

1 **OVERTURES – Committee #1**
2 **Witness (Evangelism, Theology, & Education)**

3
4
5 **OVERTURE 12-01-01**

6
7 **A Suggestion for Mission & Ministry Emphasis**

8
9 Teach our members to apply biblical principles to our everyday lives. (Many claim the
10 name Christian but hard to tell)

11
12 (Submitted Quincy Circuit)

13
14 **OVERTURE 12-01-02**

15
16 **Mission & Ministry Emphasis**

17
18 **WHEREAS**, at the 2010 Synodical Convention the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod adopted a process
19 whereby the triennial emphasis is established by suggestions forwarded through the adoption of
20 resolutions at the congregational level, then by circuit forums, then district conventions, and finally the
21 Synodical convention, and

22 **WHEREAS**, no triennial emphasis could be adopted at the 2010 Synodical Convention because this process had
23 been newly established, and

24 **WHEREAS**, the Synodical President and his staff developed an emphasis for this first triennium based on the
25 ancient description of the Church, and

26 **WHEREAS**, congregations, circuits and districts of the Synod are asked in *Bylaw* 4.2.1 to submit mission and
27 ministry emphases for consideration by the Synodical convention, and

28 **WHEREAS**, the current mission and ministry emphasis of *Witness, Mercy, Life Together* holds much potential
29 for further growth and implementation throughout the Synod, therefore be it

30 **Resolved**, that we, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Strasburg, Illinois, submit the mission and
31 ministry emphasis of *Witness, Mercy, Life Together* for consideration as the continued mission and
32 ministry emphasis for the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod for the 2013-2016 Triennium, and be it
33 further

34 **Resolved**, that we memorialize the Central Illinois District to adopt the above resolution, and be it finally

35 **Resolved**, that we memorialize the Shelby Circuit Forum to adopt the above resolution.

36
37 (Submitted by Effingham & Shelby Circuit)

38
39 **OVERTURE 12-01-03**

40
41 **TO DIRECT CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE TO PUT THE 1986**
42 **TRANSLATION OF LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM INTO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN**

43
44 **WHEREAS**, the text of Luther's Small Catechism is the primary teaching tool of the
45 Lutheran Church; and

46
47 **WHEREAS**, the text is intended to be used in the home and church, and spread abroad as

1 freely as possible; and
2

3 **WHEREAS**, the Scriptures themselves encourage us to write the text of the catechism on
4 our doors and walls (*Deuteronomy 6:6ff*, see Luther’s Preface to the Large Catechism, 141); and
5

6 **WHEREAS**, wherever the catechism is read, studied, printed, sung, written, posted,
7 repeated and learned, the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of faith and love; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in love for one
10 another and the unity of the Spirit have a common translation of the Small Catechism (1986); and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the copyright limitations placed on the 1986 translation of Luther’s Small
13 Catechism limit its distribution (for example, on the Internet, church websites, catechism
14 study books and worksheets, audio recordings, posters and artwork, etc.); therefore be it
15

16 *Resolved*, that the congregations of the Central Illinois District memorialize the
17 Synod in convention to direct the Board of Directors of Concordia Publishing House to
18 place the 1986 translation of Luther’s Small Catechism into the public domain
19

20 (Submitted by Bloomington North & Lincoln Circuit)
21

22 **OVERTURE 12-01-04**

23 **TO ENSURE THAT EVERY MAN WHO PASTORS IS A PASTOR**

24
25
26 **WHEREAS**, in certain situations today, the Synod approves of preaching and administration of the
27 sacraments by men who have not been publicly called to and ordained into the office of the ministry
28 (this position is expressed, e.g., in 1989
29 Resolution 3-05B, “. . . when no pastor is available, and in the absence of any specific Scriptural
30 directives to the contrary, congregations may arrange for the performance of these distinctive functions
31 [preaching and administering the sacraments] by qualified individuals”); and
32

33 **WHEREAS**, the Augsburg Confession’s fourteenth article reads, “Concerning church government it is
34 taught that no one should publicly teach, preach, or administer the sacraments without a proper [public]
35 call” (KW p. 46); and
36

37 **WHEREAS**, the systematic theology faculties of both seminaries, acting jointly, have published a
38 detailed statement on “The Office of the Holy Ministry” (Concordia Journal 33.3 [July 2007]: 242-255)
39 which states in part, “The Confessions never use the truth that the whole church possesses the power of
40 the keys to make the office of the holy ministry unnecessary or merely useful. On the contrary, this truth
41 serves as the basis for the church’s right to call, choose, and ordain ministers. . . . [T]he Treatise [on the
42 Power and Primacy of the Pope] does not imagine churches without ordained ministers of some kind,
43 even in emergency situations or when no one else will call and ordain men for the office. As confessors
44 of the same doctrine, neither should we. . . .
45 “[C]all and ordination’ are essential for conduct of the ministry. . . . What is the sign of authority for
46 ministers today? It is their call and ordination, which assure that they act by divine right and on the
47 authority of Christ. This truth makes such ideas as “lay ministers” invitations for difficulties and
48 troubles to ministers whose authority is doubtful and to laypersons whose assurance of God’s grace may
49 be questioned.” (pp. 253-254, 255); and,
50

51 **WHEREAS**, the Synod has now implemented a Specific Ministry Pastor Program to allow an additional

1 path toward ordination into the Office of the Ministry; and,
2

3 **WHEREAS**, the Central Illinois District a geographically and demographically diverse district stretching
4 from the inner-city streets to the sparsely-populated hills and fields, continues to see to it that only men
5 publicly called to and ordained into the office of the ministry conduct Word and Sacrament ministry in
6 each of its 100+ mission outposts; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the substance of this resolution was forwarded to the Synod Convention in 2010 by the
9 Northern, Central, and Southern Illinois districts, who together represent more than 10% of the Synod's
10 membership, and yet was not taken up by the Synod's floor committee,
11

12 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Central Illinois District in convention express its regret at
13 the current situation in the Synod at large concerning men who are conducting Word and Sacrament
14 ministry without being publicly called to and ordained into the office of the ministry; and be it further
15

16 **Resolved**, that the Central Illinois District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to direct
17 the Board for Pastoral Education and the Council of Presidents to develop and implement a plan to
18 ensure that A) all men who are currently engaged in Word and Sacrament ministry without being
19 publicly called to and ordained into the office of the ministry may either be enrolled in the SMP
20 program or cease from all forms of Word and Sacrament ministry by the end of 2016, and B) all current
21 Synod and District tracks, programs, licensing procedures etc., which train men for Word and
22 Sacrament ministry without benefit of being publicly called to and ordained into the office of the
23 ministry can be phased out in favor of SMP by the end of 2016.
24

25 (Submitted by Bloomington North & Lincoln Circuit)
26

27 **OVERTURE 12-01-05**

28

29 **To Require Uniformity of Practice With Regard to Word and Sacrament Ministry**

30

31 **WHEREAS**, St. Paul distinguished between overseers or bishops (1 Tim. 3:1-7) and deacons (1 Tim.
32 3:8-13); and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, The overseers of the Bible have usually been called pastors in the Lutheran Church, based
35 on Acts 20:28; and
36

37 **WHEREAS**, St. Paul also warned, "Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of
38 others; keep yourself pure" (1 Tim. 5:22) and "an overseer must be ... not a novice" (1 Tim. 3:6); and
39

40 **WHEREAS**, In certain situations today, the Synod approves of preaching and administration of the
41 sacraments by men who have not been publicly called to, and placed in, the office of the ministry (this position
42 is expressed, e.g., in 1989 Resolution 3-05B, "... when no pastor is available, and in the absence of any specific
43 Scriptural directives to the contrary, congregations may arrange for the performance of these distinctive
44 functions [preaching and administering the sacraments] by qualified individuals"); and
45

46 **WHEREAS**, The Augsburg Confession's fourteenth article reads, "Concerning church government it is
47 taught that no one should publicly teach, preach, or administer the sacraments without a proper [public] call"
48 (Kolb-Wengert, p. 46); and
49

1 WHEREAS, The systematic theology faculties of both seminaries, acting jointly, have published a
2 detailed statement on “The Office of the Holy Ministry” (*Concordia Journal* 33.3 [July 2007]: 242-255), which
3 states in part,
4

5 “The Confessions never use the truth that the whole church possesses the power of the keys to make the
6 office of the holy ministry unnecessary or merely useful. On the contrary, this truth serves as the basis
7 for the church's right to call, choose, and ordain ministers. . . . [T]he Treatise [on the Power and Primacy
8 of the Pope] does not imagine churches without ordained ministers of some kind, even in emergency
9 situations or when no one else will call and ordain men for the office. As confessors of the same
10 doctrine, neither should we. . .

11
12 “[C]all and ordination' are essential for conduct of the ministry. . . . What is the sign of authority for
13 ministers today? It is their call and ordination, which assure that they act by divine right and on the
14 authority of Christ. This truth makes such ideas as “lay ministers” invitations for difficulties and
15 troubles to ministers whose authority is doubtful and to laypersons whose assurance of God's grace may
16 be questioned.” (pp. 253-254, 255); and
17

18 WHEREAS, The Board for Pastoral Education and the two seminaries are now implementing the
19 Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program mandated by the 2007 Synodical
20 Convention; and
21

22 WHEREAS, The 2007 “Resolution 5-02 Task Force” reported in the 2010 Convention Workbook
23 concerning situations currently served by licensed lay deacons, but after much debate 2010 Resolution 5-03A
24 “To Address Lay Deacons” was referred back to committee and not brought back for action; therefore be it
25

26 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District in convention express its regret at the current situation in the
27 Synod at large concerning men who are conducting Word and Sacrament ministry without being publicly called
28 to, and placed in, the office of the ministry; and be it further
29

30 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to direct
31 the Council of Presidents to develop a plan and lay out procedures:
32

33 A) So that all men who are currently engaged in Word and Sacrament ministry without being publicly
34 called to, and placed in, the office of the ministry may either be enrolled in the SMP program or cease
35 from all forms of Word and Sacrament ministry by the end of 2019, and

36 B) So that all current Synod and District tracks, programs, licensing procedures etc. which train men for
37 Word and Sacrament ministry without benefit of being publicly called to, and placed in, the office of the
38 ministry can be phased out in favor of SMP by the end of 2019; and

39 C) So that the Council of Presidents can report on this plan to the 2016 Synod in Convention for
40 approval, emendation, and adoption.
41

42 and be it finally
43

44 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District in convention memorialize the Synod to make necessary
45 changes in the SMP program in order to assure that the men enrolled in the SMP program be called “deacons”
46 rather than pastors, and that they not be ordained or called as pastors until they complete the full SMP program.
47

48 (Submitted by Central Illinois District Board of Directors)
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3 **OVERTURES – Committee #2**
4 **Mercy (Human Care, Missions, Stewardship)**

5 **OVERTURE 12-02-01**

6
7 **Suggested Mission & Ministry Emphasis**
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9 Strengthen funding for our missionaries – so they are not responsible for funding 100% of their needs,

10
11 (Submitted by Quincy Circuit)

12 **OVERTURE 12-02-02**

13
14 **Suggested Mission & Ministry Emphasis**
15

16 Strengthen campus ministry – by not cutting or reducing the number of campus ministries,

17
18 (Submitted by Quincy Circuit)

19
20 **OVERTURE 12-02-03**

21
22 **TO PROMOTE BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP AND RESOURCES THROUGHOUT THE CID**
23

24 **WHEREAS**, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it: (Psalms
25 24:1), is an important reminder of the privilege God grants to us to manage His creation for our own good and
26 that of our fellow men; and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, our giving is a joyful response to God’s gift of Jesus Christ to the world; and

29
30 **WHEREAS**, this important stewardship receives prominent attention throughout the Holy Scriptures as
31 being a significant part of new life in Christ; and

32
33 **WHEREAS**, stewardship requires proper motivation and intentional training for every generation; and

34
35 **WHEREAS**, many congregations continue to struggle with a decline in attendance, the lack of willing
36 workers, and not enough financial resources to meet the mission and ministry needs of the congregation; and

37
38 **WHEREAS**, Biblical stewardship education for all members throughout the Central Illinois District is
39 the foundation for addressing the challenges referenced above; and

40
41 **WHEREAS**, it is through the Means of Grace that the Lord grows His church and moves His people to
42 be faithful stewards, therefore be it

43
44 **RESOLVED**, that a renewed interest in Bible-based, Gospel-motivated stewardship education for
45 individuals of all ages be given priority attention throughout our district; and be it further

46
47 **RESOLVED**, That we identify programs which carefully promote Christian Stewardship as the entire
48 way of life through which our Lord regularly provides the needs of His church; and be it further

49
50 **RESOLVED**, we encourage and educate our members in Biblical stewardship though resources
51 available to every CID congregation; and be it finally

1 Whereas, science describes the beginning of human life as fertilization, that is, the formation of a human embryo, a unique human being,
2 which exists prior to implantation[1]; and
3

4 Whereas, all hormonal and IUD forms of birth control include as part of their published physiological mechanism for preventing
5 pregnancy the inhibition of an embryo’s implantation in the uterus, thereby causing the death of the embryo, and the drug Ulipristal (Ella)
6 can also destroy an embryo after implantation, thus directly causing an abortion[2]; and
7

8 Whereas, the United States Department of Health and Human Services has mandated virtually all health insurance programs, including
9 those serving or managed by the Christian church, to provide sterilization, hormonal and abortive-inducing drugs, and IUDs; and
10

11 Whereas, while Christians are called to obey political authorities (Romans 13:1-7), when human authority violates God’s will, Christians
12 are bound to “obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:28-29); and
13

14 Whereas, the doctrine of the two kingdoms does not promote quietism, but affirms that civil government is to be concerned with things
15 other than the gospel and should not exercise its authority in the church (CA XXVIII.11-12), and commands the Christian to use political
16 laws and public redress for the benefit of temporal life (Ap XVI); and
17

18 Whereas, the aforementioned HHS mandate does not comply even with United States law, which prohibits the Federal government from
19 establishing religion or preventing the free exercise of religion (The Constitution of the United States, Amendment 1); be it therefore
20

21 Resolved, that the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention express its opposition to the HHS
22 mandate; and be it further
23

24 Resolved, that the President of the Central Illinois District of the LCMS formally petition the United States Senators from Illinois to
25 oppose this mandate and to introduce and/or support legislation prohibiting it; and be it finally
26

27 Resolved, that the laity and church workers of the congregations of the Central Illinois District be encouraged in the opposition of this
28 mandate, also by requesting their congressional representatives and other government office-holders to use all means to oppose and/or
29 overturn this mandate.
30

31 [1] LCMS Sanctity of Human Life Committee, “Response to Resolution 6-10: Guidance on Contraceptive Methods” n.d.,
32 <http://www.lcms.org/page.aspx?pid=864> (Accessed February 18, 2012), 3; Maureen Condic, “A Biological Definition of the Human
33 Embryo,” chapter 11 in *Persons, Moral Worth, and Embryos: A Critical Analysis of Pro-Choice Arguments*, ed. Stephan Napier (Springer
34 Science+Business Media, 2011).
35

36 submitted by Mattoon Circuit
37

38 **OVERTURES – Committee #3**
39 **Life Together (Congregational Life, Finance, Administration)**
40

41 **OVERTURE 12-03-01**
42

43 **Suggested Mission & Ministry Emphasis**
44

45 Speak out more on national issues (I don’t think they are aware of what all is being done)
46

47 (Submitted by Quincy Circuit)
48

49 **OVERTURE 12-03-02**
50

51 **To Rescind Synodical Resolution 3-08A (2004 Convention)**

52 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in her 62nd Regular Convention in
53 July of 2004 passed Res. 3-08A that “Affirms the Conclusions of the 1994 CTCR Report:
54 The service of Women in Congregational and Synodical Offices;” and
55

56 **WHEREAS**, The Bible clearly teaches God pleasing roles and functions for both men
57 and women in family, culture, society, and in the Church ([Genesis 2:4-24](#), [1 Corinthians 11:2-16](#), [14:33-36](#), [Ephesians 5:22-33](#), Luther’s Small Catechism – Table of Duties); and

1 **WHEREAS**, The 1994 report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations
2 (CTCR) on “The Service of Women in Congregational Offices” did not adequately
3 address the place of “The Order of Creation” in its report, but instead, focused heavily on
4 distinctive functions of the pastoral office by replacing the basic biblical principle that
5 women should not have authority over men with one application of that principle, that
6 women should not become pastors*, and
7 **WHEREAS**, [1 Timothy 2:12-13](#) states, “I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise
8 authority over a man...For Adam was formed first, then Eve” and this divine teaching is
9 contradicted by the “Conclusions” of the 1994 CTCR report; and
10 **WHEREAS**, The 1994 report of the CTCR departed dramatically from the historic
11 understanding of the Lutheran Church on the matter of the role of women in
12 congregational offices, by restricting the authority women are forbidden to have over
13 men to the Pastoral Office; and
14 **WHEREAS**, The 1994 report of the CTCR led the Synodical President to object to the
15 report, saying that “it ‘suggests a modification in the present position of the Synod’.” and
16 led five theological professors of the CTCR to also object that the majority report did
17 not adequately address the “order of creation,” including the basic principle that women
18 should not exercise authority over men;** and
19 **WHEREAS**, the 1994 report of the CTCR and 2004 Resolution 3-08A promote
20 confusion, instability, and disunity by permitting women to serve in the roles of elder,
21 chairman, and vice-chairman of a congregation; and
22 **WHEREAS**, The teaching of Scripture does not change; therefore be it
23 **RESOLVED**, That for the sake of remaining faithful to the Word of God in all its parts,
24 for the unity of the Church, and for the edifying of our people and congregations, the
25 Central Illinois District encourage and support its congregations in remaining faithful to
26 the historic, orthodox, and Biblical Lutheran teaching and practice of the role of women
27 in the Church; and be it further
28 **RESOLVED**, That the congregations of the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran
29 Church Missouri Synod reject the teaching/doctrine/practice of women exercising
30 authority over man in violation of the order of creation as expressed in Res. 3-08A; and
31 be it further
32 **RESOLVED**, That the Central Illinois District urge the 2013 Convention of The
33 Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod to rescind Resolution 3-08A of the 2004 Convention
34 of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.
35 *Jastram, Man as Male and Female: Created in the Image of God, Concordia Theological
36 Quarterly, Vol. 68 No. 1 January 2004, pg 91
37 ** Ibid, pg 91-92

38
39 (Submitted by Bloomington North Circuit)

40
41 **OVERTURE 12-03-03**

42
43 A Resolution of
44 Thanks for Family Life Committee
45

46 **WHEREAS** our Lord has given us the image of the family as an image of our life together as His Church (1
47 Timothy 3:14-15, Ephesians 2:19-21), and

48 **WHEREAS** one cannot grow in the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit if one does not grow in one’s vocation
49 within the family, as well, and

1 WHEREAS many delegates were confused, thinking the Rev. Dr. Sohns' comment regarding a large imbalance
2 referred to the overall composition of the Board, and
3 WHEREAS the remedy to such misunderstanding provided by Roberts' Rules of Order, *i.e.* the incidental "Point
4 of Information" (RONR (10th ed.), pp. 282f., ll. 25ff.), was effectively eliminated when Convention
5 Standing Rule #24 made the Point of Information out of order when another has the floor, and
6 WHEREAS the original proposal of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synodical Structure and Governance
7 maintained that near balance (8 ordained/commissioned ministers, 9 laypersons) by increasing the
8 representation both of pastors and laity, and
9 WHEREAS Floor Committee 8, in an effort to save money, reduced the proposed increase in the size of the
10 Board of Directors by increasing the number of laypersons even more while reducing the number of
11 pastors to below the levels prior to the 2010 convention,
12 therefore be it

13 RESOLVED that we, the Shelby Circuit Forum, memorialize the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in
14 Convention to amend Bylaw 3.3.4.1 as follows:

15 3.3.4.1 The Board of Directors shall consist of no more than 15 voting members, as follows:

- 16 1. One layperson elected from each of the five designated geographical regions
- 17 2. ~~Two~~ Four ministers of religion—ordained elected at-large by the Synod in convention
- 18 3. One minister of religion—commissioned elected at-large by the Synod in convention
- 19 4. ~~Two laypersons elected at large by the Synod in convention~~
- 20 5. Up to three at-large laypersons appointed by the elected members of the Board of
21 Directors to obtain needed additional skill sets (legal, finance, investment,
22 administration, etc.)

23 ~~6.5.~~ The President and the Secretary of the Synod

24 With the exception of the President and Secretary of the Synod, no more than one voting
25 member from each category and no more than two voting members total may be elected
26 from any one district. The First Vice-President of the Synod shall be a nonvoting member.

27 And be it finally

28 RESOLVED that we memorialize the Central Illinois District to adopt the above resolution.

29 (Submitted by Effingham & Shelby Circuits)

30 **OVERTURE 12-03-05**

31 **A Resolution Regarding Amending Slate of Circuit Counselors**

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35 WHEREAS The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod at its 2010 Convention amended Bylaw 5.2.2 regarding the
36 election of circuit counselors, and

37 WHEREAS some are concerned that the language of Bylaw 5.2.2.f, "The convention shall have the right to alter
38 the slate by amendment," could be used to usurp the privilege granted to circuit fora to select their
39 circuit counselor,

40 therefore be it

41 RESOLVED that we, the Shelby Circuit Forum, memorialize The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in
42 Convention to amend Bylaw 5.2.2.f as follows:

- 43 5.2.2 (f) Should a candidate no longer be available for this office, a caucus of the voting delegates
44 from that circuit shall have the right to act on behalf of the congregations to nominate a
45 replacement. The convention shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment in order to
46 insert the newly selected nominee.

47 And be it finally

1 RESOLVED that we memorialize the Central Illinois District to adopt the above resolution.

2
3 (Submitted by the Effingham & Shelby Circuit)

4
5 **OVERTURE 12-03-06**

6
7 **A Resolution to Ensure Proper Order in the Election of Synodical President**

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9 WHEREAS The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod at its 2010 Convention amended Bylaw 3.12 regarding the
10 election of the Synodical President, and

11 WHEREAS this amendment included changing those eligible to vote for the election of Synodical President to
12 “two voting delegates from each congregation in attendance at the previous district conventions”
13 (Synodical Bylaw 3.12.2.3), and

14 WHEREAS the 2010 Synodical Convention failed to adopt new bylaw provisions submitted by the Blue Ribbon
15 Task Force for Synodical Structure and Governance regarding representation at district conventions, and

16 WHEREAS specification of who may be elected as District Convention delegates or how many may be selected
17 are divided among various places in the *Synodical Handbook* as well as various opinions rendered by
18 the Commission on Constitutional Matters, and

19 WHEREAS a cursory examination of bylaws from around the Synod shows that many districts do not specify in
20 their bylaws which congregations may send delegates, how many delegates there may be, or who those
21 delegates are to be, and

22 WHEREAS a cursory examination of bylaws from around the Synod shows that some districts specify in their
23 bylaws that multiple congregations served by one pastor are to be treated as a single parish, while others
24 make no such specification, and

25 WHEREAS it is proper for the sake of good order that there be consistency from one district to the next
26 concerning who has privilege of voting in the national election for Synodical President,
27 therefore be it

28 RESOLVED that we, the Shelby Circuit Forum, memorialize the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in
29 Convention to codify the *status quo* by amending Bylaw 4.2.2 as follows:

30 4.2.2 The delegates of a voting congregation to a district convention shall be ~~accredited~~ one
31 pastoral delegate and one lay delegate.

32 (a) The called pastor of a voting congregation shall stand accredited and entitled to vote.

33 ~~(a)(b) They shall be~~ The lay delegate of a voting congregation shall stand accredited and
34 entitled to vote upon presenting to the secretary at the opening of the convention the proper
35 credentials provided by the district secretary and signed by two of the congregation’s
36 officers.

37 (c) If a congregation is in the midst of a pastoral vacancy, a vacancy pastor who is not
38 entitled to the vote of another congregation shall stand accredited and entitled to vote upon
39 presenting to the secretary at the opening of the convention the proper credentials provided
40 by the district secretary and signed by two of the congregation’s officers.

41 (d) If a pastor is called to serve two or more congregations, these shall be regarded as one
42 parish and shall be entitled to only one lay vote.

43 ~~(b)(e)~~ All duly-elected accredited voting delegates shall attend all sessions of the convention
44 regularly until the close of the convention.

45 And be it finally

46 RESOLVED that we memorialize the Central Illinois District to adopt the above resolution.

47
48 (Submitted by the Effingham & Shelby Circuit)

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OVERTURE 12-03-07

To Limit the Binding Force of CCM Opinions

WHEREAS the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) currently has the power to authoritatively:

- (1) rule on the interpretation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS) Constitution, Bylaws and resolutions;
- (2) determine whether all governing instruments of the Synod and its agencies are in accord with the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws;
- (3) determine whether the content of all convention reports, overtures, and resolutions agree with the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws; and

WHEREAS the five member committee is comprised of three ordained ministers and two lawyers nominated by district boards of directors, selected as candidates by the Council of Presidents, appointed by the President of the Synod, and ratified by the Council of Presidents; and

WHEREAS the decisions of this committee are immediately binding upon all Synod officers and entities, including upon congregations and pastors as members of the LC-MS (Bylaw 3.9.2.2.c); and

WHEREAS the Commission on Constitutional Matters is not directly accountable for its decisions to representatives of the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod other than by exception to a decision brought before a duly constituted LC-MS convention where insufficient time is, or can be, allotted to review and deliberate upon CCM decisions; and

WHEREAS within the Church only the Word of God ultimately has any binding authority upon any believer's conscience, thoughts, words and deeds; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that a CCM Opinion shall become the authoritative interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and thereby applicable in general to all levels of Synodical polity, if and only if the opinion is specifically approved by a memorial passed by a 2/3 majority at an LC-MS Convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no CCM opinion, approved or not, shall be in any way binding where it is contrary to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, but instead shall be immediately and forever null and void for all purposes; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a CCM Opinion which has not been approved by an LC-MS Convention as described above is advisory in scope and can only be applied to the specific individual case, situation, and/or opinion to which it is first made, and may in no way be used as a precedent or influencing factor in any other case or situation.

(Submitted by Springfield West Circuit)

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4 **OVERTURE 12-03-08**

5 **To Clarify the ‘Proper Channels’ which a Synodical President, District President, Circuit Counselor, or**
6 **Their Representatives Must Follow Regarding an Investigation of a Parish or Its Pastor**

7 **WHEREAS** the Commission on Constitutional Matters ruled on a “Question Regarding the Relationship of the
8 Circuit Counselor to Member Congregations (04-2387)” that “The Bylaws do not define the term
9 "proper channels" and thus the procedure to be used in the investigation is chosen by the District
10 President or his representative and does not necessarily require the initial contact or meeting to be with
any particular person or group” in a parish; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Scriptures require that everything be done “decently and in good order;” and

12 **WHEREAS** the Office of the Keys is given to the local congregation by Christ; and

13 **WHEREAS** the Pastor of a congregation is Christ’s undershepherd in that place, who has been entrusted with
14 the Divine Ministry of the Word and Sacraments by Christ, His Holy Spirit, and Christ’s Church to
15 shepherd His Flock (Acts 20:28, etc.); and

16 **WHEREAS** the Congregational Chairman/President, Elders, and Council of a parish have God’s own authority
17 under the Fourth Commandment; and

18 **WHEREAS** District Presidents, Circuit Counselors, and every Synodical official serve in accordance with the
19 duties assigned to them or otherwise authorized by the Constitution and appropriate Bylaws of the
20 Synod, but are not lords over the congregations of Synod; therefore

21 **BE IT RESOLVED** that when any District President, Circuit Counselor, or any Synodical official deem it wise
22 or necessary to investigate a controversy within a congregation or conduct an official visit to resolve any
23 dispute, that he be required to follow the local parish’s ratified constitution and by-laws in conducting
24 any visitation, investigation, or discipline of the Pastor, any member(s) of the congregation, or the
25 parish as a whole; and

26 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Synodical investigator(s) work within the Pastor’s Divine Call as
27 undershepherd of Christ, and the elected leadership structure of the congregation, its constitution and
28 by-laws.

29 (Submitted by Springfield West Circuit)
30

31 **OVERTURE 12-03-09**

32
33 **OVERTURE TO CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT CONVENTION, 2012**

34 **SUBJECT: To Set and Limit and Coordinate Terms of District Officials**

35
36 **WHEREAS:** Part of the objective of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod is to, “Strengthen congregations in
37 giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend
38 that Gospel witness into all the world;” (LC-MS Handbook – Article III, 3) and

39 **WHEREAS:** The synod has also been sub-divided into districts and circuits, which serve to provide the member
40 congregations of the synod with the resource materials and leadership necessary that they may carry out the
41 objectives of their church and church body; and

1 WHEREAS: Most members of district boards and commissions and leadership roles (circuit counselors, district
2 Vice-Presidents, etc.) are limited in the number of terms that may be served; and
3 WHEREAS: Only one position does not follow the practice in limiting the number of terms; and
4 WHEREAS: The servant nature of the positions of leadership in our Lord’s church would call for those who do
5 serve to neither aspire nor expect such service to be “in perpetuity;” and
6 WHEREAS: Occasional new leadership in each position helps ensure that the Central Illinois district of the
7 LCMS will continue to “make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities,
8 and the world;” (LCMS mission statement) and
9 WHEREAS: The current incumbent(s) of said positions need to know exactly where they will stand in regards to
10 such a resolution should it be passed; and
11 WHEREAS: The current limits set for Vice-Presidents have made for some transitions which have not always
12 achieved the purpose they were set forth for; and
13 WHEREAS: It might be prudent for the district praesidium to have one set of terms applied both equally and
14 covering the same periods of time;
15
16 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Central Illinois District, gathered in convention, declare once again that
17 we are “servants of Christ” (I Corinthians 4:1; Ephesians 6:6), seeking to do His will; and be it further
18 RESOLVED: That the Central Illinois District limit the district praesidium (district president and vice–presidents)
19 of the district to three terms, which is nine years total; and be it further
20 RESOLVED: That the Central Illinois District make such term limitations effective as of the beginning of the
21 time of service for all officers following the next district convention (2015); and be it finally
22 RESOLVED: That the Central Illinois District, gathered in convention, give thanks to God for all the people who
23 have faithfully served in all the various district offices through the years for their faithful service in keeping our
24 district faithful to the Word of God and the confessions.

25
26 (Submitted by Tazewell Circuit)

27
28 **OVERTURE 12-03-10**

29
30 To Amend Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 Concerning the Commission on Constitutional Matters

31 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod submit the
32 following overture to the 2013 convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

33 WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 in the 2010 Handbook of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod states:

34 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall examine the articles of incorporation, bylaws, and
35 policy manuals of every agency of the Synod to ascertain whether they are in harmony with the
36 Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.

37 (a) Agencies intending to make amendments to articles of incorporation or bylaws shall
38 make such intentions known and receive approval from the commission in advance.

39 (b) The commission shall maintain a file of the articles of incorporation bylaws, and policy
40 manuals of all agencies of the Synod.

41 and

1 WHEREAS during the past year, the Central Illinois District Executive Assistant for Congregational Life
2 and Stewardship, Rev. Wes Reimnitz, accepted a call to serve in a congregation, and
3 WHEREAS the Board of Directors of the Central Illinois District opted to not fill that position on a trial
4 basis to determine whether it was necessary to have a third executive assistant position and to
5 receive input and guidance from the District Convention, and
6 WHEREAS some functions under Congregational Life (e.g. lay-leadership training, worship workshops)
7 have had to be given lower priority due to more pressing matters facing the remaining
8 executives and the District President, and
9 WHEREAS the remaining executives and the District President may have the ability to squeeze the
10 additional work into their schedules, but such increased workloads are neither optimal nor
11 efficient, thus decreasing services to the congregations of the Central Illinois District, and
12 WHEREAS the Central Illinois District budgeted expenses have exceeded actual income for the past
13 several years,
14 Therefore be it
15 RESOLVED that we, the Congregational Life Committee of the Central Illinois District, request that the
16 Board of Directors of CID begin the process of calling a third executive assistant (either full or
17 part time) to help serve the needs of the congregations of the CID, and be it further
18 RESOLVED that we request each congregation of the Central Illinois District prayerfully consider
19 increasing their contribution to the District by at least \$2 per communicant member to assist in
20 providing these services to the congregations of the district, and be it further
21 RESOLVED that we memorialize the Central Illinois District Convention to adopt the above resolution.
22
23 (Submitted by Congregational Life Commission)
24