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R 12-02-03

To Promote Biblical Stewardship and Resources Throughout the CID

Re: Overture 12-02-03

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

WHEREAS, Our management of His creation is a joyful response to God’s gift of Jesus Christ to the world; and

WHEREAS, This important stewardship receives prominent attention throughout the Holy Scriptures as being a significant part of new life in Christ; and

WHEREAS, Stewardship requires proper motivation and intentional training for every generation; and

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

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

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

Resolved, That a renewed interest in Bible-based, Gospel-motivated stewardship education for individuals of all ages be given priority attention throughout our district; and be it further

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

Resolved, That we encourage and educate our members in Biblical stewardship through resources available to every CID congregation; and be it finally

Resolved, That we encourage our members to give of their time, talents and treasures as the Lord has blessed and enabled them to their congregation, to the CID, and to the Synod.

R 12-02-04

To Adopt Campus Ministry as a Mission & Ministry Emphasis

Re: Overture 12-02-02

1 WHEREAS, The Synod in Convention in 2010 encouraged congregations, circuits, and
2 Districts to submit Mission & Ministry Emphasis; and

3
4 WHEREAS, The number of students continues to grow at colleges and universities; and
5 WHEREAS, Our college students are exposed to greater challenges to their faith in an
6 increasing secular campus setting; and

7
8 WHEREAS, Colleges and universities remain fields ripe for harvest; therefore be it

9
10 *Resolved*, That the Synod adopt Campus Ministry as one of its Mission and Ministry Emphases
11 for the next triennium.

12
13
14 **R 12-02-05**

15
16 **To Amend District Bylaws VIII & X**

17
18 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District bylaws VIII & X be amended as follows:

19
20 **VIII. MISSIONS**

21
22 **THE COMMISSION ON MISSION SERVICES**

23
24 **8.01 Duties**

- 25
26 a. The function of the Commission on Mission Services shall ~~express the functions outlined for the Synodical~~
27 ~~Board for Missions. (3.8.8)~~ be to “strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word
28 and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all
29 the world” (Synodical Constitution III 2).
30
31 b. The Commission on Mission Services shall direct its attention to the entire mission work of the District (home
32 missions, institutional mission, campus ministry, etc.) and shall promote the cause of mission work in general. It
33 shall explore ~~new~~ territories in the District with ~~the a~~ view of ~~to~~ establishing mission stations and congregations.
34 It shall recommend to the Board of Directors the calling of missionaries to new fields, if conditions warrant it,
35 and the filling of vacancies occurring in the parishes which are not yet organized, and ~~it~~ shall supervise the work
36 of the missionaries and pastors of subsidized congregations. Much of the actual work of exploring new fields,
37 visiting and encouraging mission congregations, etc., may be delegated to ~~the a~~ field representative for this
38 commission.
39
40 c. Salaries: The Commission on Mission Services shall submit to the District Board of Directors ~~shall~~
41 recommendations to set and adequately update the scale of salaries, equipment allowance, and mileage
42 payments ~~of~~ for the missionaries and other mission church workers of the District.
43
44 d. Report to the convention: In presenting its report to the District, the Commission on Mission Services shall list
45 the membership statistics of the subsidized congregations and parishes, losses and gains, funds raised by the ~~se~~
46 congregations ~~for the purposes~~ work at home and at large, indebtedness, amount of subsidy received, the year
47 when subsidies were begun, as well as other data, which will give the convention a comprehensive picture of ~~its~~
48 their respective missions.
49
50 e. Synodical Membership: The Commission on Mission Services shall urge every newly-organized congregation to
51 become a member of the Synod as soon as possible. A copy of the tentative draft of the constitution and bylaws
52 of a congregation about to organize shall be submitted to the Congregational Constitutions and District
53 Handbook Committee for review and appropriate action.

- 1 f. Educational Agencies: The Commission on Mission Services shall urge all congregations under its care to
 2 maintain adequate educational agencies for all age levels.
 3
- 4 g. Conferences: The Commission on Mission Services shall conduct conferences and workshops in the interest of
 5 missions as needed and when appropriate.
 6
- 7 h. Expansion: The Commission on Mission **Services** shall offer support and assistance to congregations and pastors
 8 interested in beginning mission stations or establishing daughter churches.
 9
- 10 i. Instructions to Subsidized congregations: The Commission on Mission Services shall notify the congregations
 11 under its care of the following duties and regulations governing them:
 12
- 13 1. Application for Subsidy: All applications for subsidy shall be made in writing by congregation resolution,
 14 where this is possible, to the Commission on Mission Services. At a station where there is no organized
 15 congregation as yet, the Commission shall estimate the amount of subsidy needed and recommend the
 16 same to the Board of Directors. Every subsidized congregation shall make an earnest effort to reduce its
 17 request for subsidy, so that it may become self-supporting as soon as possible.
 18
- 19 2. Regular Reports: Subsidized congregations and their pastors shall be held to make regular reports, and
 20 such other special reports as the Commission may deem necessary, to the Commission on Mission
 21 Services. This is to be done promptly on forms provided for this purpose and as required by the
 22 Commission. The regularity of these reports conditions the regularity of the subsidies.
 23
- 24 3. Calling of Pastors: Vacant subsidized congregations shall seek the counsel of the District President and of
 25 the Commission on Mission Services when calling a new pastor. They should request the advice and
 26 presence of the District President or the **Field Representative** for the Commission on Mission Services
 27 at the meetings when calls are extended, or when considering calls which their pastors have received. If a
 28 congregation acts contrary to such advice without valid reason, subsidy may be withheld. When a pastor
 29 of a subsidized congregation has received a call, he shall immediately inform the Commission on Mission
 30 Services and the District President and seek their advice.
 31
- 32 4. Repairs, Improvements, and Investments: Subsidized congregations intending to incur larger expenses not
 33 included in their annual budget shall first obtain the advice and approval of the Commission on Mission
 34 Services and/or the Board of Directors.
 35
- 36 5. Welfare and Retirement Plans: All subsidized congregations and their pastors and teachers shall be
 37 required to join Synod's Concordia Retirement, **Disability and Survivor**, and **Welfare Health** Plans.
 38 Premiums are to be included in the congregation's budget.
 39

40 8.02 Subcommittees

41 The Commission, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may appoint committees to explore each area of its
 42 concerns, e.g., small, rural, dual parish ministry, campus ministry, institutional ministry, town and country, social
 43 ministry, and world relief.
 44

47 X. STEWARDSHIP

49 THE COMMISSION ON STEWARDSHIP SERVICES

51 Theological Principle: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living
 52 sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1 NKJV)
 53

54 Christian stewardship is managing all God's resources which have been entrusted to us in such a way as to
 55 accomplish God's purpose with them. It is the recognition and the fulfillment of personal privilege and responsibility
 56 for the managing of the whole life in accordance with the will of God.
 57

1 **10.01 Objectives**

2
3 Christian stewardship is an attitude which sees all of one’s life as a sacred trust to be used in the Master’s business.
4 Therefore, objectives of the Commission on Stewardship Services are as follows:

- 5
6 a. To help the people of God understand that stewardship originates and centers in His actions and therefore
7 stewardship centers on the cross and our total response to Christ.
8
9 b. To help the people of God to be motivated, to make personal commitments regarding the use of their time,
10 talents, and resources in every part of their life **in order** to fulfill God’s purpose for their existence on earth.
11
12 c. To help the people of God to understand how they, **through** cooperative action with their fellow believers,
13 can carry out the Great Commission of the Church.
14
15 d. To help the people of God, comprehend why He blesses them with material resources and the ways in
16 which these blessings might be shared with others.
17

18 **10.02 Functions**

19 The functions of the Commission on Stewardship will be:

- 20
21 a. Equip the leaders, the pastors, and the members of the congregations of the Central Illinois District in the
22 principles and practices of the total stewardship life on a year-round basis.
23
24 b. Guide the leaders, the pastors and the members of the congregations of the Central Illinois District to a
25 greater appreciation of the privileges and responsibilities of ~~the~~ Church **M**embership.
26
27 c. Offer training and develop skills of the leaders, pastors, and members of the congregations of the Central
28 Illinois District for more effective stewardship ministry.
29
30 d. Provide encouragement and challenge to professional church workers as they serve as examples of
31 committed stewards of God.
32
33 e. Promote the recruitment of professional church workers.
34
35 f. Assist the leaders, the pastors, and **the** members of the Central Illinois District as they continue to grow in
36 their attitudes and skills in the area of stewardship through Bible study, workshops, seminars, conferences,
37 etc.
38
39 g. Assist the leaders, the pastors, and the members of the congregations of the Central Illinois District to **gain a**
40 greater understanding and appreciation of their worldwide mission and ministry for Christ through the
41 Synod, and thereby grow in its support.
42
43 h. Assist **the** leaders, the pastors, and the members of the congregations of the Central Illinois District to grow
44 in the grace of Christian sacrificial giving.
45
46 i. Provide counsel and materials for the congregations as they endeavor to enlist their **members’** time, talents
47 and treasures for Kingdom service in and through the congregation.
48
49 j. Study and evaluate contemporary trends in Christian **S**tewardship and share these studies with pastors and
50 leaders of the congregations of the Central Illinois District.
51
52 k. Plan and prepare stewardship programs which will offer helpful suggestions to pastors and elders of the
53 congregations of the Central Illinois District.
54
55 l. Counsel with circuits and congregations of the Central Illinois District in the use of stewardship programs
56 and materials.
57
58 m. Cooperate with those district departments which offer specific programs and services for the purpose of
59 coordinating these programs and services into an overall program.
60

1 **10.03 Duties**

2
3 It will be the duty of each member of the Commission on Stewardship Services to:

- 4
5 a. Faithfully attend the Commission on Stewardship Services meetings.
6
7 b. Participate in the discussion and decision-making process of the commission.
8
9 c. Accept special assignments from time to time that may be required to carry out the commission's functions
10 more effectively.
11
12 d. Represent the Commission on Stewardship Services in a positive manner and to set an example of the spirit
13 of total Christian stewardship in his/her life and attitudes.
14
15 e. Pray that the Lord of the Church will bless the stewardship efforts of His stewards.
16

17 **10.04 Student Aid**

18
19 The Commission on Stewardship with the approval of the Board of Directors shall appoint a Committee on Student
20 Aid which shall receive all applications for financial assistance from students preparing for service in the church and
21 shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors through the Commission on Stewardship. ~~In the fall of e~~ Each
22 year, the Committee shall give adequate publicity to the Student Aid Funds in the ~~an~~ official District news
23 publication. The committee shall be guided by the following provisions:
24

- 25 a. Eligibility: Communicant members of a congregation of The Lutheran Church, ~~Missouri Synod in the~~
26 Central Illinois District who are students or prospective students enrolled at ~~Synodical schools or at~~
27 Valparaiso University ~~colleges, universities, or seminaries~~, with the intent of preparing themselves for full-
28 time work in the church ~~and who are in need of financial assistance~~, are eligible.
29
30 b. Applications: Application forms, ~~secured from the Committee, shall be filed in triplicate with the chairman~~
31 ~~of the Committee at least three months prior to the beginning of the school year. The action of the Board of~~
32 ~~Directors shall be recorded on the application forms, the original to be kept on file by the Committee, one~~
33 ~~copy to be returned to the applicant, and the other forwarded to the respective institution~~ ~~are to be obtained~~
34 ~~from the school in which the student is enrolled. The forms are to be sent to the school, not to the Central~~
35 ~~Illinois District office; the colleges, universities, or seminaries will forward the forms to the District by June~~
36 ~~15.~~
37
38 ~~The application shall be signed by the applicant's pastor or the Circuit Counselor. The transcript of the~~
39 ~~applicant's most recent grades and a testimonial letter from the applicant's pastor shall accompany the~~
40 ~~application.~~
41
42 ~~If the applicant already has been in attendance at one of our church-related schools, the application shall be~~
43 ~~accompanied by a recommendation of the faculty of said school.~~
44
45 ~~Upon request of the Committee the applicant shall complete the parents' confidential statement of the~~
46 ~~College Scholarship Service.~~
47
48 c. Nature of Support: All financial assistance shall be in the form of student grants. The amount of each grant
49 shall be ratified by the Board of Directors. Financial assistance shall be determined on the basis of need
50 determined by the accepted practice of the respective school. Grants shall be made only on an annual basis.
51 If support is needed and desired for more than one year, an application shall be submitted prior to each new
52 school year. Grants to students shall be sent only to the person in charge of such funds at the respective
53 institution ~~school~~.
54
55 d. District Aid: Student grants shall be made available primarily to students who have completed high school
56 and are enrolled in colleges and seminaries for ~~undergraduate studies~~ ~~leading to synodical certification~~.
57 ~~Grants in aid will be made first from the Clara and Spencer Werner Foundation Fund; additional grants may~~
58 ~~be made directly from District Funds, when money from the Werner Foundation is not available.~~
59

1 e. ~~Werner Foundation Fund: Grants in aid from the Clara and Spencer Werner Foundation Fund shall be~~
2 ~~limited to the college and seminary undergraduate level and shall be made on the basis of need, academic~~
3 ~~ability, and personality traits. The recipient shall ordinarily be required to maintain at least a “C” average. A~~
4 ~~periodic report of the administration of this fund shall be made to the Board of Directors of the Clara and~~
5 ~~Spencer Werner Foundation, Paris, Illinois.~~

6
7 **f.** In the event a student who has received a student grant determines not to pursue studies leading to
8 professional church service, it is understood that the recipient has a moral obligation to repay the grant.
9

10 **10.05 Subcommittees**

11 The Commission, with the ~~ratification~~ **approval** of the Board of Directors, may appoint committees to assist in ~~the~~ **its**
12 various areas of activity.
13