

1 WHEREAS, The two seminaries are now implementing the Specific Ministry Pastor
2 (SMP) Program mandated by the 2007 Synodical Convention; and
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4 WHEREAS, The 2007 “Resolution 5-02 Task Force” reported in the 2010 Convention
5 Workbook concerning situations currently served by licensed lay deacons, but after much debate
6 2010 Resolution 5-03A “To Address Lay Deacons” was referred back to committee and not
7 brought back for action; therefore be it
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9 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District in convention express its regret at the current
10 situation in the Synod at large concerning men who are conducting Word and Sacrament
11 ministry without being publicly called to, and placed in, the office of the ministry; and be it
12 further
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14 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District in convention memorialize the Synod in
15 convention to direct the Council of Presidents to develop a plan and lay out procedures:
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17 A) So that all men who are currently engaged in Word and Sacrament ministry without
18 being publicly called to, and placed in, the office of the ministry may either be enrolled in
19 the SMP program or cease from all forms of Word and Sacrament ministry by the end of
20 2019, and

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

25 C) So that the Council of Presidents can report on this plan to the 2016 Synod in
26 Convention for approval, emendation, and adoption;
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28 and be it finally
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30 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District in convention memorialize the Synod to make
31 necessary changes in the SMP program in order to assure that the men enrolled in the SMP
32 program be called “deacons” rather than pastors, and that they not be ordained or called as
33 pastors until they complete the full SMP program.
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35 **R-12-01-02**

36 **To Affirm the God-given Form of Marriage**

37 Re: Southern Illinois District 2012 Resolution 2-07
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40 WHEREAS, God instituted marriage as the union of a man and a woman for the
41 procreation of children and mutual help, companionship, and support, as stated in Genesis 1:26-
42 28 (ESV):

43 God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have
44 dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock
45 and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God
46 created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he

1 created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply
2 and fill the earth and subdue it.”
3

4 and Genesis 2:18 & 21-25 (ESV):

5 The LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a
6 helper fit for him.” ... So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and
7 while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the
8 LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.
9 Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be
10 called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Therefore a man shall leave his
11 father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the
12 man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.” and
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14 WHEREAS, the Lord Jesus and His apostle St. Paul re-affirmed God’s original intent for
15 marriage, as stated in Matthew 19:4-6 & 9 (ESV, see also Mark 10:6-12):

16 “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and
17 female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to
18 his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh.
19 What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” ... “And I say to you:
20 whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits
21 adultery.”
22

23 and Ephesians 5:28-33(ESV):

24 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his
25 wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it,
26 just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “Therefore a man
27 shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one
28 flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.
29 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she
30 respects her husband; and
31

32 WHEREAS, The God-given way to procreate children is through the natural, sexual
33 union of a husband and his wife, making the husband the resultant child’s father and the wife the
34 child’s mother; and
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36 WHEREAS, God prohibits all sexual intercourse outside of the marriage of a husband
37 and his own wife (1 Cor. 6:9f; 1 Tim. 1:9-10), with His prohibitions including: adultery with
38 another person’s spouse (Ex. 20:14; Lev. 20:10; Deut. 22:22-23; 1 Cor. 6:9f), incest (Lev. 20:11-
39 12, 14, 17, 19-21), homosexual activity (Lev. 20:13; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9f; 1 Tim. 1:9-10),
40 bestiality (Lev. 20:15-16), and prostitution (Lev. 19:29; Deut. 23:17), prescribing the death
41 penalty for many of these offenses (Lev. 20:10-16, see also Rom. 1:32), also prescribing that if
42 an unmarried man and woman have intercourse, they be compelled to marry (Deut. 22:28-29);
43 and
44

1 WHEREAS, God has written the natural, moral law on every human heart (Romans 2)
2 and expects every nation on earth to respect that natural law and will punish nations that
3 disregard his natural law (see Nineveh in the book of Jonah); and
4

5 WHEREAS, In A.D. 2011 the Illinois State Senate enacted “the Illinois Religious
6 Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act” which is intended to “provide persons entering into a
7 civil union with the obligations, responsibilities, protections, and benefits afforded or recognized
8 by the law of Illinois to spouses” (Section 5), defining “Civil union” as “a legal relationship
9 between 2 persons, of either the same or opposite sex” (Section 10); and
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11 WHEREAS, homosexual behavior and desire is contrary to God's natural, moral law
12 (Romans 1); and
13

14 WHEREAS, No homosexual couple can, by God's design, conceive and bear children;
15 and
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17 WHEREAS, “the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act” also states:
18 “Nothing in this Act shall interfere with or regulate the religious practice of any religious body.”
19 (Section 15); and
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21 WHEREAS, The passing of this Act led the Illinois State government to cancel its long-
22 standing partnership with Catholic Charities for the placement of children in foster care, in
23 violation of the freedom of religion of Roman Catholics and others who believe what the Bible
24 says in this regard, since Catholic Charities (in obedience to God) refused to certify homosexual
25 and non-married heterosexual couples to be adoptive parents; and
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27 WHEREAS, In response to the same Act insurance companies have been forced to insure
28 people in “civil unions” in the same way as properly married couples, without allowing policy
29 holders to opt out or to have any say in this matter; and
30

31 WHEREAS, “the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act” “calls evil
32 good,” by honoring actions which God condemns in the natural, moral law, and the State’s action
33 against Catholic Charities violates their religious freedom and “calls good evil,” so that God’s
34 condemnation applies to the Illinois lawmakers who support these actions: “Woe to those who
35 call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness” (Isaiah 5:20 ESV)
36 and: “You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, ‘How have we wearied him?’
37 By saying, ‘Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them.’
38 Or by asking, ‘Where is the God of justice?’” (Malachi 2:17 ESV); therefore be it
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40 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
41 affirm all that God’s Word says about marriage, sexual activity, and child rearing; and be it
42 further
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44 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
45 hereby call the people, legislature, and governor of Illinois to repentance in this regard and
46 solemnly warn them of the judgment of God; and be it further

1 WHEREAS, The current mission and ministry emphasis of *Witness, Mercy, Life Together* holds
2 much potential for further growth and implementation throughout the Synod; therefore be it
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4 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District submit the mission and ministry emphasis of *Witness,*
5 *Mercy, Life Together* for consideration as the continued mission and ministry emphasis for the Lutheran
6 Church—Missouri Synod for the 2013-2016 Triennium.
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8 **R-12-01-04**

9 **To Adopt Portions of the CID Handbook**

10 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod adopted changes to its bylaws at the
11 2010 Convention, which is cause for the Central Illinois District to change its Handbook; and
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13 WHEREAS, The Central Illinois District Board of Directors appointed an ad hoc
14 committee to make changes to our Handbook and has submitted these to the Synod CCM;
15 therefore be it
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17 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District adopt the following portion of our Handbook
18 as it has been revised.
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20 **III. CIRCUIT OFFICIALS**

21 **A. THE CIRCUIT COUNSELORS**

22 **3.01 Circuit Counselors and District President**

- 23
- 24 a. Each Circuit Counselor, by virtue of his office, shall assist the District President within the Circuit.
 - 25 b. The Circuit Counselor shall regularly report on his activities to the District President.
 - 26 c. The Circuit Counselor is the principal officer of the Circuit and serves in accordance with the duties
27 assigned to this position in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and District- (Synodical *Bylaw*
28 5.2.1).
29

30 **3.02 Circuit Counselors and Member Congregations**

- 31
- 32 a. The Circuit Counselor shall, when requested to do so by the District President, serve as his
33 representative to visit each congregation once in three years and otherwise as he deems it necessary-
34 (Synodical *Bylaw* 5.2.3.1).
35
 - 36 b. The purpose of the official visits with pastors, congregations, and schools shall be those described in the
37 Synodical *Handbook* (Synodical *Bylaws* 5.2.3.1 and 5.2.3.2).
38
 - 39 c. The Circuit Counselor may be assisted by an Administrative Assistant to the President in the visitation
40 to Lutheran Schools, where the District has made such a provision.
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42 **3.03 Expenses of Circuit Counselors**

43 The Circuit Counselor is authorized to draw on the District treasury for his expenses.
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45 **3.04 Circuit Forum**

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- a. **Representation:** Each congregation shall be represented at the Circuit Forum at least by its pastor and one member designated by the congregation, ~~although each~~ **Depending on its adopted objectives, the** Circuit may request additional representation ~~depending on its adopted objectives~~. The Circuit Forum ~~will~~ **is encouraged to** meet at least twice a year- (Synodical **Bylaw 5.3.21**).
 - b. **Purpose:** The Circuit Forum is the group which aids the process of keeping congregations, particularly the lay leaders, ~~teachers, and~~ **pastors, and other church workers** supportive of one another in their common confession and mutually active in developing programs for the good of member congregations, in considering and recommending new work, and in suggesting improvements for **services and programming at the national and** District and Synodical programming levels. The Circuit Counselor with any other Circuit Officers, shall have the primary responsibility of preparing the agenda for the Circuit Forum.
 - c. **Functions:** Among the functions which the Circuit Forum may perform are the following: (**Synodical Bylaw 5.3.1**)
 - i. **To study the Scriptures and the Confessions in order to promote an evangelical spirit in our walking together.**
 - ii. To develop and adopt within existing policies of the District complementary and sometimes joint plans for missions outreach in the Circuit area;
 - iii. To devise and develop programs and services relevant to the needs of Circuit congregations, lay leaders, teachers, and pastors;
 - iv. To receive and respond as appropriate to advice, guidance, resolutions, and programs in other sections of the Synod as such may be addressed to it from other Circuits, the District, and the general Synod;
 - v. To serve as a setting to review and evaluate programs, plans and long-range directions of the District and Synod, **and thus participate in the triennial process of suggesting, developing, and attaining the Synod's priorities and goals.**
 - d. **Election of Synodical Convention Delegates:** The Circuit Forum triennially shall elect the pastoral and lay delegate and their alternates, to the general convention of the Synod according to the regulations of the Synod (**Synodical Bylaws 3.1.2 and 3.1.2.1**). The lay delegate shall, upon his election, **serve through the triennium following the next convention** ~~a term of three years~~ as an advisory member of the Circuit Forum- (Synodical **Bylaw 5.3.3**).
 - e. **Overtures:** The Circuit Forum shall be qualified to submit overtures to ~~the Synodical~~ **national** and District conventions- (Synodical **Bylaw 5.3.45**).

3.05 Circuit Convocations

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- a. The Circuit Convocation is a larger gathering of members from Circuit congregations during a year in which there is no **Synodical national** or District convention. The Circuit Counselor, with any other Circuit officers, shall have the primary responsibility of preparing for the Circuit Convocation.
 - b. The purpose of ~~the a~~ **a** Circuit Convocation is to provide a setting in which congregational members may know of and celebrate the ministry pursued by each congregation, may review and discuss the work of the Circuit Forum, **may discuss and evaluate mission potential within the circuit,** and may receive information on various phases of the work pursued through Districts and Synod. As such, its emphasis should be on inspiration, education, ~~and~~ motivation, **and mission and theological discourse-** (Synodical **Bylaw 5.4.2**).

B. THE CIRCUIT LAY-DELEGATES

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2 **3.06 Office**
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4 The lay delegates elected by the Circuit Forum shall be the Circuit Lay-Delegates.
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6 **3.07 Duties of the Circuit Lay-Delegates**
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- 8 a. The Circuit Lay-Delegate shall attend all meetings of his circuit, the Budget Advisory Conference,
9 and such other meetings requiring his presence as may be called by the Board of Directors. He shall serve
10 as an advisory member of the Circuit Forum.
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12 ~~b. He shall, if possible, accompany the Circuit Counselor on all regular official visits to the various~~
13 ~~congregations.~~
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15 ~~b.~~ On special visits to the congregations he may accompany the Circuit Counselor.
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17 ~~d.~~ He shall assist the Circuit Counselor in reporting on the work of the Synod and of the District on his
18 visits to the congregations.
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20 ~~e.~~ ~~d.~~ He shall endeavor to acquaint himself with the affairs of the Synod and of the District by every means
21 available.
22
23 ~~f.~~ ~~e.~~ He shall support the Circuit Counselor in encouraging the congregations in the fuller use of the
24 educational agencies available.
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26 ~~g.~~ ~~f.~~ He shall interest himself especially in the financial contributions of the congregations for home, district,
27 and Synodical purposes.
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30 **IV. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

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32 **4.01 Disputes** defined in **Bylaw** Article 1.10 of the Synodical **Handbook** shall be resolved by the procedure set forth
33 therein.
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36 **V. EVANGELISM**

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38 **THE COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM SERVICES**
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40 **5.01 Duties**
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- 42 a. The Commission on Evangelism Services shall co-operate with Synod's Board for **Office of Evangelism**
43 **National Mission** to develop policies and provide programs of **E**vangeli**s**m for use by individuals,
44 congregations, circuits, and the District. In keeping with the Synod's Board for **Office of Evangelism**
45 **Services National Mission**, the policies and programs provided will include inreach, outreach, and
46 assimilation/retention.
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48 b. It shall have the responsibility to make the work of **E**vangeli**s**m the chief goal of our church.
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50 c. It shall strive to cultivate in members a greater mission consciousness and evangelistic concern.
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52 d. It shall arrange leadership training workshops and conferences in evangelism.
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54 e. It shall recommend and distribute evangelism materials.
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56 f. It is encouraged to avail itself of the assistance and experiences of additional pastors, teachers, and
57 laymen in the District.
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- 1 g. The Commission on Evangelism Services may delegate much of the actual work to an Evangelism
2 Field Man representative (district Bylaw 2.31 e.).
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4 **5.02 Subcommittees**

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6 The Commission, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may appoint committees to assist in the
7 various areas of activity.
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10 **VII. EDUCATION SERVICES**

11 **THE COMMISSION ON EDUCATION SERVICES**

12 **7.01 Duties**

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14 The Commission on Education Services shall cooperate with the Synod's Board Office of Parish Services
15 National Mission and shall assist and advise the local congregations with regard to the whole range of
16 Christian education, Full Time Parochial Education and Continuing Education for Full and Part-
17 Time Church Workers. The Commission shall help the Local congregation achieve the objectives and
18 scope of Christian education as outlined:
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- 22 a. Aid those congregations which have Full Time Schools, e.g., preschools, elementary or high schools.
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24 b. Aid congregations by assisting in providing for Continuing Education for full and part-time church
25 workers.
26
27 ~~c. Provide resources for evaluating and disseminating educational material and provide some materials in~~
28 ~~the District Library.~~
29
30 cd. Provide personnel services and resources for calling competent teaching staffs for the schools of the
31 District.
32
33 ed. Work toward an improved quality of Christian education through in-service training programs for
34 pastors, teachers, and DCEs; through analysis and interpretation of statistics gathered on the educational
35 functions of our congregations; and by visiting congregations and Lutheran elementary and secondary
36 schools.
37
38 fe. Encourage and promote congregation members to become Lay or Professional church workers.
39
40 gf. Provide a liaison with the Synodical Board of Parish Services education experts.
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42 **7.02 Subcommittees**

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44 The Commission, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may appoint committees to assist in furthering
45 its work, e.g., in the areas of Lutheran preschools, elementary and secondary schools; and continuing
46 education for full and part-time church workers.
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49 **XI. COMMUNICATION SERVICES**

50 **11.01 The Communications Committee**

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52 a. Membership: The Communications Committee, appointed by the Board of Directors, shall consist of at
53 least five members: one clergyman pastor, one teacher, one layman, one member-at-large who may be
54 acquainted with TV, radio, electronic and/or newspaper print media, and one editor. The editor shall be
55 appointed for a three-year term. The chairman of the committee shall be appointed by the Board of
56 Directors.
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2 b. Area Representatives: The Communications Committee shall select one representative, a layman if
3 possible, from each circuit to assist the committee in the publicity work in that circuit. Additional area
4 representatives may be selected as the committee deems necessary.
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6 **11.02 Duties**
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- 8 a. The Communications Committee shall be responsible for all aspects of communication of ~~viable~~ District
9 happenings.
10
11 b. The editor shall be responsible for the official District news publication.
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13 c. The Communications Committee shall handle the publicity of all events of District-wide importance,
14 such as the District convention, conferences, special rallies, and the like. The committee shall be
15 responsible for the publishing of a daily summary of business and events of the District convention.
16
17 d. The committee shall serve as a clearing house for all publicity in the District. To this end, all pastors shall
18 be encouraged to keep this committee informed on what is being done in their locality in this respect, and
19 pastors should feel free to call upon this committee for counsel in promoting local publicity. Likewise,
20 the Board of Directors, the officers and staff, and all commissions and committees of the District shall
21 ~~immediately~~ **in a timely manner** notify the Communications Committee of all newsworthy items.
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23 e. The committee may issue a digest of District news, releases from Synod's Board for Communication
24 Services, and such other publicity materials that are being produced for the purpose of bringing our
25 church to the attention of the public. This shall be sent to all pastors, professors, and teachers of the
26 District.
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28 f. The committee shall promptly answer attacks or unfavorable comments made by the press, radio, or
29 television concerning the church; when feasible this shall be done after consultation with the appropriate
30 District officials.
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32 g. The committee shall promote articles and broadcasts that will publicize the position of the District or the
33 Synod on matters currently controversial or directly affecting **g** the attitude of many of our own people.
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35 h. The committee shall cooperate with the **B**oard of **C**ommunication **S**ervices of Synod and of
36 neighboring **D**istricts by furnishing the **m**se **b**oards with District news for possible nation-wide
37 distribution and by supplying such other information and reports as may be found advisable.
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39 i. The committee shall send to the District Archivist for possible inclusion in the archives such material,
40 photographs, and the like which it deems no longer necessary to retain in its own files.
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