership in a member
27 congregation has been terminated, or if the board member ~~moves out of the district~~
28 ~~is no longer a member of a member congregation of the district~~, that board member
29 shall cease to be on the Board of Directors.

30 and,

- 31 • 2.9.7.3 Election of the Regional Vice-President
32 Each voting delegate at the convention shall be entitled to vote for one (1)
33 candidate from each region. The candidate with the most votes in each region shall
34 be elected as vice-president for that region. ~~If a candidate in any of the regions~~
35 ~~receives a majority on the first ballot, that candidate shall be elected. If no~~
36 ~~candidate receives a majority in either of the regions, the name of the candidate or~~
37 ~~candidates receiving the smallest number of votes shall be removed from the~~
38 ~~ballot. Voting shall continue until a majority is reached for each region.~~

39 and finally,

- 40 • 2.9.9.1 ~~Circuit Forums (representation consists of one voting pastoral delegate~~
41 ~~(if not vacant) and one voting lay delegate representing the multi-congregation~~
42 ~~parish, plus advisory lay delegates for each congregation that does not supply the~~
43 ~~lay voting delegate, if desired) shall meet at the call of their circuit visitor to select~~
44 ~~the circuit visitor no later than four (4) months prior to the convention. Prior to the~~
45 ~~day of the circuit forum, nominations for candidates for the office of circuit visitor~~
46 ~~may be submitted by a voting congregation of the circuit and suggested by the~~
47 ~~district president, in consultation with the praesidium of the district. Selection of the~~
48 ~~circuit visitors shall be by election by written ballot. The representatives from each~~
49 ~~member congregation of the circuit shall exercise the privilege of voting. All~~
50 ~~nominated pastors serving congregations and emeriti pastors shall be eligible for~~

1 election. Each voter shall write in the names of two pastors on the initial ballot. The
2 three pastors (or more in the case of a tie vote) who receive the highest number of
3 votes in the preliminary ballot shall be placed on the next ballot. After the initial
4 ballot, each voter shall vote for only one candidate. Balloting shall continue with the
5 lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until one pastor shall
6 have received a simple majority of all votes cast, who shall be declared the
7 nominee. Immediately following the circuit forum, the circuit visitor shall report in
8 writing the results of the selection process to the secretary in preparation for
9 ratification by the district convention. In the event that a circuit visitor has not been
10 selected by a circuit forum or has been selected but no longer available to serve,
11 thus resulting in no circuit visitor selection being on the convention slate of circuit
12 visitors for a circuit, the district president shall make the selection, which selection
13 shall then be included on the convention slate of circuit visitors. The convention
14 shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment. The convention shall then
15 ratify the slate of circuit visitors, which ratification shall constitute election. [Synod
16 Bylaw 5.2.2]

17 2.9.9 Selection of Circuit Visitor

18 The circuit visitor shall hold his position by virtue of his selection by the circuit forum
19 and ratification by the district convention.

20 2.9.9.1 Circuit forums shall meet no later than four (4) months prior to the convention
21 for the selection of the circuit visitor. When in-person meetings are burdensome (e.g.,
22 geographically large circuits), a circuit may select another manner of meeting (e.g., e-
23 meeting technologies) that is suitable and made available to all participants, taking
24 into consideration the need to provide for an open and fair exchange of ideas and
25 secure, private, and confidential voting.

26 2.9.9.2 Prior to the day of the circuit forum, nominations for candidates for the office of
27 circuit visitor may be submitted by a voting congregation of the circuit and suggested
28 by the district president, in consultation with the praesidium of the district.

29 2.9.9.3 Each circuit may adopt procedures and methods that will insure efficiency and
30 accuracy, including the use of mechanical, electronic, or other methods of casting,
31 recording, or tabulating votes. The privilege of voting shall be exercised by the
32 representatives from each member congregation of the circuit as defined in 2.9.9.1,
33 who shall have been selected in the manner prescribed by the congregation (Bylaw
34 5.3.2).

35 2.9.9.4 All nominated pastors serving congregations and emeriti pastors shall be
36 eligible for election.

37 2.9.9.4.1 Following presentations of pertinent information regarding each pastor
38 as listed in Bylaw 3.12.3.6 (c) and circuit visitor responsibilities as provided
39 hereafter in this bylaw, each voter shall submit the names of two pastors on the
40 initial ballot.

41 2.9.9.2.4.2 The three pastors (or more in case of a tie vote) who receive the
42 highest number of votes in this preliminary ballot shall be placed on the next
43 ballot. Each voter shall vote for only one candidate.

44 2.9.9.2.4.3 Balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate being removed from
45 each succeeding ballot until one pastor shall have received a simple majority of
46 all votes cast, who shall be declared the nominee.

47 2.9.9.5 Immediately following the circuit forum, the circuit visitor shall report in writing
48 the results of the selection process to the secretary in preparation for ratification by the
49 district convention.

2.9.9.6 In the event that a circuit visitor has not been selected by a circuit forum or has been selected but no longer available to serve, thus resulting in no circuit visitor selection being on the convention slate of circuit visitors for a circuit, the district president shall make the selection, which selection shall then be included on the convention slate of circuit visitors.

2.9.9.7 The convention shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment.

2.9.9.8 The convention shall then ratify the slate of circuit visitors, which ratification shall constitute election. [Synod Bylaw 5.2.2]

~~2.9.9.2~~ 2.9.9.9 Vacancies that occur in the office of circuit visitor between conventions shall be filled by appointment by the president. [Synod Bylaw 5.2.2.1].

Submitted by: LCMS North Dakota District board of directors

**Overture 3-13 To Encourage Mission Giving to Struggling North Dakota
Congregations.**

WHEREAS, Many parishioners have felt financial hardship due to economic factors such as, but not limited to, inflation; and

WHEREAS, There is a decline in church membership and attendance due to factors such as, but not limited to, shrinking Midwestern towns, fewer farms, smaller families, and lower birth rates; and

WHEREAS, There is an increasing struggle among churches to meet adequately the North Dakota District Salary Guidelines for their pastors because of these factors; and

WHEREAS, Churches may find themselves facing major financial hardship due to sizeable expenses such as, but not limited to, a leaking roof, a broken boiler, sewage problems, etc; and

WHEREAS, These financial struggles may lead to inadequate compensation for the pastor, or, worse yet, to the possible closure of the church or to a pastor leaving said church; therefore be it

Resolved, That local struggling churches first strive to meet these financial challenges through the various resources within the local church; and be it further

Resolved, That stewardship education be given, if deemed appropriate, coordinated through the Circuit Visitor or area pastors; and be it further

Resolved, That local struggling churches after exhausting all resources, make their financial challenges known to their Circuit Visitor; and be it further

Resolved, That the Circuit Visitor make such needs known to neighboring churches so that neighboring churches may consider the subsidization of the financial needs of struggling churches as a part of their mission giving; and be it finally

Resolved, That the North Dakota District in Convention recognize that such subsidization is an acceptable use of congregational mission giving.

Overture 3-14 To Create a District Endowment for Struggling Congregations

WHEREAS, Many parishioners have felt financial hardship due to economic factors such as, but not limited to, inflation; and

WHEREAS, There is a decline in church membership and attendance due to factors such as, but not limited to, shrinking Midwestern towns, fewer farms, smaller families, and lower birth rates; and

WHEREAS, Churches may find themselves facing major financial hardship due to sizeable expenses such as, but not limited to, a leaking roof, a broken boiler, sewage problems, etc; and

WHEREAS, These financial struggles may lead to inadequate compensation for the pastor, or, worse yet, to the possible closure of the church or to a pastor leaving said church; and

WHEREAS, The North Dakota District has reported positive financial numbers for the 2023 fiscal year; therefore be it

Resolved, That the North Dakota District establish a “North Dakota Church Assistance Endowment”; and be it further

Resolved, That said endowment be overseen by the Board of Directors; and be it further

Resolved, That monies from the endowment be distributed to congregations applying for an endowment grant for financial hardship; and be it finally

Resolved, That the ND Board of Directors discern, weigh, and choose which grants and how many grants to distribute on a year-to-year basis.

Submitted by: Northwest Circuit

Overture 3-15 To Encourage Mission Giving to Struggling North Dakota Congregations.

WHEREAS, Many parishioners have felt financial hardship due to economic factors such as, but not limited to, inflation; and

WHEREAS, There is a decline in church membership and attendance due to factors such as, but not limited to, shrinking Midwestern towns, fewer farms, smaller families, and lower birth rates; and

WHEREAS, There is an increasing struggle among churches to meet adequately the North Dakota District Salary Guidelines for their pastors because of these factors; and

1 WHEREAS, Churches may find themselves facing major financial hardship due to sizeable
2 expenses such as, but not limited to, a leaking roof, a broken boiler, sewage problems, etc;
3 and
4

5 WHEREAS, These financial struggles may lead to inadequate compensation for the pastor, or,
6 worse yet, to the possible closure of the church or to a pastor leaving said church; therefore be
7 it
8

9 *Resolved*, That local struggling churches first strive to meet these financial challenges through
10 the various resources within the local church; and be it further
11

12 *Resolved*, That local struggling churches after exhausting all resources, make their financial
13 challenges known to their Circuit Visitor; and be it further
14

15 *Resolved*, That the Circuit Visitor make such needs known to neighboring churches so that
16 neighboring churches may consider the subsidization of the financial needs of struggling
17 churches as
18 a part of their mission giving; and be it finally
19

20 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention recognize that such subsidization is an
21 acceptable use of congregational mission giving.
22

23 *Submitted by: Central Circuit*
24
25

26 **Overture 3-16 To Create a District Fund for Struggling Congregations**

27

28 WHEREAS, Many parishioners have felt financial hardship due to economic factors such as, but
29 not limited to, inflation; and
30

31 WHEREAS, There is a decline in church membership and attendance due to factors such as,
32 but not limited to, shrinking Midwestern towns, fewer farms, smaller families, and lower birth
33 rates; and
34

35 WHEREAS, Churches may find themselves facing major financial hardship due to sizable
36 expenses such as, but not limited to, a leaking roof, a broken boiler, sewage problems, etc;
37 and
38

39 WHEREAS, These financial struggles may lead to inadequate compensation for the pastor, or,
40 worse yet, to the possible closure of the church or to a pastor leaving said church; and
41

42 WHEREAS, The LCMS North Dakota District has reported positive financial numbers for the
43 2023 fiscal year; therefore be it
44

45 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District establish a “North Dakota Church Assistance Fund”;
46 and be it further
47

48 *Resolved*, That said fund be overseen by the district board of directors; and be it further
49

1 *Resolved*, That monies from the endowment be distributed to congregations applying for a
2 grant for financial hardship; and be it finally

3
4 *Resolved*, That the ND board of directors discern, weigh, and choose which grants and how
5 many grants to distribute on a year-to-year basis.

6
7 *Submitted by: Northeast Circuit*
8
9

10 **Overture 3-17 To Create a District Endowment for Struggling Congregations**

11
12 WHEREAS, Many parishioners have felt financial hardship due to economic factors such as, but
13 not limited to, inflation; and

14
15 WHEREAS, There is a decline in church membership and attendance due to factors such as,
16 but not limited to, shrinking Midwestern towns, fewer farms, smaller families, and lower birth
17 rates; and

18
19 WHEREAS, Churches may find themselves facing major financial hardship due to sizeable
20 expenses such as, but not limited to, a leaking roof, a broken boiler, sewage problems, etc;
21 and

22
23 WHEREAS, These financial struggles may lead to inadequate compensation for the pastor, or,
24 worse yet, to the possible closure of the church or to a pastor leaving said church; and

25
26 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District has reported positive financial numbers for the 2018
27 fiscal year; therefore be it

28
29 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District establish a “North Dakota Church Assistance
30 Endowment”; and be it further

31
32 *Resolved*, That said endowment be overseen by the Board of Directors; and be it further

33
34 *Resolved*, That monies from the endowment be distributed to congregations applying for an
35 endowment grant for financial hardship; and be it finally

36
37 *Resolved*, That the ND Board of Directors discern, weigh, and choose which grants and how
38 many grants to distribute on a year-to-year basis.

39
40 *Submitted by: Central Circuit*
41
42

43 **Overture 3-19 A Resolution for Revising the District Guidelines Regarding**
44 **Compensation in Consideration of Parish Ministry**

45
46 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District has regularly encouraged calling congregations to use
47 the district guidelines for compensation; and

1 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District is comprised of 79 congregations (as per the North
2 Dakota District-LCMS Online Directory, accessed on July 1, 2024), of which 49 congregations
3 are in a multi-point arrangement; and
4

5 WHEREAS, And whereas the district guidelines give little guidance for multi-point parishes, and
6

7 WHEREAS, The guidance given by the published guidelines for multi-point parishes is to “adapt
8 the guidelines to fit their unique circumstances;” and
9

10 WHEREAS, The demographic trend for rural areas of North Dakota continues in the direction of
11 population loss; and
12

13 WHEREAS, Congregations are continuing to be grouped in larger and larger parish units, and
14

15 WHEREAS, These multi-point parishes involve administrative and outreach workloads beyond
16 additional service times,
17

18 WHEREAS, Pastors serving in these multi-point parishes are expected to build professional
19 relationships and community connections with several communities;
20

21 WHEREAS, Pastors who serve multi-point parishes that develop from a vacancy might take a
22 reduction in pay in order to provide more pastoral care when the additional congregation is
23 entrusted to their ministry; and
24

25 WHEREAS, Pastors serving in these multi-point parishes are willing and often risk life and
26 safety in order to travel from one congregation to the next for the sake of the congregations,
27 especially in the midst of winter, be it therefore
28

29 *Resolved*, That The North Dakota District, in convention, direct the Board of Directors, to
30 revise in structure the district guidelines for compensation to recognize the significant number
31 of multi-point parishes within the district and provide calling congregations with more direct
32 guidance, and be it finally
33

34 *Resolved*, The North Dakota District, in convention, give thanks to our Triune God for the
35 faithful, diligent labors of the pastors willing to serve in these multi-point congregations.
36

37 *Submitted by: Northwest Circuit*
38
39

40 **Overture 3-20 To Encourage Mission Giving to Struggling North Dakota**
41 **Congregations.**
42

43 WHEREAS, Many parishioners have felt financial hardship due to economic factors such as, but
44 not limited to, inflation; and
45

46 WHEREAS, There is a decline in church membership and attendance due to factors such as,
47 but not limited to, shrinking Midwestern towns, fewer farms, smaller families, and lower birth
48 rates; and
49

1 WHEREAS, There is an increasing struggle among churches to meet adequately the North
2 Dakota District Salary Guidelines for their pastors because of these factors; and
3

4 WHEREAS, Churches may find themselves facing major financial hardship due to sizeable
5 expenses such as, but not limited to, a leaking roof, a broken boiler, sewage problems, etc;
6 and
7

8 WHEREAS, These financial struggles may lead to inadequate compensation for the pastor, or,
9 worse yet, to the possible closure of the church or to a pastor leaving said church; therefore be
10 it
11

12 *Resolved*, That local struggling churches first strive to meet these financial challenges through
13 the various resources within the local church; and be it further
14

15 *Resolved*, That local struggling churches after exhausting all resources, make their financial
16 challenges known to their Circuit Visitor; and be it further
17

18 *Resolved*, That the Circuit Visitor make such needs known to neighboring churches so that
19 neighboring churches may consider the subsidization of the financial needs of struggling
20 churches as a part of their mission giving; and be it finally
21

22 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention recognize that such subsidization is an
23 acceptable use of congregational mission giving.
24

25 *Submitted by: Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale*
26
27

28 **Overture 3-21 To Hold District Conventions in Churches Rather Than in Convention**
29 **Centers**
30

31 WHEREAS, North Dakotans have a long history of being economical with resources and
32 finances; and
33

34 WHEREAS, We Christians are called to be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to our
35 care; and
36

37 WHEREAS, Hotels and Convention Centers have potentially high expenses due to extra fees
38 associated with catered food, conference rooms, equipment rental, etc.; and
39

40 WHEREAS, District Convention Registration Fees have continually increased, sometimes
41 putting a financial burden on churches; and
42

43 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District is substantially smaller in congregational numbers than in
44 previous decades; and
45

46 WHEREAS, The Lord has blessed us with churches in our District that are large enough to host
47 a District Convention; therefore be it
48

49 *Resolved*, That we strive to be good stewards of our resources and finances by relocating
50 future District Conventions to a local church; and be it finally

1
2 *Resolved*, That we strive to keep District Convention Registration Fees to a minimum.

3
4 *Submitted by: Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale*

5
6
7 **Overture 3-22 To Create a District Endowment for Struggling Congregations**

8
9 WHEREAS, Many parishioners have felt financial hardship due to economic factors such as, but
10 not limited to, inflation; and

11
12 WHEREAS, There is a decline in church membership and attendance due to factors such as,
13 but not limited to, shrinking Midwestern towns, fewer farms, smaller families, and lower birth
14 rates; and

15
16 WHEREAS, Churches may find themselves facing major financial hardship due to sizeable
17 expenses such as, but not limited to, a leaking roof, a broken boiler, sewage problems, etc;
18 and

19
20 WHEREAS, These financial struggles may lead to inadequate compensation for the pastor, or,
21 worse yet, to the possible closure of the church or to a pastor leaving said church; and

22
23 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District has reported positive financial numbers for the 2018
24 fiscal year; therefore be it

25
26 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District establish a “North Dakota Church Assistance
27 Endowment”; and be it further

28
29 *Resolved*, That said endowment be overseen by the Board of Directors; and be it further

30
31 *Resolved*, That monies from the endowment be distributed to congregations applying for an
32 endowment grant for financial hardship; and be it finally

33
34 *Resolved*, That the ND Board of Directors discern, weigh, and choose which grants and how
35 many grants to distribute on a year-to-year basis.

36
37 *Submitted by: Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale*

38
39
40 **Overture 3-23 To Condemn the Delivery of “Children’s Sermons” in the Divine**
41 **Service by Laity**

42
43 WHEREAS, “Children’s sermons” in the Divine Service are often delivered by laity, including
44 women; and

45
46 WHEREAS, Our confessions state that no one should publicly teach, preach, or administer the
47 sacraments without a proper [public] call (AC XIV); and

1 WHEREAS, The delivery of “children’s sermons” in the Divine Service has the character of
2 public teaching and preaching and includes as its audience not only the children to whom the
3 sermon is directly addressed, but also the adults present, both men and women; and
4

5 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, along with the Apostle Paul, restricts the
6 public call to men only; therefore be it
7

8 *Resolved*, That the District in Convention condemn the delivery of children’s sermons in the
9 Divine Service by laity, especially women; and be it finally
10

11 *Resolved*, That the District President of the North Dakota District address congregations that
12 include children’s sermons in their Divine Service addressed by laity, especially women.
13

14 *Submitted by: Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale*
15
16

17 **Overture 3-24 To Condemn the Use of Women Lectors**

18
19 WHEREAS, St. Paul admonishes St. Timothy to devote himself to the public reading of Holy
20 Scripture (1 Tim. 4:13); and
21

22 WHEREAS, St. Paul writes, “I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a
23 man; rather, she is to remain quiet” (1 Tim. 2:12); and
24

25 WHEREAS, St. Paul instructs that women “remain silent” in the churches (1 Cor. 14:34); and
26

27 WHEREAS, The public reading of Holy Scripture in the context of the Divine Service constitutes
28 interpretation, and therefore teaching, of the Scriptures being read; and
29

30 WHEREAS, Pastors are specially trained for the exegesis of Holy Scripture and for the
31 communication of that exegesis through the public reading of the Holy Scriptures; and
32

33 WHEREAS, The public reading of Holy Scripture cannot be carried out in silence; and
34

35 WHEREAS, Women are therefore disqualified by St. Paul not only from holding the office of
36 pastor, but also from the public reading of Holy Scripture; be it therefore
37

38 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention admonish the congregations of the
39 North Dakota District under no circumstances to make use of women lectors for the public
40 reading of Holy Scripture; and be it finally
41

42 *Resolved*, That congregations and pastors found in defiance of this admonition be further
43 warned and, if necessary, be finally subjected to removal from Synod.
44

45 *Submitted by: Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale*
46

RESOLUTIONS

Floor Committee #1 - Witness

To Require the Use of Synodically-Approved Agendas and Hymnbooks at Youth Gatherings in the North Dakota District

Resolution 1-1

Overtures 1-15, 1-17, 1-19, 1-20, 1-28

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod requires as a condition of membership in Synod “Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda, hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school”; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod makes available for use by our churches and schools hymnbooks whose doctrinal purity has been established to the satisfaction of all concerned; and

WHEREAS, All groups organizing youth gatherings taking place in the North Dakota (ND) District (including congregations, circuits, Higher Things, or Lutheran Youth Fellowship), insofar as they host gatherings for the purpose of worship and instruction in the Christian faith, falls by nature under the category of “church” and such groups are therefore constitutionally bound to the use of “doctrinally pure . . . hymnbooks”; and

WHEREAS, Some groups organizing youth gatherings taking place in the ND District have in recent years featured assemblies at which the worship materials used have been taken from sources outside those published under the authority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and whose doctrinal purity is therefore in doubt; therefore be it

Resolved, That all groups organizing youth gatherings taking place in the ND District be instructed henceforth to draw all worship materials strictly from agendas, hymnbooks and catechisms published under the authority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ; and be it further

Resolved, That the ND District withhold promotion and endorsement of youth gatherings taking place in the ND District that do not use agendas, hymnbooks and catechisms published under the authority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in worship and instruction.

To Encourage the Use of North Dakota District Pastors at Youth Gatherings in the North Dakota District

Resolution 1-2

Overtures 1-12, 1-13, 1-14, 1-29, 1-37

WHEREAS, The North Dakota (ND) District has well-trained and qualified pastors; and

WHEREAS, Some groups organizing youth gatherings taking place in the ND District have invited speakers from outside North Dakota, who can cost extra due to travel expenses; therefore be it

1 *Resolved*, That all groups organizing youth gatherings taking place in the ND District be
2 encouraged to use pastors from the ND District for teaching, music, worship and services.
3
4

5 **To Encourage Synod to Memorialize the Use of Synodically-Approved Agendas and**
6 **Hymnbooks at the LCMS Youth Gathering**
7 **Resolution 1-3**

8 *Overtures 1-16, 1-18, 1-21, 1-22, 1-30*
9

10 WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
11 requires as a condition of membership in Synod “Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda,
12 hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school”; and
13

14 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod makes available for use by our churches
15 and schools hymnbooks whose doctrinal purity has been established to the satisfaction of all
16 concerned; and
17

18 WHEREAS, The LCMS Youth Gathering, the annual youth gathering organized by the synod’s
19 LCMS Youth Ministry, falls by nature under the category of “church” and such groups are
20 therefore constitutionally bound to the use of “doctrinally pure . . . hymnbooks”; and
21

22 WHEREAS, The LCMS Youth Gathering has in recent years featured assemblies at which the
23 worship materials used have been taken from sources outside those published under the
24 authority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and whose doctrinal purity is therefore in
25 doubt; therefore be it
26

27 *Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention be memorialized to
28 instruct the LCMS Youth Gathering henceforth to draw all worship materials strictly from
29 agendas, hymnbooks and catechisms published under the authority of The Lutheran Church—
30 Missouri Synod ; and be it finally
31

32 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District withhold promotion and endorsement from the LCMS
33 Youth Gathering until such time (as determined by the North Dakota District Board of
34 Directors) that worship materials for the LCMS Youth Gathering are being drawn strictly from
35 agendas, hymnbooks and catechisms published under the authority of The Lutheran Church—
36 Missouri Synod .
37
38

39 **To Address Release and Use of Luther’s Large Catechism with Annotations and**
40 **Contemporary Applications**
41 **Resolution 1-4**
42

43 *Overtures 1-5, 1-6, 1-7, 1-8, 1-33*
44

45 WHEREAS, 2013 Resolution 3-13A, “To Update the Synod’s Catechetical Materials,” asked the
46 Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR), in collaboration with the office of the
47 President and Concordia Publishing House (CPH), to produce a catechetical compendium that
48 would be “more comprehensive and apologetic in scope”; and
49

1 WHEREAS, 2016 Res. 5-12, “To Commend and Encourage Use of Luther’s Catechisms,”
2 requested that the CTCR, in collaboration with the office of the President and the faculties of
3 Concordia Seminary and Concordia Theological Seminary “explore the creation of an
4 annotated and expanded edition of the Large Catechism for widespread use and study in the
5 church”; and
6

7 WHEREAS, The volume underwent review by the CTCR and was certified by The Lutheran
8 Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) doctrinal review process; and
9

10 WHEREAS, The text of the Large Catechism to which we subscribe remains entirely unchanged
11 in this volume while the essays attempt to engage contemporary questions concerning
12 challenging and complex issues; and
13

14 WHEREAS, This volume is a significant and important project for one of the treasures of the
15 Church and those who worked with faithfulness to produce it are to be commended; and
16

17 WHEREAS, President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, the writer of the foreword to this volume,
18 acknowledged in writing on Feb. 2, 2023, that portions of the publication, which has caused
19 controversy due to some of its authorship and content, “might have been expressed more
20 clearly”; and
21

22 WHEREAS, On Feb. 25, 2023, President Harrison spoke to the volume’s address of pedophilia
23 and hidden sins of the flesh through the lens of Matthew 7:3–5 (John T. Pless; Larry M. Vogel,
24 Luther’s Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications [St. Louis:
25 Concordia Publishing House, 2023], 327) required a careful reading which was “unclear” and
26 “could have been worded better,” and then went on to say “there were numerous ones of those
27 cases”; and
28

29 WHEREAS, Currently active theologians from heterodox church bodies who have not
30 unconditionally subscribed to the Lutheran Confessions contributed to the volume; and
31

32 WHEREAS, Bringing clarity to this matter will do much for the sake of unity amid significant
33 discord surrounding this volume; therefore be it
34

35 *Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention be memorialized to
36 instruct Concordia Publishing House to cease distribution of the volume *Luther’s Large*
37 *Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications*; and be it further
38

39 *Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention direct CPH to divide
40 *Luther’s Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications* into two volumes:
41 the first volume to contain *Luther’s Large Catechism with Annotations* and the second volume
42 to contain the *Essays on Contemporary Applications*; and include with the second volume a
43 statement to indicate the Synod or church body affiliation of each author and that not all
44 authors are in doctrinal agreement with the LCMS; and be it finally
45

46 *Resolved*, That pastors be encouraged to use the first volume containing *Luther’s Large*
47 *Catechism with Annotations* for study and discussion; and pastors be encouraged to use the
48 second volume containing *Essays on Contemporary Applications* as they see fit for study and
49 discussion.
50

**To Memorialize Synod to Declare the Gideons a Heterodox Tract and Mission Society
Resolution 1-5**

Overtures 1-23 and 1-34

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 4c of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod requires of all members "Renunciation of unionism and syncretism of every description, such as ... Participating in heterodox tract and missionary activities": and

WHEREAS, The Gideons are by nature a unionistic society, involving Christians of all denominations in their public teaching; and

WHEREAS, The Gideons promote a form of the "Sinner's Prayer" as an integral part of their efforts to distribute the Bible, even including such "Sinner's Prayer" within the front matter of the Bibles they distribute; and

WHEREAS, The practice of the "Sinner's Prayer" is heterodox by virtue of its ascribing to the unregenerate man the ability to pray to God and be heard, and its making conversion dependent not upon the sole grace of Almighty God, but upon the efforts and preparations of the unconverted; therefore be it

Resolved, That Synod in convention be memorialized to designate the Gideons a heterodox tract and missionary society for purposes of the enforcement of Article VI 2.c of the constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

**Responsibility Assigned to Others
OMNIBUS RESOLUTION A**

WHEREAS, Certain overtures submitted to the North Dakota District convention for consideration request action for which the responsibility has been previously delegated to a board, office, individual, or commission; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following overtures be referred to the appropriate board, office, individual, or commission indicated below:

<u>Overture</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Board, Office, Individual, Commission</u>
Ov. 1-26, 1-27, 1-36	The Development of Short and Long Range District Planning to Meet the Current and Upcoming Challenges of the North Dakota District and ND Churches	Board of Directors

Ov. 1-24, 1-25, 1-35	To Condemn the Establishment of Offices of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Institutions of the Concordia University System	Concordia University System President
Ov. 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 1-31	To Condemn the Stone Choir Podcast	North Dakota District President and Circuit Visitors to develop and give a presentation on the false teachings associated with the <i>Stone Choir Podcast</i> to the pastors of the North Dakota District by no later than the 2025 North Dakota District Fall Pastors Conference.
Ov. 1-1, 1-3, 1-4, 1-32	To Condemn Lutherans for Racial Justice	North Dakota District President and Circuit Visitors to develop and give a presentation on the false teachings associated with <i>Lutherans for Racial Justice</i> to the pastors of the North Dakota District by no later than the 2025 North Dakota District Fall Pastors Conference.

1
2
3

1 **Floor Committee #2 - Mercy**

2
3 **To Continue International Mission Opportunities in Santiago, Chile**
4 **Resolution 2-01**

5
6 *Overture 2-01*

7
8 WHEREAS, The Synod encourages each Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod District to support a
9 foreign mission; and

10
11 WHEREAS, Regional Director, Rev. Ted Krey and LCMS South American Missions are
12 developing a Word and Sacrament mission model that other international regional directors are
13 striving to emulate; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Partnerships are needed to educate and encourage pastors, teachers, and
16 congregations in Chile, and provide mercy care to the same; and

17
18 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District in 2015 resolved to enter into partnership with Rev. Krey
19 and international missions in Chile, South America; and

20
21 WHEREAS, The body of Christ (the churches of the North Dakota District) have succeeded in
22 fulfilling this mission opportunity with the blessings that the Lord has granted to His Church;
23 and

24
25 WHEREAS, this partnership has resulted with blessings from the Lord so that another triennium
26 of partnership may make them self-sufficient in continuing the mission of the Church to reach
27 the lost and serve the faithful; therefore be it

28
29 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District continue to support the partnership with Rev. Ted
30 Krey and LCMS South American Missions in Santiago, Chile at \$25,000 per year for the
31 triennium; and be it finally

32
33 *Resolved*, That the District fund this mission from the budget as financial resources permit.
34

35
36 **To Support Christ's Care for Children: Kenya**
37 **Resolution 2-02**

38
39 *Overture 2-02, 2-03, 2-04*

40
41 WHEREAS, James 1:27 says "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this:
42 to look after orphans and widows in their distress"; and

43
44 WHEREAS, Laymen from North Dakota and Minnesota started Project 24 nearly 20 years ago
45 and have engaged the congregations of those Districts in support of providing boarding
46 facilities for vulnerable children in Kenya to care for their physical and spiritual needs; and

47
48 WHEREAS, The North Dakota and Minnesota North Districts of the LCMS at their respective
49 2012 Conventions entered into a partnership to build three Project 24 boarding facilities; and
50

1 WHEREAS, Project 24 is counted as an anchor in mission strategy in Africa, has been asked by
2 government officials to continue operations when other schools were closed because of
3 COVID based on performance and care, and holistically serves vulnerable children providing
4 care for over 250 children in nine facilities plus over 300 children in high school and beyond;
5 therefore be it

6
7 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in convention continue to provide support for
8 vulnerable children through the LCMS Program Christ's Care for Children: Kenya in the
9 amount of \$10,000 per year for the triennium; and be it finally

10
11 *Resolved*, That the District fund this mission from the budget as financial resources permit.
12
13

14 **North Dakota District Convention Encouragement for Shepherd's Hill**
15 **Resolution 2-03**
16

17 *Overture 2-03*
18

19 WHEREAS, in Matthew 19 Jesus declared, "Let the little children come to Me"; and
20

21 WHEREAS, Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads is a wonderful resource of the district that serves
22 both young and old alike; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the physical plant at Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads is over 44 years old; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the physical plant is in need of upgrading to meet the needs of the district both
27 young and old; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the camp has made great progress on upgrading the physical plant, including a new
30 playground, reroofing the chapel and adding eave gutters, replacing many of the windows in
31 the chapel, and repair of the shower-house; and
32

33 WHEREAS, the hotel has been demolished and the gym has new windows and doors, and
34 heating system; and
35

36 WHEREAS, grants have funded two Generac generators, new wi-fi system, new phone system,
37 new outdoor lights, and impact resistant doors; and
38

39 WHEREAS, archery equipment has been purchased and archery ranges have been renovated;
40 and
41

42 WHEREAS, Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads has acquired the services of an active grant
43 writer; and
44

45 WHEREAS, grants are easier to fund if an organization is broadly supported by their entire user
46 base; and
47

48 WHEREAS, Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of
49 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; be it
50

1 *Resolved*, that members of congregations be encouraged to make first fruits gifts to
2 Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads above the amount their congregations' budget; and be it
3 further

4
5 *Resolved*, that the LCMS North Dakota District add Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads to the
6 ministries supported by the District's direct mission giving in the amount of \$8,000 annually;
7 and be it further

8
9 *Resolved*, that the LCMS North Dakota District Board of Directors require quarterly financial
10 updates from Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads in regard to funds related to this resolution;
11 and be it further.

12
13 *Resolved*, that members of congregations be encouraged to make use of the spaces and
14 offerings for family reunions, retreats and outdoor recreation, including camping; and be it
15 finally

16
17 *Resolved*, that the circuits of the district be encouraged to use the Camp for retreats or events.
18
19

20 **To Partner with Lutheran Family Service**
21 **Resolution 2-04**

22 *Overture 2-15, 2-16, 2-17*
23

24 WHEREAS, At the 2022 North Dakota District Convention, Resolution 2-03 directed the district
25 president and circuit visitors to "pursue an ongoing partnership with Lutheran Family Service to
26 provide counseling services and training to pastors, church workers and lay people in North
27 Dakota" and "that this partnership would be regularly evaluated by the District Board of
28 Directors and that at the 2025 Convention of the District a long-term partnership would be
29 discussed and pursued if found to be beneficial"; and
30

31 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service (LFS) has been a beacon of hope and support for
32 individuals and families of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and beyond for
33 over a century, providing essential services such as adoption, unplanned pregnancy support,
34 mental health, and marriage counseling, family life education, and church worker wellness; and
35

36 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service upholds the values of grace, life, family, compassion, and
37 accountability, with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone of their ministry; and
38

39 WHEREAS, The work of Lutheran Family Service aligns with the Biblical call to "bear one
40 another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2) and to care for the least of these (Matthew 25:40); and
41

42 WHEREAS, The need for such services continues to grow, with many in our communities facing
43 challenges that require the professional and faith-based support that Lutheran Family Service
44 provides; and
45

46 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service, a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of LCMS,
47 provides professional services on an ability-to-pay basis through support of individuals and
48 congregations, without government funding to limit their intentionally Christ-centered ministry
49 and witness; and
50

1 WHEREAS, The primary aim of Lutheran Family Service is to play a supportive role for pastors
2 and congregations, as their mission is to walk with people who are experiencing hard times
3 and are there for them just as God has been there for us; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service offers tele-health and in-person services to pastors, their
6 families, and members of our congregations through online support groups and Zoom
7 conference calls; and
8

9 WHEREAS, In a survey of the LCMS North Dakota District (NDD) members and pastors, 95% of
10 those who responded acknowledge a current mental health crisis exists, while 78% of those
11 who responded expressed support for financial support of Lutheran Family Service from the
12 LCMS NDDistrict; and
13

14 WHEREAS, The Lord has blessed the LCMS NDD with the financial resources to adequately
15 support the upfront costs to establish a physical presence for Lutheran Family Service within
16 ND; and
17

18 WHEREAS, The delegates to the 2021 Lutheran Women's Missionary League North Dakota
19 District convention voted to help fund Lutheran Family Service's counseling ministry expansion
20 across North Dakota and to educate our congregations and communities about the wonderful
21 blessing Lutheran Family Service offers to our people in their time of need; and
22

23 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District and Lutheran Family Service have had a partnership
24 agreement from February 2023 through February 2024 following the directives of the 2022
25 NDD Convention for LFS to provide counseling services and training to pastors, church
26 workers, and lay people in North Dakota; and
27

28 WHEREAS, LFS is seeking ways to expand this service to others in the coming years both in
29 North Dakota and throughout our geographic region; therefore be it
30

31 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District in convention deems that the relationship with
32 LFS is beneficial; and be it further
33

34 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District recognizes and commends the work of
35 Lutheran Family Service for their dedication to serving the needs of our communities; and be it
36 further
37

38 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District partners with Lutheran Family Service to
39 establish a physical presence in ND over the next triennium by placing a director of
40 congregational services, two licensed LCMS counselors (one in Fargo or Grand Forks and one
41 in Bismarck or Minot), and a lead adoption liaison as funds become available; and be it further
42

43 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District matches funds that are raised by member
44 congregations, individual donors, and organizations up to \$75,000 per year in matched funds
45 for three years, with the release of funds at a maximum of \$25,000 increments as those annual
46 goals are met; and be it further
47

48 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District encourages its member congregations to
49 actively support the mission of Lutheran Family Service through prayer, volunteerism, and
50 financial contributions; and be it further

1
2 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District will partner with Lutheran Family Service to
3 promote awareness of the services they offer and to facilitate access to these services for
4 those in need within our congregations and communities; and be it finally
5

6 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District will seek to collaborate with Lutheran Family
7 Service in outreach efforts and initiatives that align with our shared mission of demonstrating
8 Christ's love through service.
9

10
11 **To Address the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya's Membership in the Lutheran**
12 **World Federation**
13 **Resolution 2-05**
14

15 *Overture 2-05, 2-06, 2-07, 2-19*
16

17 WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) is a partner church body of The
18 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), in full altar and pulpit fellowship with the same;
19 and
20

21 WHEREAS, The ELCK is also a member church of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) as
22 indicated by the LWF website; and
23

24 WHEREAS, The LWF includes member churches, e.g., the heterodox Evangelical Lutheran
25 Church in America (ELCA), that engage in anti-biblical teachings and practices such as the
26 ordination of women and the performance of same-sex "marriages"; and
27

28 WHEREAS, Membership in the LWF establishes altar and pulpit fellowship with these member
29 churches and implies agreement with their anti-biblical teachings and practices; and
30

31 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the LCMS, Article VI.2, requires of its members "renunciation of
32 unionism and syncretism of every description"; and
33

34 WHEREAS, The North Dakota (ND) District currently supports the ELCK through Project 24; and
35

36 WHEREAS, This support of a church body in fellowship with the LWF suggests fellowship on the
37 part of the ND District with the LWF; and
38

39 WHEREAS, the Synod President and the LCMS Office of Church Relations have oversight of
40 fellowship with other church bodies; therefore be it
41

42 *Resolved*, That the ND District in Convention direct the District President to monitor the
43 progress of the Synod President and the LCMS Office of Church Relations regarding ELCK
44 and LWF fellowship; and be it further
45

46 *Resolved*, That the District President report to the Spring Pastors' Conferences in 2025, 2026,
47 and 2027 and through district media; and be it finally
48

49 *Resolved*, That the Synod in Convention be memorialized to reevaluate the partner church
50 body status of the ELCK in view of the ELCK's membership in the LWF.

1
2
3
4
5
6 **To Encourage Secular Vocational Training for Current and Potential Ordained and**
7 **Commissioned Ministers**
8 **Resolution 2-06**
9

10 *Overture 2-08, 2-09, 2-10, 2-21*

11
12 WHEREAS, The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should receive their
13 living from the Gospel (see 1 Corinthians 9:3-18); and

14
15 WHEREAS, It is good, right, and salutary for churches to have a pastor (see Titus 1:5); and

16
17 WHEREAS, there is a decline in church membership and attendance; and

18
19 WHEREAS, financial strain and stress can come about for ordained and commissioned church
20 workers and their families when Salary Guidelines are not met; therefore be it

21
22 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District encourages her congregations to follow the
23 ordained and commissioned ministers district salary guidelines; and be it further

24
25 *Resolved*, That ND District pastors catechize their congregations regarding biblical
26 stewardship and first-fruits giving; and be it further

27
28 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District encourage ordained and commissioned church
29 workers to develop other vocational gifts as means of income for the present and future needs
30 of their families; and be it further

31
32 *Resolved*, That the ND District memorialize the Synod in convention and send this resolution
33 to our seminaries and colleges to encourage current and potential ordained and commissioned
34 church workers to develop other vocational gifts; and be it finally

35
36 *Resolved*, That North Dakota District congregations whose ordained and commissioned
37 church workers cannot be compensated according to district salary scale be admonished to
38 show understanding, reduce expectations, and allot time for ordained and commissioned
39 church workers to seek ways to subsidize their salaries to alleviate any financial strain and
40 stress upon their families.

41
42
43 **To Admonish the Council of Presidents to Prioritize Assignment of Seminary**
44 **Candidates to Sole Vacancies over Associate Positions**
45 **Resolution 2-07**
46

47 *Overture 2-011, 2-12, 2-13, 2-14, 2-20*

48
49 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod currently has a shortage of pastors for open
50 pulpits/altars; and

1
2 WHEREAS, The difficulty of open pulpits/altars will only get worse due to pastors in the baby-
3 boomer segment of the population retiring; and
4

5 WHEREAS, The seminaries are currently graduating each year a number of seminarians that is
6 less than the need of pastors in LCMS congregations; and
7

8 WHEREAS, For proper administration of the sacrament of the altar, a local church needs to have
9 a pastor or share a pastor; therefore be it
10

11 *Resolved*, That the 2025 ND District Convention encourage the Council of Presidents and
12 Seminary Placement Offices to prioritize the assignment of ready seminary candidates to sole
13 vacancies over associate vacancies.
14
15
16

1 **Floor Committee #3 - Life Together**

2
3
4 **To Ratify Revisions to Constitution and Bylaws of LCMS Congregations**
5 **Resolution 3-01**
6

7 *Overture 3-10*
8

9 WHEREAS, The Standing Constitution Committee has reviewed and recommended approval by
10 the board of directors the constitutions and bylaw revisions for Immanuel Lutheran, Grand
11 Forks; Peace Lutheran, Barney; Peace Lutheran, Garrison; St. Paul's Lutheran, Minot; St.
12 Mark's Lutheran, Minot; Trinity Lutheran, Tolley; Immanuel Lutheran, Lidgerwood; Zion
13 Lutheran, Edgeley; and Messiah Lutheran, Mandan; and
14

15 WHEREAS, The board of directors has approved these constitutions and bylaws; therefore, be it
16

17 *Resolved*, That the actions of the board of directors be ratified by this convention of the North
18 Dakota District.
19
20

21 **To Update and Clarify the LCMS North Dakota District Bylaws**
22 **Resolution 3-02**
23

24 *Overture 3-11*
25

26 WHEREAS, Over the past triennium the need has arisen for clarification to the LCMS North
27 Dakota District bylaws; and
28

29 WHEREAS, To provide consistency within the various offices and boards of the LCMS North
30 Dakota District bylaws; therefore be it
31

32 *Resolved*, The North Dakota District amends the following bylaws:

33 2.3.2 Vacancy

34 If a vacancy should occur in any vice presidency by succession to the presidential office for the
35 balance of an unexpired term, resignation, moving outside the region, or otherwise, the
36 vacancy shall be filled ~~through election by the Board of Directors in consultation with the~~
37 ~~president~~ in the following manner: the district president shall present two names for vice-
38 president and the board of directors shall vote on the two candidates. They candidates shall
39 ~~choose an~~ be ordained ministers with membership in a congregation of the region in which the
40 vacancy occurs, giving special consideration to the vote of the district convention. If the
41 vacancy occurs in the first vice presidency, the second vice-president shall become the first
42 vice-president, and the replacement shall become second vice-president.
43

44 2.9.1 Election

45 The district convention shall elect a Committee on Nominations of six members representing
46 the major geographical areas of the district (Northeast, Central, Eastern, Southeast,
47 Northwest, and Southwest circuits). This committee will include two (2) parish pastors and four
48 (4) lay persons. The term of each member shall be three (3) years and shall be ineligible for
49 reelection to the committee after serving a total of three (3) successive terms. Any qualified
50 member of a district congregation, regardless of how many offices he holds, may serve on this

committee. The district secretary shall not serve as a member of the Committee on Nominations, but shall be available, upon call, for consultation. Unless otherwise provided, no member of the Board of Directors may serve on the Committee on Nominations. Each lay member of the Committee on Nominations who is not a delegate of a congregation shall attend the district convention at district expense.

To Update the LCMS North Dakota District Bylaws Regarding Circuit Forums Resolution 3-03

Overture 3-12

WHEREAS, Synod bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 requires the Commission on Constitutional Matters examine bylaws of every agency of Synod to ascertain whether they are in harmony with the constitution, bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters has examined the North Dakota bylaws and requested three issues be addressed in Opinion 20-2948B; therefore be it

Resolved, The North Dakota District amends the following bylaws:

1.9 Circuit Forum

1.9.1 The circuit forum consists of one pastor and one layperson from each member congregation or multi-congregation parish designated by the congregation or parish. Congregations of a multi-congregation parish not contributing a lay voter may send an advisory lay representative, with voice but no vote.

1.9.2 Depending on each circuit's adopted objectives, the circuit may provide for additional representation from each congregation. Such additional representatives have no vote in matters assigned to the circuit from by the Bylaws of the Synod.

1.9.3 The circuit visitor and any other officers shall have the primary responsibility of preparing the agenda for the circuit forum.

1.9.4 The circuit visitor shall ordinarily serve as chairman of the circuit forum.

1.9.5 Should a multi-congregation parish involve congregations having membership in different visitation circuits, each lay representative, voting and advisory, shall attend the forum of the circuit of which the representative's congregation is a member. The pastoral representative shall attend the forum of that circuit, within which he serves a congregation and within the district in which he holds membership, to which he is assigned by his district president. No multi-congregation parish is entitled to more than one pastoral and one lay voting representative.

and,

2.7.1.2 All directors shall be a member of a member congregation of the district. Any member of the Board of Directors whose membership in a member congregation has been terminated, or if the board member ~~moves out of the district~~ is no longer a member of a member congregation of the district, that board member shall cease to be on the Board of Directors.

and,

2.9.7.3 Election of the Regional Vice-President

Each voting delegate at the convention shall be entitled to vote for one (1) candidate from each region. The candidate with the most votes in each region shall be elected as vice-president for that region. If a candidate in any of the regions receives a majority on the first ballot, that candidate shall be elected. If no candidate receives a majority in

1 either of the regions, the name of the candidate or candidates receiving the smallest
2 number of votes shall be removed from the ballot. Voting shall continue until a majority
3 is reached for each region.
4 and finally,
5 2.9.9.1 ~~Circuit Forums (representation consists of one voting pastoral delegate (if not~~
6 ~~vacant) and one voting lay delegate representing the multi-congregation parish, plus~~
7 ~~advisory lay delegates for each congregation that does not supply the lay voting~~
8 ~~delegate, if desired) shall meet at the call of their circuit visitor to select the circuit visitor~~
9 ~~no later than four (4) months prior to the convention. Prior to the day of the circuit forum,~~
10 ~~nominations for candidates for the office of circuit visitor may be submitted by a voting~~
11 ~~congregation of the circuit and suggested by the district president, in consultation with~~
12 ~~the presidium of the district. Selection of the circuit visitors shall be by election by~~
13 ~~written ballot. The representatives from each member congregation of the circuit shall~~
14 ~~exercise the privilege of voting. All nominated pastors serving congregations and emeriti~~
15 ~~pastors shall be eligible for election. Each voter shall write in the names of two pastors~~
16 ~~on the initial ballot. The three pastors (or more in the case of a tie vote) who receive the~~
17 ~~highest number of votes in the preliminary ballot shall be placed on the next ballot. After~~
18 ~~the initial ballot, each voter shall vote for only one candidate. Balloting shall continue~~
19 ~~with the lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until one pastor~~
20 ~~shall have received a simple majority of all votes cast, who shall be declared the~~
21 ~~nominee. Immediately following the circuit forum, the circuit visitor shall report in writing~~
22 ~~the results of the selection process to the secretary in preparation for ratification by the~~
23 ~~district convention. In the event that a circuit visitor has not been selected by a circuit~~
24 ~~forum or has been selected but no longer available to serve, thus resulting in no circuit~~
25 ~~visitor selection being on the convention slate of circuit visitors for a circuit, the district~~
26 ~~president shall make the selection, which selection shall then be included on the~~
27 ~~convention slate of circuit visitors. The convention shall have the right to alter the slate~~
28 ~~by amendment. The convention shall then ratify the slate of circuit visitors, which~~
29 ~~ratification shall constitute election. [Synod Bylaw 5.2.2]~~
30 2.9.9 Selection of Circuit Visitor
31 The circuit visitor shall hold his position by virtue of his selection by the circuit forum
32 and ratification by the district convention.
33 2.9.9.1 Circuit forums shall meet no later than four (4) months prior to the convention
34 for the selection of the circuit visitor. When in-person meetings are burdensome (e.g.,
35 geographically large circuits), a circuit may select another manner of meeting (e.g., e-
36 meeting technologies) that is suitable and made available to all participants, taking
37 into consideration the need to provide for an open and fair exchange of ideas and
38 secure, private, and confidential voting.
39 2.9.9.2 Prior to the day of the circuit forum, nominations for candidates for the office of
40 circuit visitor may be submitted by a voting congregation of the circuit and suggested
41 by the district president, in consultation with the presidium of the district.
42 2.9.9.3 Each circuit may adopt procedures and methods that will ensure efficiency and
43 accuracy, including the use of mechanical, electronic, or other methods of casting,
44 recording, or tabulating votes. The privilege of voting shall be exercised by the
45 representatives from each member congregation of the circuit as defined in 2.9.9.1,
46 who shall have been selected in the manner prescribed by the congregation (Bylaw
47 5.3.2).
48 2.9.9.4 All nominated pastors serving congregations and emeriti pastors shall be
49 eligible for election.

2.9.9.4.1 Following presentations of pertinent information regarding each pastor as listed in Bylaw 3.12.3.6 (c) and circuit visitor responsibilities as provided hereafter in this bylaw, each voter shall submit the names of two pastors on the initial ballot.

2.9.9.4.2 The three pastors (or more in case of a tie vote) who receive the highest number of votes in this preliminary ballot shall be placed on the next ballot. Each voter shall vote for only one candidate.

2.9.9.4.3 Balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until one pastor shall have received a simple majority of all votes cast, who shall be declared the nominee.

2.9.9.5 Immediately following the circuit forum, the circuit visitor shall report in writing the results of the selection process to the secretary in preparation for ratification by the district convention.

2.9.9.6 In the event that a circuit visitor has not been selected by a circuit forum or has been selected but is no longer available to serve, thus resulting in no circuit visitor selection being on the convention slate of circuit visitors for a circuit, the district president shall make the selection, which selection shall then be included on the convention slate of circuit visitors.

2.9.9.7 The convention shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment.

2.9.9.8 The convention shall then ratify the slate of circuit visitors, which ratification shall constitute election. [Synod Bylaw 5.2.2]

~~2.9.9.2~~ 2.9.9.9 Vacancies that occur in the office of circuit visitor between conventions shall be filled by appointment by the president. [Synod Bylaw 5.2.2.1].

To Create a District Fund for Sudden Financial Hardships Resolution 3-04

Overtures 3-13, 3-14, 3-15, 3-16, 3-17, 3-20, 3-22

WHEREAS, Many parishioners have felt financial hardship due to economic factors such as, but not limited to, inflation; and

WHEREAS, There is a decline in church membership and attendance due to factors such as, but not limited to, shrinking Midwestern towns, fewer farms, smaller families, and lower birth rates; and

WHEREAS, Churches may find themselves facing major financial hardship due to sizeable expenses such as, but not limited to, a leaking roof, a broken boiler, sewage problems, etc; and

WHEREAS, These financial struggles may lead to inadequate compensation for the pastor, or, worse yet, to the possible closure of the church or to a pastor leaving said church; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS North Dakota District has reported positive financial numbers for the 2023 fiscal year; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS North Dakota District establish an "LCMS North Dakota District Church Assistance Fund"; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Board of Directors establish the parameters for use of the fund, publicity of
2 needs, and guidelines for funding sources; and be it finally

3
4 *Resolved*, That the Board of Directors administer the above duties on a trial basis until the next
5 convention when they shall present an overture to ratify or dissolve the fund.

6
7 **To Condemn the Use of Women as Lectors**
8 **Resolution 3-05**
9

10 *Overture 3-1, 3-3, 3-24*

11
12 WHEREAS, St. Paul admonishes St. Timothy to devote himself to the public reading of Holy
13 Scripture (1 Tim. 4:13); and

14
15 WHEREAS, St. Paul writes, “I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a
16 man; rather, she is to remain quiet” (1 Tim. 2:12); and

17
18 WHEREAS, St. Paul instructs that women “remain silent” in the churches (1 Cor. 14:34); and

19
20 WHEREAS, The public reading of Holy Scripture in the context of the Divine Service constitutes
21 interpretation, and therefore teaching, of the Scriptures being read; and

22
23 WHEREAS, Pastors are specially trained for the exegesis of Holy Scripture and for the
24 communication of that exegesis through the public reading of the Holy Scriptures; and

25
26 WHEREAS, The public reading of Holy Scripture cannot be carried out in silence; and

27
28 WHEREAS, Women are therefore disqualified by St. Paul not only from holding the office of
29 pastor, but also from the public reading of Holy Scripture; be it therefore

30
31 *Resolved*, That the North Dakota District in Convention admonish the congregations of the
32 North Dakota District under no circumstances to make use of women as lectors for the public
33 reading of Holy Scripture; and be it further

34
35 *Resolved*, That congregations and pastors found in defiance of this admonition be further
36 warned and, if necessary, be subjected to disciplinary procedures as outlined in the LCMS
37 handbook (Bylaw 1.10 *Dispute Resolution of the Synod*); and be it finally

38
39 *Resolved*, That the Synod in Convention condemn the use of women as lectors.
40

41
42 **To Properly Dispose of Sacred Items at the Dissolution of a Congregation**
43 **Resolution 3-06**
44

45 *Overture 3-9*

46
47 WHEREAS, the use of a building for worship and community activities creates heartfelt
48 connection with a building and its accouterments; and

49
50 WHEREAS, a church building possesses many sacred symbols and artwork; and

1
2 WHEREAS, a congregation used the altar, lectern, pulpit and font to distribute the Means of
3 Grace; and

4
5 WHEREAS, no one can ensure proper use of the aforementioned items; be it therefore

6
7 *Resolved*, that a closing congregation make every effort to remove all Christian symbols, art,
8 and especially sacred furniture (altar, pulpit, lectern, font) from their building before its sale;
9 and be it further

10
11 *Resolved*, that such items be distributed to sister congregations in need or properly destroyed;
12 and be it finally

13
14 *Resolved*, that the District records this encouragement in the District Handbook.
15

16
17 **To Fully Fund District Mission Projects before Applying Designated Gifts**
18 **Resolution 3-07**
19

20 *Overture 3-4*
21

22 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Convention
23 approves prayer, fiscal, and other support for mission projects within the District and around
24 world; and

25
26 WHEREAS, The Convention approves a fiscal goal of such support; and

27
28 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the district each year of the triennial cycle prepares a
29 spending plan to meet the goals of Convention; and

30
31 WHEREAS, Congregations in their annual budget process pledge a portion of their income to
32 district and Synod to aid in carrying out the mission of the District and Synod; and

33
34 WHEREAS, Individual members prayerfully consider these projects and designate additional
35 funds for these mission projects above and beyond their periodic tithe/offering to their
36 congregation's pledge; and

37
38 WHEREAS, Congregations have special events to gather additional support such as the 'Chili for
39 Chile' meals, and

40
41 WHEREAS, Individual members and congregations expect these additional gifts to be used in
42 addition to the spending plan of the district rather than to off-set part or all of the district's fiscal
43 support; and

44
45 WHEREAS, In the past, these designated gifts have been used to off-set part or all of the
46 district's support; and

47
48 WHEREAS, Individuals and congregations will be discouraged to separately support these
49 projects when their dedicated gifts are simply used to off-set what the Board of Directors has
50 approved; therefore be it

1
2 *Resolved*, That Board of Directors of the North Dakota District, and particularly the Treasurer,
3 fully fund mission projects and efforts in accordance with the decisions of the District
4 Convention, when fiscally possible, before designated gifts for a particular project are applied;
5 and be it further
6

7 *Resolved*, That congregations be encouraged to hold special events to support mission
8 projects and designate the funds to district to support the projects, and be it finally
9

10 *Resolved*, That individuals be encouraged to designate funds above and beyond their normal
11 offering to such projects, sending them through their congregation or directly to district.
12
13

14 **To Condemn the Delivery of Children's Sermons in the Divine Service by Laity**
15 **Resolution 3-08**
16

17 *Overtures 3-2, 3-23*
18

19 WHEREAS, Children's sermons in the Divine Service are often delivered by laity; and
20

21 WHEREAS, Our confessions state that no one should publicly teach, preach, or administer the
22 sacraments without a proper [public] call (AC XIV); and
23

24 WHEREAS, The delivery of children's sermons in the Divine Service has the character of public
25 teaching and preaching and includes as its audience not only the children to whom the sermon
26 is directly addressed, but also the adults present; therefore be it
27

28 *Resolved*, That the district in convention condemn the delivery of children's sermons in the
29 Divine Service by laity; and be it further
30

31 *Resolved*, That the Praesidium of the LCMS North Dakota District rebuke congregations that
32 make use of laity to deliver children's sermons in their Divine Service; and be it finally
33

34 *Resolved*, That the Synod in Convention condemn the delivery of children's sermons in the
35 Divine Service by laity.
36
37

38 **To Hold District Conventions in Churches Rather Than in Convention Centers**
39 **Resolution 3-09**
40

41 *Overtures 3-7, 3-8, 3-21*
42

43 WHEREAS, North Dakotans have a long history of being economical with resources and
44 finances; and
45

46 WHEREAS, We Christians are called to be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to our
47 care; and
48

49 WHEREAS, Hotels and convention centers have potentially high expenses due to extra fees
50 associated with catered food, conference rooms, equipment rental, etc.; and

1
2 WHEREAS, District Convention Registration Fees have continually increased, sometimes putting
3 a financial burden on churches; and
4

5 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District is substantially smaller in congregational numbers than in
6 previous decades; and
7

8 WHEREAS, The Lord has blessed us with churches in our district that are large enough to host a
9 District Convention; therefore be it
10

11 *Resolved*, That we strive to be good stewards of our resources and finances by relocating
12 future District Conventions to a local church; and be it further
13

14 *Resolved*, That we strive to keep District Convention Registration Fees to a minimum; and be it
15 finally
16

17 *Resolved*, That the District President conduct a feasibility study and distribute the results of
18 such study to the District by May 2026.
19
20

21 **To Encourage the Use of the Chalice in our Congregations**
22 **Resolution 3-10**
23

24 *Overture 3-6*
25

26 WHEREAS, The people of God in the Lord's Supper receive the holy body and blood of our Lord
27 Jesus Christ according to the institution of Jesus; and
28

29 WHEREAS, Communion confesses our unity with our brothers and sisters in the Christian
30 congregation; and
31

32 WHEREAS, The Lord Jesus passed a single cup to His disciples at the Last Supper; and
33

34 WHEREAS, St. Paul speaks of a single "cup of blessing" in 1 Corinthians 10:16; and
35

36 WHEREAS, Artists, across the centuries, depict the common, historical, and regular practice of
37 Christians using the chalice; therefore, be it
38

39 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District encourage its congregations to offer the
40 chalice as an option when the Lord's Supper is celebrated; and be it finally
41

42 *Resolved*, That the Synodical Convention likewise memorialize this resolution and encourage
43 the use of the chalice as we strive to be more closely united with one another in doctrine and
44 practice.
45
46

47 **To Encourage Congregations of the District to Tithe Their Income for Missions**
48 **Resolution 3-11**
49

50 *Overture 3-5*

1
2 WHEREAS, Many times the District has been unable to carry out its work and advance the
3 Gospel into dark corners of North Dakota as well as the world due to lack of funds; and
4
5 WHEREAS, All of our earthly possessions are gifts from God to manage in His kingdoms; and
6
7 WHEREAS, In the Old Testament, the tithe of income was required; and
8
9 WHEREAS, God invited His people to test Him by giving the tithe (Malachi 3:10); and
10
11 WHEREAS, St Paul says, “For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond
12 their means, of their own free will, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief
13 of the saints- and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then
14 by the will of God to us. Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should
15 complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything- in faith, in speech, in
16 knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you- see that you excel in this act of grace
17 also (2 Corinthians 8:3-7);” and
18
19 WHEREAS, Giving less than a tithe would not be considered “excelling” (*Stewardship Under the*
20 *Cross*, Rev Heath Curtis, LCMS Stewardship Ministry coordinator); and
21
22 WHEREAS, Our Lord said, “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21);
23 and
24
25 WHEREAS, Congregations often urge members to first fruit giving by giving a tithe of their
26 income as they are able; therefore be it
27
28 *Resolved*, That congregations be encouraged to set the example for their members by tithing
29 their income to the District and Missions; and be it further
30
31 *Resolved*, That the congregations of the district not presently giving 10 percent or more of their
32 annual income to District and mission work be encouraged to begin moving toward that goal by
33 increasing their offering to missions by one percent per year until achieving 10 percent or
34 more; and be it finally
35
36 *Resolved*, This commitment be noted in their annual spending plan.
37
38

39 **To Revise the District Guidelines Regarding Compensation in Consideration of Parish**
40 **Ministry**
41 **Overture 3-19**
42 ***Omnibus A – To the Finance Committee***
43

44 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District has regularly encouraged calling congregations to use the
45 district guidelines for compensation; and
46
47 WHEREAS, The North Dakota District is comprised of 79 congregations (as per the North
48 Dakota District-LCMS Online Directory, accessed on July 1, 2024), of which 49 congregations
49 are in a multi-point arrangement; and
50

1 WHEREAS, And whereas the district guidelines give little guidance for multi-point parishes, and

2
3 WHEREAS, The guidance given by the published guidelines for multi-point parishes is to "adapt
4 the guidelines to fit their unique circumstances;" and

5
6 WHEREAS, The demographic trend for rural areas of North Dakota continues in the direction of
7 population loss; and

8
9 WHEREAS, Congregations are continuing to be grouped in larger and larger parish units, and

10
11 WHEREAS, These multi-point parishes involve administrative and outreach workloads beyond
12 additional service times,

13
14 WHEREAS, Pastors serving in these multi-point parishes are expected to build professional
15 relationships and community connections with several communities;

16
17 WHEREAS, Pastors who serve multi-point parishes that develop from a vacancy might take a
18 reduction in pay in order to provide more pastoral care when the additional congregation is
19 entrusted to their ministry; and

20
21 WHEREAS, Pastors serving in these multi-point parishes are willing and often risk life and safety
22 in order to travel from one congregation to the next for the sake of the congregations,
23 especially in the midst of winter, be it therefore

24
25 *Resolved*, That The North Dakota District, in convention, direct the Board of Directors, to
26 revise in structure the district guidelines for compensation to recognize the significant number
27 of multi-point parishes within the district and provide calling congregations with more direct
28 guidance, and be it finally

29
30 *Resolved*, The North Dakota District, in convention, give thanks to our Triune God for the for
31 faithful, diligent labors of the pastors willing to serve in these multi-point parishes.



CLOTHED IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

LCMS ND District convention 2025

Tuesday, January 21, 2025
Today's Business

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
North Dakota District
60th Convention
Minot, ND



The Grand Hotel, Minot
January 19-22, 2025

7 **Opening Divine Service**

8 Convention was opened with the Divine Service at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Minot. Rev.
9 Phillip Beyersdorf served as liturgist. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran
10 Church—Missouri Synod, proclaimed the word of *Clothed in Christ's Righteousness*.

11 **Convention Opening**

12 Rev. Arie Bertsch, President of the North Dakota District, officially called to order the 60th
13 Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod North Dakota District at 10:30
14 a.m. Central Standard Time (CST).

15 **Registration and Credentials Committee**

16 Rev. Christopher Waldvogel, Chairman of the Registration, Credentials and Election
17 Committee reported thirty-seven (37) pastors and thirty-nine (39) laymen have registered for a
18 total of sixty-five (65) registered voting delegates, out of a potential seventy-six (76) voting
19 delegates within the district. It was moved, seconded, and carried to unanimously adopt the
20 Registration and Credentials Committee report.

21 **Agenda and Convention Rules**

22 The chair introduced Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, President of the Concordia University System
23 (CUS), who will serve as the convention parliamentarian.

24 The chair instructed the delegates to the convention rules as found in the workbook. A motion
25 to adopt the rules was seconded and motion carried. The rules were unanimously adopted.

26 The convention agenda was reviewed by the chair. President Bertsch asked for flexibility in the
27 schedule as our essayist has been delayed in arrival. A motion to adopt the agenda was
28 seconded and motion carried. The agenda was unanimously adopted.

1 **Recognition of New Members to Synod**

2 Two new members have been admitted to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through the
3 North Dakota District. The chair introduced each pastor to the assembly and the Rev. Dr.
4 Matthew Harrison welcomed the new members to the Synod. Each new member present
5 signed the constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. New members recognized
6 were:

- 7 Rev. Christopher Durham
8 Rev. Vincent Otto

9 **District President’s Report**

10 President Bertsch’s report was based on the convention theme verses of 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
11 “Clothed in Christ’s Righteousness” that manifests in the work we do together as the North
12 Dakota District among our 48 parishes within the state and abroad through our partnerships in
13 Chile and Kenya.

14 **District Greetings**

15 Greetings to the pastors and laity of the district were brought by Rev. Dr. James Baneck,
16 former district president of North Dakota; Rev. Peter Lange, first vice-president of Synod and
17 former district president of the Kansas District; Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, President of the
18 Concordia University System (CUS) and former bishop of the English District; Rev. Dr. Brian
19 Freidrich, President Concordia University, St. Paul; and Rev. Nabil Nour, Regional Vice-
20 President of Synod.

21 **Balloting for District President**

22 The chair called upon Rev. Christopher Waldvogel, Chairman of the Registration, Credentials
23 and Election to give an updated report: 70 voting delegates were present at the time of the
24 report.

25 The slate of nominations for district president was read by Nominations Committee Chair Bob
26 Wurl. The slate consisted of: Rev. Arie Bertsch; Rev. Mark Chepulis; Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek;
27 Rev. Thomas Marcis, Jr.; and Rev. Daniel Voth. No nominees were added from the floor.

28 **First ballot results:**

	Votes	Percentage
29 Rev. Arie Bertsch	27	39.13%
30 Rev. Mark Chepulis	19	27.54%
31 Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek	4	5.80%
32 Rev. Thomas Marcis, Jr.	19	27.54%
33 Rev. Daniel Voth	0	0%
34 TOTAL	69	100%

35

36 **Second ballot results:**

	Votes	Percentage
37 Rev. Arie Bertsch	28	40.00%
38 Rev. Mark Chepulis	20	28.57%
39 Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek	2	2.86%
40 Rev. Thomas Marcis, Jr.	20	28.57%
41 TOTAL	70	100%

Third ballot results:	Votes	Percentage
Rev. Arie Bertsch	28	40.00%
Rev. Mark Chepulis	22	31.43%
Rev. Thomas Marcis, Jr.	20	28.57%
TOTAL	70	100%

Fourth ballot results:	Votes	Percentage
Rev. Arie Bertsch	34	48.57%
Rev. Mark Chepulis	36	51.43%
TOTAL	70	100%

Rev. Mark Chepulis was elected to his first term as district president.

Balloting for District Vice-President

Nominations Committee Chair Wurl presented the slate of nominations for Eastern Region District Vice-President, which with the election of Rev. Chepulis to district president consisted of Rev. Paul Preus. No nominees were added from the floor. A motion to elect Rev. Preus to the position of Eastern Region Vice-President was made, seconded, and adopted by unanimous vote. This is his first term as Eastern Region Vice-President.

Nominations Committee Chair Wurl presented the slate of nominations for Western Region District Vice-President consisting of: Rev. Thomas Marcis, Jr.; Rev. Kirk Peters; and Rev. Lester Wolfgram. No nominees were added from the floor.

First ballot results:	Votes	Percentage
Rev. Thomas Marcis, Jr	17	26.98%
Rev. Kirk Peters	33	52.38%
Rev. Lester Wolfgram	13	20.63%
TOTAL	63	100%

Rev. Peters was re-elected to his third term as Western Region Vice-President.

Nominations Chair Wurl then called for a vote to rank the vice presidents, asking the delegates to vote for their choice for first vice president.

Ranking results:	Votes	Percentage
Rev. Paul Preus	38	59.38%
Rev. Kirk Peters	26	40.62%
TOTAL	64	100%

Rev. Preus was declared first vice president. Rev. Peters was declared second vice president.

District Secretary

Nominations Chair Wurl presented the slate of nominations for district secretary consisting of Rev. Michael Grieve and Rev. Daniel Voth. No additional nominations were made from the floor.

District Secretary results:	Votes	Percentage
Rev. Michael Grieve	13	20%

1	Rev. Daniel Voth	52	80%
2	TOTAL	65	100%

3 Rev. Voth was elected to his second term as district secretary.

4 **District Treasurer**

5 Nominations Chair Wurl presented the slate of nominations for district treasurer which
6 consisted of Mrs. Kay Kreklau. No nominees were added from the floor. A motion to elect Mrs.
7 Kreklau to the position of district treasurer was made, seconded, and adopted by unanimous
8 vote. This is Mrs. Kreaklau’s second term as district treasurer.

9 **Board of Directors, Lay**

10 Nominations Committee Chair Wurl presented the slate of nominations for board of directors
11 lay members consisting of: Mr. Curt Brownlee; Mr. Jonathan Buchhop; Mr. Thomas Langer;
12 Mrs. Naomi Hayes; Mrs. Tana McKenna; Mr. Scott Pfennig; Mr. Eric Popinga; and Mr. Marty
13 Visto. No nominees were added from the floor.

14	Ballot 1 BOD Lay first position results:	Votes	Percentage
15	Mr. Curt Brownlee	6	9.23%
16	Mr. Jonathan Buchhop	8	12.31%
17	Mr. Thomas Langer	13	20.00%
18	Mrs. Naomi Hayes	4	6.15%
19	Mrs. Tana McKenna	8	12.31%
20	Mr. Scott Pfennig	3	4.62%
21	Mr. Eric Popinga	13	20.00%
22	Mr. Marty Visto	10	15.38%
23	TOTAL	65	100%

24 Mr. Pfennig was removed from ballot.

25	Ballot 2 BOD Lay first position results:	Votes	Percentage
26	Mr. Curt Brownlee	5	7.69%
27	Mr. Jonathan Buchhop	8	12.31%
28	Mr. Thomas Langer	17	26.15%
29	Mrs. Naomi Hayes	3	4.62%
30	Mrs. Tana McKenna	9	13.85%
31	Mr. Eric Popinga	15	23.08%
32	Mr. Marty Visto	8	12.31%
33	TOTAL	65	100%

34 Mrs. Haye was removed from ballot.

35	Ballot 3 BOD Lay first position results:	Votes	Percentage
36	Mr. Curt Brownlee	6	8.82%
37	Mr. Jonathan Buchhop	7	10.29%
38	Mr. Thomas Langer	18	26.47%

1	Mrs. Tana McKenna	11	16.18%
2	Mr. Eric Poppinga	19	27.94%
3	Mr. Marty Visto	7	10.29%
4	TOTAL	68	100%

5 Mr. Brownlee was removed from ballot.

6	Ballot 4 BOD Lay first position results:	Votes	Percentage
7	Mr. Jonathan Buchhop	6	8.82%
8	Mr. Thomas Langer	20	29.41%
9	Mrs. Tana McKenna	12	17.65%
10	Mr. Eric Poppinga	23	33.82%
11	Mr. Marty Visto	7	10.29%
12	TOTAL	68	100%

13 Mr. Buchhop was removed from ballot.

14	Ballot 5 BOD Lay first position results:	Votes	Percentage
15	Mr. Thomas Langer	26	38.24%
16	Mrs. Tana McKenna	12	17.65%
17	Mr. Eric Poppinga	25	36.76%
18	Mr. Marty Visto	5	7.35%
19	TOTAL	68	100%

20 Mr. Visto was removed from ballot.

21	Ballot 6 BOD Lay first position results:	Votes	Percentage
22	Mr. Thomas Langer	31	45.59%
23	Mrs. Tana McKenna	13	19.12%
24	Mr. Eric Poppinga	24	35.29%
25	TOTAL	68	100%

26 Mrs. McKenna was removed from ballot.

27	Ballot 7 BOD Lay first position results:	Votes	Percentage
28	Mr. Thomas Langer	41	60.29%
29	Mr. Eric Poppinga	27	39.71%
30	TOTAL	68	100%

31 Mr. Langer was elected to the board of directors.

32	Ballot 1 BOD Lay second position results:	Votes	Percentage
33	Mr. Curt Brownlee	4	5.88%
34	Mr. Jonathan Buchhop	5	7.35%
35	Mrs. Naomi Hayes	4	5.88%
36	Mrs. Tana McKenna	14	20.59%
37	Mr. Scott Pfennig	8	11.76%
38	Mr. Eric Poppinga	27	39.71%

1	Mr. Marty Visto	6	8.82%
2	TOTAL	68	100%
3	Mr. Brownlee and Mrs. Hayes were removed from ballot.		
4	Ballot 2 BOD Lay second position results:	Votes	Percentage
5	Mr. Jonathan Buchhop	6	8.82%
6	Mrs. Tana McKenna	15	22.06%
7	Mr. Scott Pfennig	9	13.24%
8	Mr. Eric Popinga	35	51.47%
9	Mr. Marty Visto	12	17.14%
10	TOTAL	70	100%
11	Mr. Popinga was elected to the board of directors.		
12	Ballot 1 BOD Lay third position results:	Votes	Percentage
13	Mr. Curt Brownlee	6	8.57%
14	Mr. Jonathan Buchhop	8	11.43%
15	Mrs. Naomi Hayes	3	4.29%
16	Mrs. Tana McKenna	24	34.29%
17	Mr. Scott Pfennig	17	24.29%
18	Mr. Marty Visto	12	17.14%
19	TOTAL	70	100%
20	Mrs. Hayes was removed from ballot.		
21	Ballot 2 BOD Lay third position results:	Votes	Percentage
22	Mr. Curt Brownlee	4	5.71%
23	Mr. Jonathan Buchhop	8	11.43%
24	Mrs. Tana McKenna	33	47.17%
25	Mr. Scott Pfennig	16	22.86%
26	Mr. Marty Visto	9	12.86%
27	TOTAL	70	100%
28	Mr. Brownlee was removed from ballot.		
29	Ballot 3 BOD Lay third position results:	Votes	Percentage
30	Mr. Jonathan Buchhop	7	10.00%
31	Mrs. Tana McKenna	40	57.14%
32	Mr. Scott Pfennig	13	18.57%
33	Mr. Marty Visto	10	14.29%
34	TOTAL	70	100%
35	Mrs. McKenna was elected to the board of directors.		
36	Ballot 1 BOD Lay fourth position results:	Votes	Percentage
37	Mr. Curt Brownlee	8	11.76%
38	Mr. Jonathan Buchhop	15	22.06%

1	Mrs. Naomi Hayes	7	10.29%
2	Mr. Scott Pfennig	23	33.82%
3	Mr. Marty Visto	15	22.06%
4	TOTAL	68	100%

5 Mrs. Hayes was removed from ballot.

6	Ballot 2 BOD Lay fourth position results:	Votes	Percentage
7	Mr. Curt Brownlee	5	7.28%
8	Mr. Jonathan Buchhop	18	26.09%
9	Mr. Scott Pfennig	36	52.17%
10	Mr. Marty Visto	10	14.49%
11	TOTAL	68	100%

12 Mr. Pfennig was elected to the board of directors.

13	Ballot 1 BOD Lay fifth position results:	Votes	Percentage
14	Mr. Curt Brownlee	6	8.82%
15	Mr. Jonathan Buchhop	24	35.29%
16	Mrs. Naomi Hayes	8	11.76%
17	Mr. Marty Visto	30	44.12%
18	TOTAL	68	100%

19 Mr. Brownlee was removed from ballot.

20	Ballot 2 BOD Lay fifth position results:	Votes	Percentage
21	Mr. Jonathan Buchhop	19	27.14%
22	Mrs. Naomi Hayes	10	14.29%
23	Mr. Marty Visto	41	58.57%
24	TOTAL	70	100%

25 Mr. Visto was elected to the board of directors.

26 **Board of Directors, Ordained**

27 Nominations Committee Chair Wurl presented the slate of nominations for board of directors
 28 ordained members consisting of: Rev. Christopher Brademeyer; Rev. Joel Brandvold; Rev. Dr.
 29 Adam Filipek; and Rev. Lester Wolfgram. No nominees were added from the floor.

30	Ballot 1 BOD ordained first position results:	Votes	Percentage
31	Rev. Christopher Brademeyer	25	36.76%
32	Rev. Joel Brandvold	5	7.35%
33	Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek	21	30.88%
34	Rev. Lester Wolfgram	17	25.00%
35	TOTAL	68	100%

36 Rev. Brandvold was removed from ballot.

37

Ballot 2 BOD ordained first position results:

	Votes	Percentage
Rev. Christopher Brademeyer	36	51.43%
Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek	15	21.43%
Rev. Lester Wolfgram	19	27.14%
TOTAL	70	100%

Rev. Brademeyer was elected to the board of directors.

Ballot 1 BOD ordained second position results:

	Votes	Percentage
Rev. Joel Brandvold	4	5.80%
Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek	40	57.97%
Rev. Lester Wolfgram	25	36.23%
TOTAL	69	100%

Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek was elected to the board of directors.

District Nominations, Ordained

Nominations Committee Chair Wurl presented the slate of nominations for district nominations committee ordained members consisting of: Rev. Philip Beyersdorf; Rev. Christopher Durham; Rev. Clark Jahnke; and Rev. Christopher Neuendorf. No nominees were added from the floor.

Ballot 1 Nominations ordained first position results:

	Votes	Percentage
Rev. Philip Beyersdorf	15	21.74%
Rev. Christopher Durham	18	26.09%
Rev. Clark Jahnke	26	37.68%
Rev. Christopher Neuendorf	10	14.49%
TOTAL	69	100%

Rev. Neuendorf was removed from ballot.

Ballot 2 Nominations ordained first position results:

	Votes	Percentage
Rev. Philip Beyersdorf	12	17.39%
Rev. Christopher Durham	24	34.78%
Rev. Clark Jahnke	33	47.83%
TOTAL	69	100%

Rev. Beyersdorf was removed from ballot.

Ballot 3 Nominations ordained first position results:

	Votes	Percentage
Rev. Christopher Durham	32	46.38%
Rev. Clark Jahnke	37	53.62%
TOTAL	69	100%

Rev. Jahnke was elected to the district nominations committee.

Ballot 1 Nominations ordained second position results:

	Votes	Percentage
Rev. Philip Beyersdorf	16	23.53%
Rev. Christopher Durham	38	55.88%

1	Rev. Christopher Neuendorf	14	20.59%
2	TOTAL	68	100%

3 Rev. Durham was elected to the district nominations committee.

4 **District Nominations, Lay**

5 Nominations Committee Chair Wurl presented the slate of nominations for district nominations
6 committee lay members consisting of: Mr. Jonathan Buchhop; Mr. John Riley; Mr. Kirk Rosin;
7 and Mr. Robert Wurl. No nominees were added from the floor. A motion to elect all four (4)
8 names to the district nominations committee lay members was made, seconded, and adopted
9 by unanimous vote.

10 **Synodical Convention Nominations, Lay**

11 Nominations Committee Chair Wurl presented the slate of nominations for Synodical
12 convention nominations committee lay members consisting of: Mr. Jonathan Buchhop; Mr.
13 Adam Drake; Mr. Scott Pfennig; and Mr. Kirk Rosin. No nominees were added from the floor.

14	Ballot 1 Synod Nominations lay position results:	Votes	Percentage
15	Mr. Jonathan Buchhop	19	28.79%
16	Mr. Adam Drake	3	4.55%
17	Mr. Scott Pfennig	29	43.94%
18	Mr. Kirk Rosin	15	22.73%
19	TOTAL	66	100%

20 Mr. Drake was removed from ballot.

21	Ballot 2 Synod Nominations lay position results:	Votes	Percentage
22	Mr. Jonathan Buchhop	21	30.88%
23	Mr. Scott Pfennig	33	48.53%
24	Mr. Kirk Rosin	14	20.59%
25	TOTAL	68	100%

26 Mr. Rosin was removed from ballot.

27	Ballot 3 Synod Nominations lay position results:	Votes	Percentage
28	Mr. Jonathan Buchhop	25	37.31%
29	Mr. Scott Pfennig	42	62.69%
30	TOTAL	67	100%

31 Mr. Pfennig was elected as the lay member of the Synodical convention nominations
32 committee.

33 The remaining nominees were then balloted for alternate lay member to the Synodical
34 convention nominations committee.

35	Ballot 1 Synod Nominations lay alternate position results:	Votes	Percentage
36	Mr. Jonathan Buchhop	44	64.71%

1	Mr. Adam Drake	5	7.35%
2	Mr. Kirk Rosin	19	27.94%
3	TOTAL	67	100%

4 Mr. Buchhop was elected as the alternate lay member of the Synodical convention
5 nominations committee.

6 **Motion** to declare Pres. Rev. Arie Bertsch as President Emeritus made, seconded and
7 adopted unanimously.

8 Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, president of Concordia University System (CUS) and Rev. Dr. Brian
9 Freidrich, president of Concordia University, St. Paul, spoke to overtures 1-24 and 1-25
10 concerning DEI, Title VI and Title IX at and within the Concordia system, addressing the
11 concerns which these overtures brought forward. It was noted that as schools which are part of
12 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod they are afforded many protections under the First
13 Amendment of the Constitution.

14 **Floor Committee #1 – Witness**

15 The chair called Floor Committee #1 to the podium to present their resolutions.

16 Resolution 1-1 “To Require the Use of Synodically-Approved Agendas and Hymnbooks at
17 Youth Gatherings in the North Dakota District”. A motion to send this resolution to omnibus
18 was made and seconded. The vote was 32 for and 38 against. Motion failed. After discussion,
19 the question was called with 45% voting for calling the question and 54% against. Motion was
20 made create a task force appointed by the district president for further study of this issue to
21 bring to the next convention and seconded. Those in favor were 49% and against 51%. Motion
22 failed. Question was called once again with 76% in favor and 24% against. Question was
23 called. Resolution 1-1 was adopt.

24 Resolution 1-2 “To Encourage the Use of North Dakota District Pastors at Youth Gatherings in
25 the North Dakota District”. Resolution 1-2 was adopted.

26 Resolution 1-3 “To Encourage Synod to Memorialize the Use of Synodically-Approved
27 Agendas and Hymnbooks at the LCMS Youth Gathering. In the reading of the motion line 18 of
28 page 274 of the workbook was correct to “triannual”. Motion was made and seconded to
29 remove the final “resolved” from the resolution, which was adopted. Amended resolution 1-3
30 was adopted.

31 Resolution 1-4 “To Address Release and Use of Luther’s Large Catechism with Annotations
32 and Contemporary Applications. Resolution was adopted.

33 Resolution 1-5 “To Memorialize Synod to Declare the Gideons a Heterodox Tract and Mission
34 Society”. A substitute resolution requesting the Gideons to remove the Sinner’s Prayer was
35 seconded but failed to pass. The original resolution was voted upon and also failed.

36 Omnibus Resolution A “Responsibility Assigned to Others” was approved.

1 This concluded the work of the committee. The chair thanked Floor Committee #1 for their
2 work.

3 **Floor Committee #2 – Mercy**

4 The chair called Floor Committee #2 to the podium to present their resolutions.

5 Resolution 2-01 “To Continue International Mission Opportunities in Santiago, Chile”.

6 Resolution 2-01 was adopted.

7 Resolution 2-02 “To Support Christ’s Care for Children, Kenya”. Motion was made and
8 seconded to increase the amount on line 9 page 279 from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Motion passed.
9 Amended resolution 2-02 was adopted.

10 Resolution 2-03 “North Dakota District Convention Encouragement for Shepherd’s Hill”. Motion
11 was made and seconded to increase the amount on line 6 page 280 from \$8,000 to \$10,000.
12 Motion passed. Amended resolution 2-03 was adopted.

13 Resolution 2-05 “To Address the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya’s Membership in the
14 Lutheran World Federation”. Resolution 2-05 was adopted.

15 Resolution 2-06 “To Encourage Secular Vocational Training for Current and Potential Ordained
16 and Commissioned Ministers”. In the reading of the resolution line 29 page 283 was changed
17 from “gifts” to “skills”. Resolution 2-06 was adopted.

18 The chair asked the floor committee to come back at a later time to finish their work.

19 **Vespers**

20 The chair called on Rev. Christopher Neuendorf to lead Vespers. The Rev. Kirk Peters
21 proclaimed the word based on the reading from Zechariah 3.

22 **Recess**

23 Then convention was recessed by the chair at 5:40 p.m. CST and will reconvene with Matins
24 at 8:00 a.m. CST on Tuesday morning.

25
26 Floor Committee #3 has submitted a substitute resolution for Resolution 3-04. Resolution 3-
27 04a is included below.

28 **To Create a District Fund for Sudden Financial Hardships** 29 **Resolution 3-04a**

30
31 *Overtures 3-13, 3-14, 3-15, 3-16, 3-17, 3-20, 3-22*

32
33 WHEREAS, Many parishioners have felt financial hardship due to economic factors such as, but
34 not limited to, inflation; and
35

1 WHEREAS, There is a decline in church membership and attendance due to factors such as, but
2 not limited to, shrinking Midwestern towns, fewer farms, smaller families, and lower birth rates;
3 and
4

5 WHEREAS, Churches may find themselves facing major financial hardship due to sizeable
6 expenses such as, but not limited to, a leaking roof, a broken boiler, sewage problems, etc;
7 and
8

9 WHEREAS, These financial struggles may lead to inadequate compensation for the pastor, or,
10 worse yet, to the possible closure of the church or to a pastor leaving said church; and
11

12 WHEREAS, The LCMS North Dakota District has reported positive financial numbers for the
13 2023 fiscal year; therefore be it
14

15 *Resolved*, That the LCMS North Dakota District establish an "LCMS North Dakota District
16 Church Assistance Fund"; and be it further
17

18 *Resolved*, That the Board of Directors establish the parameters for use of the fund, publicity of
19 needs, and guidelines for funding sources; and be it finally
20

21 *Resolved*, That the Board of Directors administer the above duties on a trial basis until the next
22 convention when they shall present an overture to ratify or dissolve the fund and, if dissolved,
23 the balance of the fund be given to congregations in need.
24



CLOTHED IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

LCMS ND District convention 2025

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Today's Business

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
North Dakota District
60th Convention
Minot, ND



The Grand Hotel, Minot
January 19-22, 2025

Morning Matins

The 60th Convention of the LCMS North Dakota District reconvened at 8:00 a.m. CST with the Order of Matins. Rev. Christopher Nueundorf served as liturgist and the Rev. Mark Chepulis proclaimed the word based on the reading from Saint Matthew 22.

Minutes

The chair presented the minutes from Monday, January 20, 2025 for approval. It was moved, seconded, and carried to unanimously adopt the minutes.

Synodical President's Report

President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison reported on the our life together a Book of Concord Lutherans and many areas of concern and joy within the Synod. Time was given for questions and answers.

Installation of District President

President Harrison installed the Rev. Mark Chepulis as President of the LCMS North Dakota District.

Essayist

Dr. Mark Seifrid presented the first part of his essay on Clothed in Christ: the New Life.

Ratification of Circuit Visitors

The chair turn the convention to page 209 in the workbook for the slate of circuit visitors (cv) as elected by their respective circuits. As Rev. Paul Preus was elected vice-president, he cannot serve as circuit visitor. The circuit had meet and nominated Rev. Brandon Woodruff as cv. The slate of circuit visitors includes: Central Circuit, Rev. Brandon Woodruff; East Circuit, Rev. Christopher Waldvogel; Northeast Circuit, Rev. Daniel Provost; Northwest Circuit, Rev. Timothy Stout; Southeast Circuit, Rev. Michael Grieve; and Southwest Circuit, Rev. Jonathan Walla. It was moved, seconded and carried to unanimously ratify the selection of circuit visitors.

1 **Lutheran Family Service**

2 Greetings from Lutheran Family Service (LFS) was brought by the Rev. Max Philips along with
3 an explanation of the services provided by LFS.

4 **Board of Directors Report**

5 Mr. Thomas Langer, chair of the board of directors, reported on various actions and
6 discussions the board has had over the last triennium.

7 **Business Manager Report**

8 Mrs. Tami Ulland, business manager of the LCMS ND District, share information on her work
9 and the financial status of the district over the last triennium. Convention offering, to be equally
10 divided between Martin Luther and Grace schools totaled \$6,385.36.

11 **Floor Committee #2 - Mercy**

12 The chair called Floor Committee #2 to the podium to present their final two resolutions.

13 Resolution 2-04 “To Partner with Lutheran Family Service”. Motion was made and seconded to
14 strike lines 43-46 on page 281 from the resolution. Motion passed. After discussions, the
15 question was called, seconded, and passed. Amended resolution 2-04 was adopted.

16 Resolution 2-07 “To Admonish the Council of Presidents to Prioritize Assignment of Seminary
17 Candidates to Sole Vacancies over Associate Pastors”. A motion and second was made to
18 change the title of the resolution from “admonish” to “encourage” and was not challenged.
19 Amended resolution 2-07 was adopted.

20 This concluded the work of the committee. The chair thanked Floor Committee #2 for their
21 work.

22 **Floor Committee #3 – Life Together**

23 The chair called Floor Committee #3 to the podium to present their resolutions.

24 Resolution 3-01 “To Ratify Revisions to Constitutions and Bylaws of LCMS Congregations”.
25 Resolution 3-01 was adopted.

26 Resolution 3-02 “To Update and Clarify the LCMS North Dakota District Bylaws”. Resolution 3-
27 02 was adopted.

28 Resolution 3-03 “To Update the LCMS North Dakota District Bylaws Regarding Circuit
29 Forums”. Resolution 3-02 was adopted.

30 Resolution 3-04a “To Create a District Fund for Sudden Financial Hardships”. Resolution 3-04
31 was adopted.

32 Resolution 3-05 “To Condemn the Use of Women as Lectors”. A substitute motion was brought
33 and seconded, but failed to be approved, thus returning to the original resolution. After much
34 discussion, the chair asked for a vote to cease discussion, which passed. Resolution 3-05 was
35 adopted.

1 Resolution 3-06 "To Properly Dispose of Sacred Items at the Dissolution of a Congregation". A
2 motion was made and seconded to change "handbook" on line 14 of page 290 and was not
3 challenged. Resolution 3-06 was adopted.

4 Resolution 3-07 "To Fully Fund District Mission Projects before Applying Designated Gifts".
5 Resolution 3-07 was adopted.

6 Resolution 3-08 "To Condemn the Delivery of Children's Sermons in the Divine Service by
7 Laity". Resolution 3-08 was adopted.

8 A motion was made and seconded to pause the work of committee #3 until Wednesday
9 morning, which was adopted by super majority.

10 **Vespers**

11 The chair called on Rev. Christopher Neuendorf to lead Vespers. The Rev. Daniel Voth
12 proclaimed the word based on the reading from Galatians 3.

13 **Recess**

14 Then convention was recessed by the chair at 5:40 p.m. CST and will reconvene with Matins
15 at 8:00 a.m. CST on Wednesday morning.

16



CLOTHED IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

LCMS ND District convention 2025

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Today's Business

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
North Dakota District
60th Convention
Minot, ND



Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
North Dakota District
Cultivating Life in Christ
through the Word, Baptism, and Sacraments

The Grand Hotel, Minot

January 19-22, 2025

Morning Matins

The 60th Convention of the LCMS North Dakota District reconvened at 8:00 a.m. CST with the Order of Matins. Rev. Christopher Nueundorf served as liturgist and the Rev. Arie Bertsch proclaimed the word based on the reading from Saint Paul's second epistle to the Corinthians, chapter 5.

Minutes

The chair presented the minutes from Tuesday, January 21, 2025 for approval. It was moved, seconded, and carried to unanimously adopt the minutes.

Board of Directors

Chairman Langer addressed the convention on the transition plans from President Bertsch to President Chepulis regarding timeframe and on going salary and benefits for President Emeritus Bertsch.

Credentials Report

The chair called Floor Committee #4 to give a report on voting delegates. Three pastoral delegates needed to leave, leaving us 67 voting delegates.

Floor Committee #3 – Life Together

The chair called Floor Committee #3 to the return to the podium to present their remaining resolutions.

Resolution 3-09 "To Hold District Conventions in Churches Rather than in Convention Centers". Resolution 3-09 was adopted.

Resolution 3-10 "To Encourage the Use of the Chalice in our Congregations". Resolution 3-10 was adopted.

Resolution 3-11 "To Encourage Congregations of the District to Tithe Their Income for Missions". Resolution 3-11 was adopted.

1 Omnibus A, to refer Overture 3-19 to finance committee. A motion was made and seconded to
2 remove this overture to omnibus. Motion failed. Returning to the original motion to move
3 Overture 3-19 to Omnibus A was adopted.

4 This concluded the work of the committee. The chair thanked Floor Committee #3 for their
5 work.

6 **Stewardship Chair Report**

7 Stewardship Chair Rev. Dennis Voss presented and encourage the continued support of 1-1-1.

8 **Together in the Word**

9 President Chepulis lead the convention in the study of “Clothed in Christ’s Righteousness:
10 Jacob and Esau.”

11 **Motion** from the floor to reconsider Resolution 2-04 “To Partner with Lutheran Family Service”.
12 Motion was seconded but failed to be adopted.

13 **Campus Ministries Report**

14 Rev. Dan Suelzle, Wittenberg Chapel on the University of North Dakota campus, Grand Forks,
15 and Rev. Scott Johnson, ministry to North Dakota State University, Fargo, presented on the
16 campus ministry work of both univeristities.

17 **Life Coordinator Report**

18 Rev. Matthew Tooman reported on the ministry of life within the district and nation.

19 **Together in the Word**

20 Rev. Kirk Peters, second vice-president of the district, lead the convention in the study of
21 “Clothed in the Blood.”

22 **Credentials Report**

23 The chair called Floor Committee #4 to give a final report on voting delegates. Voting
24 delegates remained unchanged at 67 voting delegates.

25 **Installation of Officers**

26 President Chepulis installed the elected officers of the district beginning with vice-presidents,
27 circuit visitors, board of directors, and nominations committees.

28 **Adjournment**

29 President Emeritus Bertsch closed the 60th Regular Convention of the LCMS North Dakota
30 District at 11:49 a.m. CST on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.