PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS – Committee #1
Missions, Evangelism, Human Care

To Promote Lutheran Identity in the Mission Field

R-09-01-01

Reference Overture 09-01-01

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Convention assembled established the Ablaze!® mission outreach movement to encourage, among other things the laudable goal of planting and establishing 2000 new congregations in the United States by 2017 (Resolution 1-05A, Convention Proceedings 2004, p. 121); and

WHEREAS, The people of God should at all times and in every way “be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1 Peter 3:15 NIV); and

WHEREAS, This hope is revealed to us in the gracious Truth of God’s Word (cf. Col. 1:3-6); and

WHEREAS, We accept “all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God,” (Constitution of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Article II, Section 2); and

WHEREAS, We are instructed by God’s Holy Word to declare His truth openly, without cunning or underhanded tactics: “But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.” (2 Corinthians 4:2b ESV); and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) opined on November 29, 1994 that “the Constitution of the Synod contains no specific article or bylaw that can be used to defend congregations or recognized service organizations that choose not to use LUTHERAN in their legal name. It could, in fact, be asked if the congregation does not confess, does it have a confession, cf. Article VI.” (CCM Opinion August, 1999, emphasis included); and

WHEREAS, The CCM also opined in August, 1999 that “the very intent of the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, to which the congregation has voluntarily subscribed, make it implicitly clear that member congregations are expected to use the name LUTHERAN in designating their denominational identification” (emphasis included); and

WHEREAS, The LCMS in Convention concurred with the CCM, setting forth that “all congregations and mission stations in our Synod boldly profess in their official
WHEREAS, The limited resources available requires the LCMS to make decisions and discernments regarding where best to utilize those resources; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the congregations of the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod assembled in convention, memorialize the LCMS assembled in convention to use the rationale detailed above; and be it further

Resolved, That the goal of all member congregations of the LCMS should be to reach out to the lost and erring with the true and unadulterated, saving message of the Gospel; and be it further

Resolved, That 1995 Resolution 3-13A be commended to the member congregations of the LCMS for their guidance on what constitutes moral and ethical outreach; and be it further

Resolved, That all member congregations of the LCMS confess the name “Lutheran” and their membership in the LCMS in their working name and regular communications (e.g. “Grace Lutheran Church” rather than just “Grace Church,” etc.); and be it finally

Resolved, That the Treasurer of Synod, and all Synodical entities and corporations be prohibited from making any payments (either cash or in-kind) to any congregation that fails to comport itself according to the ethical guidelines and confessional standard set forth by the Synod in convention through its resolutions, by-laws, and constitution. These payments include, but are not limited to, grants and subsidies.

To Expand Word and Sacrament Mission Work

R-09-01-02

Reference Overture 09-01-02

WHEREAS, Our Lord commissioned His Church to disciple the nations through Word (“teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...” (Mt. 28:20)) and Sacrament (“baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt. 28:19)) ministry; and

WHEREAS, The number of missionaries sent by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod into the foreign mission field and who have been called and ordained by God through His Church for Word and Sacrament ministry has been declining (1967 - 167
called pastors, 1972 - 128 called pastors, 1982 - 65 called pastors, 2006 - 27 called
pastors); and

WHEREAS, Several of the ordained missionaries recalled from the mission field
were not financial liabilities to LCMS World Mission since they were quite successful at
raising the $120,000 of designated gifts and offerings which they were required to raise
in order to be stationed at a foreign mission; and

WHEREAS, There is no shortage of the supply of pastors, as demonstrated by the
number of seminary candidates each year who do not receive assignments on Call Day;
therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the congregations of the Central Illinois District of the
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod assembled in convention, encourage LCMS World
Mission to expand the Word and Sacrament ministry accomplished in the mission field
by increasing the number of ordained missionaries placed in foreign assignments.

To Encourage Attendance at the Central Illinois District
Great Commission Convocation

R-09-01-03

Reference Overture 09-01-03

WHEREAS, Evidence indicates that America is in a non-Christian era, and its
people are in desperate need to hear the truthful and relevant message of salvation and
life in Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Many men, women, and children are living and dying without saving
faith in Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Our church workers and members of our congregations can benefit
from additional skills, training, knowledge, and resources for evangelism work; and

WHEREAS, The Great Commission Convocation can serve to strengthen the
church in her mission to serve others and to seek the lost through the use of the means of
grace; and

WHEREAS, The Central Illinois District Board of Directors and Central Illinois
District Evangelism Commission have scheduled a Great Commission Convocation,
Saturday, November 7, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Bloomington at 9:00 a.m. (featuring
Dr. Wallace Schulz); therefore be it
Resolved, That the 56th Central Illinois District Convention Delegates encourage
the members of the congregations of the Central Illinois District to attend this Great
Commission Convocation.

To Encourage Congregations to Use Evangelism Resources

R-09-01-04

Reference Overture 09-01-04

WHEREAS, God desires that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth
(I Tim. 2:4); and

WHEREAS, Our Lord has given to all who are baptized the opportunity and
responsibility to spread the Gospel, declaring the praises of Him who has called us out of
darkness into His wonderful light (I Pet. 2:9); and

WHEREAS, Unchurched and unsaved people abound in the communities of the
Central Illinois District (perhaps higher than 50% of all people); and

WHEREAS, The Central Illinois District Evangelism Executive has been called
to encourage and assist the pastors and congregations of the Central Illinois District –
LCMS in evangelism and in outreach; and

WHEREAS, It is always important and God-pleasing that we walk together with
one heart (Romans 15:5-6); therefore be it

Resolved, That the congregations of the Central Illinois District be encouraged to
make use of a visit from the Evangelism Executive and his resources for their church to:
1. Invite unchurched people to attend worship to hear God’s holy Word,
2. Encourage those coming to worship to continue faithfully in the hearing of
God’s Word,
3. Encourage those who are neglecting God’s Word to return to the Lord’s house
and His Word.

To Offer Thanks for Mission Workers in CID

R-09-01-05

Reference Overture 09-01-05

WHEREAS, The Central Illinois District has been blessed with numerous
missions and mission workers; and
WHEREAS, These district mission workers labor for the Lord in many fields, such as new churches, campuses, prisons, and work among the deaf and developmentally disabled; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Central Illinois District in convention encourage congregations to remember these workers in their prayers; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Central Illinois District in convention give thanks to God for these workers and for our CID Mission and Evangelism Executive, the Rev. Joel Cluver, completing his sixteenth year of service to CID, by recognizing them at this time and rising to sing the common doxology.

To Establish Circuit Mission Councils

R-09-01-06

Reference Overture 09-01-06

WHEREAS, Over 50% of the 2.2 million people in Central Illinois are unchurched and may not believe that Jesus Christ died for their sins; and

WHEREAS, God’s desire remains unchanged: to save all people and to lead them to the knowledge of the Savior (2 Timothy 2:4); and

WHEREAS, The establishment of a Mission Council in the Rock Island Circuit has been a great support to the Hispanic Mission and its pastor, the Rev. Pablo Dominguez, and also the Mission Council in the Bloomington circuits will be supporting the new campus worker at Wittenberg Lutheran Center at Illinois State University; therefore be it,

Resolved, That the Central Illinois District in convention encourage all circuits to investigate and establish Mission Councils for the purpose of supporting Central Illinois District established missions in their midst, and to explore and encourage additional new mission outreach; and be it finally

Resolved, That these Circuit Mission Councils function in cooperation with the Central Illinois District’s Mission Commission through the District’s Mission executive.

To Continue Partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia

R-09-01-07

Reference Overture 09-01-07
WHEREAS, The Lord commands His redeemed people to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation (Mark 16:15); and

WHEREAS, The Central Illinois District has been enjoying partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia (ELCL) since 2004; and

WHEREAS, The people of the Central Illinois District and the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia have been blessed by this partnership, and many new friendships have arisen between us; and

WHEREAS, The people and congregations of the Central Illinois District continue to keep the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia in their prayers; and

WHEREAS, The people and congregations of the Central Illinois District continue financially to support mission projects for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia and her churches (built Children’s Center, purchased cars for pastors, supported seminary and seminary students, gave gifts for individual churches and their ministry, provided their first Sunday school materials, provided meals for soup kitchen, etc.); and

WHEREAS, The opportunities and needs of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia continue to be great; and

WHEREAS, God has blessed the Central Illinois District with an abundant overflow of His gifts of resources; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Central Illinois District give thanks to God for our mission partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia; and be it finally

Resolved, That the 56th Regular Convention of the Central Illinois District continue our partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia, and encourage our congregations to continue to support this mission partnership with their prayers, regular communication, friendship, and resources.

To Encourage Central Illinois Congregational Revitalization

R-09-01-08

Reference Overture 09-01-08

WHEREAS, Our Lord’s mission is to extend the Kingdom of Jesus, “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Mt. 16:16) through the proclaiming of “repentance and the forgiveness of sins” (Lk. 24:47); and
WHEREAS, Pastors and laity are called to live the baptismal life of repentance and forgiveness of sins; and

WHEREAS, Many temptations exist to seek solutions apart from the Word of God, “which will stand forever” (Is. 40:8); and

WHEREAS, This remains an ongoing challenge within the Central Illinois District; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Central Illinois District offer its Revitalization Process to assist our churches in a biblical and Lutheran-based approach to re-examine the mission field around their congregations (through the District Mission Executive); and be it finally

Resolved, That interested congregations of the Central Illinois District be encouraged prayerfully to consider this voluntary Revitalization Process.

To Encourage Continued Support For Central Illinois District Missions

R-09-01-09

WHEREAS, The Bible states “But you are a chosen people a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (I Peter 2:9); and

WHEREAS, The Central Illinois District has sought to be faithful to telling others about Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, The Central Illinois District supports 18 missions:

Mission Congregations
- Christ the King Lutheran Church, East Moline (Hispanic)
- Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Buffalo
- Grace Lutheran Church, Canton
- Christ’s Family Lutheran Church, Mahomet
- Our Savior Lutheran Church, St. Joseph

Special Missions
- Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Jacksonville
- Joy of Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Peoria
- Ministry among the Developmentally Disabled
- Lincoln Correctional Center, Lincoln
- Logan Correctional Center, Lincoln
- Pittsfield Work Camp, Pittsfield
- Western Correctional Center, Mt. Sterling
- Greene County Work Camp, Roodhouse

Campus Ministry at
- University of Illinois, Champaign
- Eastern Illinois University, Charleston
WHEREAS, This requires the financial support of all Central Illinois District congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to continue to support these Central Illinois District Missions with their regular mission offerings to the Central Illinois District; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Central Illinois District congregations be strongly encouraged to have regular prayer in behalf of these ministries, realizing that only God the Holy Spirit effects change in the hearts and lives of people.