

2025
61st Regular Convention
Central Illinois District
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
PROCEEDINGS
(minutes)



Springfield, Illinois
Crowne Plaza Hotel and Convention Center
July 13-15, 2025

MINUTES

Central Illinois District Convention July 13-15, 2025

Sunday, July 13, 2025

Opening service for the Convention was held at 7:00pm at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Springfield on Sunday, July 13, 2025. Sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison.

Monday, July 14, 2025 – Session 1

Rev. President Mohr called the Convention to order at 8:00am at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. Vice President Mark Eddy, convention chaplain, led the convention in an opening devotion, based on 1 Peter 2:4-12.

Rev. Brian Johnston presented the report of the Registration and Credentials Committee: 85 pastoral and 93 lay voting delegates are registered (at this point). A quorum was declared present, and the Convention was declared open in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Moved, seconded, and approved by voice vote to ratify the agenda.

President Mohr placed before the convention the standing rules for adoption. The reading of the standing rules was suspended by voice vote. It was moved, seconded, and approved by voice vote to adopt the standing rules.

Parliamentarian Steve Parry was introduced. Steve currently serves as Principle of Zion-Lincoln.

Rev. Andrew Herzberg, chair of the Resolutions Committee, was called to the dais. As he made his way up, the list of congregations whose constitutions and/or bylaws were approved during the last four years was presented. (List on B-65-66 in the Convention Workbook) Moved and seconded to approve the congregations listed. Motion passed.

The Resolutions Committee was excused, and Synod Pres. Matthew Harrison was called to the dais to welcome workers new to the District during the past four years. Pres. Harrison encouraged them to make a bold confession for the Gospel.

Rev. Tim Nerud, Chairman of the Elections Committee, offered an orientation on the use of the voting devices.

District Secretary Umbarger presented the nominations for District President. The District Bylaws call for five nominees who must receive at least 5% of the nominations. Four candidates met those criteria, of which one declined nomination. Rev. Jason Braaten, Rev. Mark Eddy and Rev. Michael Mohr are the nominees who met all the criteria to appear on the ballot. The convention suspended the by-law requirement for five candidates by voice vote.

45 The Elections Committee announced that Rev. Mohr received **156** votes and was elected as the
46 President of the Central Illinois District. (Rev. Bratten received 14 votes Rev. Eddy received 13 votes).
47

48 Rev. Tim Nerud presented to the delegates the nomination procedures for Regional Vice
49 Presidents. Voting for both regions proceeded. Nominating ballots were collected to be tallied as the
50 Convention conducted other business.
51

52 A video was presented offering information on our Dollars for Missions program and the current project
53 it is serving, the replacement of insulation at Wittenburg student center.
54

55 President Mohr addressed the convention. His report can be found in the convention workbook B-8-11
56 & 67-68
57

58 Rev. Brady Finnerin, District president of Minnesota North, presented the first installment of his
59 Convention Essay: "This We Believe, This We Confess, This We Witness." (The full essay will be
60 available on the CID website following the convention.)
61

62 A video featuring the Lutheran Legacy Foundation was presented to speak to the benefits that it can offer
63 for the preservation and growth of resources for the support of the work of Lutheran ministries.
64

65 Rev. Tim Nerud reported on the results of the Regional Vice President nominating ballot.
66

67 Nominees selected for the Eastern Region were Reverends Jason Braaton, Michael Burdick & Michael
68 Schuermann. The results of the first ballot were Jason Braaton 41, Michael Burdick 71, Michael
69 Schuermann 35. The results of the second ballot were Jason Braaten 47, Michael Burdick **107**. Michael
70 Burdick was elected Vice President of the Eastern Region
71

72 Nominees selected for the Western Region were Reverends Daniel Bishop, Karl Eckhoff & Mark Eddy.
73 The results of the first ballot were Daniel Bishop 47, Karl Eckhoff 28, Mark Eddy 82. The results of
74 the second ballot were Daniel Bishop 63, Mark Eddy **102**. Mark Eddy was elected Vice President of the
75 Western Region.
76

77 Election was held for 1st Vice President. Michael Burdick **87**, Mark Eddy 83. Michael Burdick is elected
78 as 1st Vice President & Mark Eddy 2nd Vice President.
79

80 Nominees for the remaining elected offices were presented as found in the convention workbook C-4.
81 Nominations from the floor were requested. As no nominations from the floor were received,
82 nominations were closed, and the slate stands as presented.
83

84 Resolution 25-2-01A – To Launch a Funding Campaign for Mission Support in the Central Illinois
85 District was introduced by Rev. Michael Burdick with a video and presented it to the convention for
86 consideration.
87

88 An amendment to remove the final resolved "*That each delegate's affirmative vote indicates his/her*
89 *congregation's (or individuals' therein) intent to support this campaign.*" was moved and supported.
90 The amendment failed **46-131**.
91

The resolution passed. **101** to 80

Resolution 25-2-02 – To Suspend “A Dollar for Missions” in the Central Illinois District was presented by Rev. Bruce Scarberry to the convention for consideration.

After much discussion and an amendment. The chair called for the orders of the day, noting that the resolution would be addressed later.

The chair introduced Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of the Synod. He delivered his address and LCMS Report beginning with a video presentation.

Guests were welcomed

Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss, representing both seminaries, brought greetings and shared the unique blessing of our seminaries.

Christine Anderson, representing the CID-CEF, brought greetings and introduced the upcoming CID-CEF convention to follow lunch.

The Convention was paused for Lunch. When it reconvened at 2:00 P.M., it did so as the 7th Regular Convention of the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund.

The advisory delegates conducted a caucus at 1:30 P.M. to elect individuals to serve as advisory delegates and alternates to the 2026 Convention of the LCMS:

Monday, July 14, 2025 – Session 2

Pres. Mohr opened Session II with prayer

The elections Committee presented elections for the offices of Secretary, Asst. Secy, Treasurer & Financial Secretary

Secretary – Ordained
Assistant Secretary – Ordained
Treasurer – Layman
Financial Secretary – Layman

Justin Cullen elected by acclamation
Marcus Manley elected by acclamation
Joel Oschwald elected by acclamation
None elected

Board of Directors – Parish Pastors (4)

Timothy Fitzner	35
Ryan Meyer	25
Steve Sommerer	8
Kent Tibben	43
Aaron Uphoff	29
Kevin Wendorf	28

Board of Directors – Parish Pastors (4)

136	Timothy Fitzner	24
137	Ryan Meyer	25
138	Kent Tibben	49
139	Aaron Uphoff	39
140	Kevin Wendorf	38
141		
142	Board of Directors – Parish Pastors (4)	
143	Kent Tibben	89 Elected
144	Aaron Uphoff	45
145	Kevin Wendorf	40
146		
147	Board of Directors – Parish Pastors (4)	
148	Timothy Fitzner	34
149	Ryan Meyer	23
150	Steve Sommerer	16
151	Aaron Uphoff	56
152	Kevin Wendorf	50
153		
154	Board of Directors – Parish Pastors (4)	
155	Timothy Fitzner	30
156	Aaron Uphoff	85
157	Kevin Wendorf	63
158		
159	Board of Directors – Parish Pastors (4)	
160	Aaron Uphoff	109 Elected
161	Kevin Wendorf	71
162		
163	Board of Directors – Parish Pastors (4)	
164	Timothy Fitzner	39
165	Ryan Meyer	23
166	Steve Sommerer	15
167	Kevin Wendorf	103 Elected
168		
169	Board of Directors – Parish Pastors (4)	
170	Timothy Fitzner	73 Elected
171	Ryan Meyer	35
172	Steve Sommerer	21
173		
174	Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, Rev. Andrew Herzberg, introduced the committee: Rev.	
175	Matthew Berndt, Mr. Jerry Lindsey, Mr. John Casebeer, Mr. Larry Wooster, Mr. Jeff Shoumaker	
176		
177	R- 25-1-01 – <i>To Stimulate Training for Witness</i> was presented to the delegates for consideration. The	
178	resolution passed. 106-11	
179		

180 R-25-1-02 – *To Instigate Church Planting Consideration* was presented to the delegates for
181 consideration. The resolution passed by a voice vote.
182

183 R-25-1-03 – *To Encourage Witness and Outreach in Nursing Homes* was offered to the
184 Convention. The resolution passed by a voice vote.
185

186 R-25-1-04 - *To Clarify Policies Regarding Application and Renewal of RSO Status* was presented to the
187 convention for consideration as amended for grammatical errors. Moved and seconded to accept R-
188 2025-1-04. The resolution passed. **176 - 6**
189

190 R-25-1-05A – *To Amend and Update Selected Bylaws of the CID Handbook* was presented to
191 the Convention.
192

193 An amendment was proposed to D-70 line 31 “list of ~~the~~ up to five persons nominated” The
194 amendment was adopted.
195

196 A friendly amendment was made to change the nomenclature on D53 line 6 “~~Commission on
Constitutional Matters and District Handbook~~” to “*Congregational Constitutions & District Handbook
Committee*”
197

198 The Resolution, as amended, Passed. **173,-10**
199

200 Resolution 25-1-06 - *To Encourage Use of Beyond the Classroom (BTC)* was presented to
201 the Convention, with a friendly amendment on D38 line 16 “of the ~~kids~~ children who attend...” The
202 resolution passed by voice vote.
203

204 A video was presented on Beyond the Classroom.
205

206 Board of Directors – Commissioned (2)
207

Robinette Flach	39
Rebecca Heppe	30
Jordan Hopman	30
Steve Parry	62

212 Board of Directors – Commissioned (2)
213

Robinette Flach	59
Steve Parry	107 Elected

216 Board of Directors – Commissioned (2)
217

Robinette Flach	81
Rebecca Heppe	36
Jordan Hopman	50

221 Board of Directors – Commissioned (2)
222

Robinette Flach	112 Elected
Jordan Hopman	54

224	
225	Board of Directors – Laymen (4)
226	William Blessman Elected by acclamation
227	Kevin Block Elected by acclamation
228	Aaron Schroeder Elected by acclamation
229	
230	Congregational Constitutions & District Handbook
231	Ordained Ministers (at least 1 Parish Pastor) (2)
232	Stephen Mueller Elected by acclamation
233	James Stuenkel Elected by acclamation
234	Kent Tibben – asked to be removed from the ballot.
235	Lay – Attorney (1)
236	No candidate
237	
238	Nominations Committee for 2028 District Convention
239	Parish Pastors (2)
240	Jason Braaten 96 Elected
241	David Dunlop 40
242	Keith Kettner 39
243	
244	Parish Pastors (2)
245	David Dunlop 81
246	Keith Kettner 94 Elected
247	
248	Parish Teachers or DCEs (2)
249	Gayle Dietsch 45
250	Rebecca Heppe 84 Elected
251	Sandy Spitz 34
252	
253	Parish Teachers or DCEs (2)
254	Gayle Dietsch 93 Elected
255	Sandy Spitz 71
256	
257	Laymen (2)
258	Deloris Blessman 58
259	David Harshaw 39
260	Don James 28
261	Brandon West 49
262	
263	Laymen (2)
264	Deloris Blessman 75
265	David Harshaw 34
266	Brandon West 63
267	

268 Laymen (2)
269 **Deloris Blessman 96 Elected**
270 Brandon West 78

271
272 Laymen (2)
273 David Harshaw 38
274 Don James 27
275 **Brandon West 105 Elected**
276

277 Resolution to ratify the slate of Circuit Visitors. Ratified **166 - 13**

278 Altamont	Ryan Meyer	Mattoon	Daniel Ulrich
279 Bloomington North	Jonathan Boehne	Peoria	Karl Eckhoff
280 Bloomington South	Andrew Smith	Quincy	Matt Riley
281 Champaign	Michael Stoerger	Rock Island	Tim Nerud
282 Iroquois	H. Douglas Minton	Shelby	Nathan Woolery
283 Decatur	Brett Hinrichs	Springfield E.	Matt L. Schneider
284 Effingham	Steven Becker	Springfield W.	Martin Kaufmann
285 Jacksonville	Brian Lesemann	Tazewell	Greg Moyer
286 Lincoln	Matthew Berndt		

287 Rev. Nerud introduced the members of the Elections Committee: Berit Erickson, James Homann, Stanley
289 Joergens

290 President Harrison answered questions submitted by delegates.

291 Substitute Resolution for R-25-2-02

292 With direction from the chair, the body recognizes the previous accepted amendment of Resolution R-
293 25-2-02 – To Suspend “A Dollar for Missions” in the Central Illinois District “~~WHEREAS, A single~~
294 ~~course of action is desirable so focus is maintained; and WHEREAS,~~ The District has adopted a major
295 ~~funding campaign, therefore be it Resolved, DFM will be suspended in CID at the close of the~~
296 ~~convention; and be it finally~~ be considered as a substitute resolution.

297 An amendment was offered on line 5 “adopted major funding a campaign” The amendment was adopted
298 **122-51**

299 There was a motion to refer the resolution back to the committee. The resolution was returned to
300 committee by voice vote.

301 Resolution 25-2-04 - *To Annualize Congregational Assessments* was presented to
302 the Convention. The resolution passed. **135-32**

303 Resolution 25-2-05 - *To Commemorate the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicæa* was
304 presented to the Convention. The resolution passed by voice vote.

305 Resolution 25-2-06 - *To Commemorate the 125th Anniversary of Deaf Ministry in Central*
306 *Illinois* was presented to the Convention. The resolution passed by voice vote.

313 Rev. Brady Finnerin, District president of Minnesota North, presented the second installment of his
314 Convention Essay: "This We Believe, This We Confess, This We Witness." (The full essay will be
315 available on the CID website following the convention.)
316

317 Guests were welcomed.
318

319 Mark Bluhm brought greetings from Lutheran Legacy Foundation based in Paris, IL. Their mission is
320 to provide for the future of Lutheranism. Primary focus is upon the formation and growth of
321 endowments.
322

323 John Reinke interim district pastor to the deaf offered greetings and explained some of the unique
324 challenges for and vocabulary of the deaf.
325

326 Rev. Eddy led us in a closing prayer to end the session. The convention was adjourned for day.
327

328 The CID District Convention paused and began sitting as the 7th Regular Convention of the Central
329 Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc.
330

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

331 President Mohr called the morning session, Tuesday July 15, to order at 8:00 A.M..
332

333 Rev. Eddy opened with a memorial of departed church workers, singing "For All the Saints" and
334 offering a devotion on Matthew 25 & Luke 10 &15.
335

336 Resolution R-25-1-07 - *To Encourage Sabbaticals for Church Workers* was presented to
337 the Convention. The resolution passed by voice vote.
338

339 Resolution R-25-1-09 - *To Encourage Study of the Left-hand and Right-hand Modes of
340 Governance* was presented to the Convention. The resolution passed by voice vote.
341

342 Resolution R-25-1-10 *To Decline Overture 25-03* was presented to the Convention. The resolution
343 passed with a division of the house. **101-47**
344

345 Welcome to Guests
346

347 Cheryl Long, President of CID – LWML offered greetings to the convention. She spoke to the
348 work and support offered through LWML.
349

350 Jennie Asher, Director of Deaconess program at Concordia Seminary – St. Louis, greeted the
351 convention and spoke to the training and service of Deaconesses as a supportive office,
352 especially in acts of mercy and spiritual care.
353

354 A video was presented on Church work recruitment and formation.
355

356 Brady Finnerin, District president of Minnesota North, presented the third installment of his Convention
357 Essay: "This We Believe, This We Confess, This We Witness." (The full essay will be available on the
358 CID website following the convention.)
359

360 As COP representative for the Concordia University System, Rev. Finnerin reported on the state of our
361 universities.
362

363 Rev. Chad Kendall offered greetings and a report on the work at Concordia University – Chicago.
364

365 Scott Raddin brought greetings from LCMS Foundation. He offered information about LCMS
366 Foundation and its mission to care for and grow God's gifts.
367

368 Resolution 25-2-07 - *To Commemorate the Life and Ministry of Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn* was presented to
369 the Convention. The resolution passed by voice vote.
370

371 Resolution 25-2-08 - *To Encourage Church Planting* was presented to the Convention. The resolution
372 passed by voice vote.
373

374 Resolution 25-2-09 -*To Encourage Ministry In Prisons and County Jails* was presented to the
375 Convention. The resolution passed by voice vote.
376

377 Resolution 25-2-02B - *To Reaffirm "A Dollar For Missions" in the Central Illinois District* [See D-91]
378 was presented to the Convention as a substitute for Resolution 25-2-02. The resolution passed by voice
379 vote.
380

381 It was moved and seconded to ratify the election of advisory delegates to the LCMS Convention.
382 Those delegates are:
383

384 Ordained Minister Advisory: Mark Miller - Delegate Robert Bruer - Alternate
Commissioned Minister Advisory: Jeff Shoumaker, Sandy Spitz, Bryce Becker - Delegates
385 Robinette Flach, Steve Parry, Berit Ericson – Alternates
386

The advisory delegates and alternates were ratified by voice vote.
387

388 Another Dollar for Missions video was presented.
389

390 Final registration numbers from the Credentials Committee: 95 lay 92 delegates, pastoral delegates (187
391 total voting delegates), 17 advisory delegates, plus exhibitors, guests & staff.
392

393 A video was presented featuring the CID missions.
394

395 The nominations committee was introduced and gratitude was expressed. Serving on the committee were
396 Rev. Michael Schuermann, Chairman, Rev. Joshua Theilen, Mr. Eldon Garlisch, Mr. Ray Stuckemeyer,
397 Mr. Thomas Blessman, Mrs. Lisa Dippel, Mrs. Robinette Flach, Secretary
398

399 President Matthew Harrison installed Rev. Michael Mohr to the office of President of the Central
400 Illinois District.
400

401
402 Pres. Mohr installed Rev. Michael Burdick and Rev. Mark Eddy as vice-presidents of the CID, also
403 installed were the District's Circuit Visitors.

404
405 Pres. Mohr installed the newly elected officers and members of the CID Board of Directors, and other
406 elected committee members.

407
408 President Mohr introduced and installed Rev. Patrick Gumz as the Administrative Assistant to the
409 District President for Missions and Administration.

410
411 Rev. Eddy offered closing prayers

412
413 President Mohr offered the benediction and adjourned the convention.

414
415 Respectfully submitted,

416
417 In Christ's Service,
418 Rev. Kent A. Umbarger
419 Central Illinois District Secretary

420
421
422
423 **SUMMARY OF ELECTIONS:**

424 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
425 **2025-2028 "TRIENNIUM"**

426
427 President Rev. Michael Mohr
428 First Vice-President Rev. Michael Burdick
429 Second Vice-President Rev. Mark Eddy
430 Secretary Rev. Justin Cullen
431 Assistant Secretary Rev. Marcus Manley
432 Financial Secretary *None Elected*
433 Treasurer Mr. Joel Oschwald

434
435 Pastors: Rev. Timothy Fitzner
436 Rev. Kent Tibben
437 Rev. Aaron Uphoff
438 Rev. Kevin Wendorf

439
440 Teachers: Mr. Steve Parry
441 Ms. Robinette Flach

442
443 Laymen: Mr. William Blessman
444 Mr. Kevin Block

Mr. Aaron Schroeder
None Elected

CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS & DISTRICT HANDBOOK COMMITTEE

Ordained: Rev. Stephen Mueller
Rev. James Stuenkel

Lay Attorney: *None Elected*

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 2028 DISTRICT CONVENTION

Parish Pastor: Rev. Jason Braaten
Rev. Keith Kettner

Parish Teacher: Ms. Rebecca Heppe
Ms. Gayle Dietsch

Laymen: Ms. Deloris Blessman
Mr. Brandon West

2025 RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 25-2-01A

To Launch a Funding Campaign for Mission Support in the Central Illinois District

(Passed 101-80)

*President's Report, Mission Commission Report, and Stewardship Commission Report,
Overture 25-09, Late Overture 25-L01*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus our Lord was “rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). Now, that hits home!

Christ brings giving home to you and to your church. The Central Illinois District (CID) 2019 Stewardship and Mission education emphasis was “Bring Giving Home.”

Giving, once brought home, does not remain “at home.” It doesn’t stay in “my own” congregation. Part of it can support the Lord’s work elsewhere. Like the seed in His parable, the Lord’s life-giving Word is to be sown widely – also in extraordinary places. To that end, CID missions do not “stay home” – 30% of all congregational remittance is forwarded on to the Synod.

486 The District has long-standing specialized missions in central Illinois. They include ministry in Spanish, deaf ministry, and campus
487 ministry.

488 **WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?**

489 A two-pronged approach is proposed within a projected \$3 million campaign:

490 1. Providing for proactive repair and upgrade needs at mission sites owned by CID, as well as at the District office, for the next ten
491 years. Estimated cost: \$1.5 million

492 2. Making provision for longer-range financial support through contributions to endowment funds for CID Ministry in Spanish,
493 Deaf Ministry, and Campus Ministries. All of these are aspects of God's mission – here, close at hand. Estimated cost: \$1.5
494 million

495 **WHY IS THIS BEING PROPOSED?**

496 Places in the District

- 497 498 499 500 501 CID started *Ministry in Spanish* in East Moline in 2003. Rev. Pablo Dominguez has served as our District missionary and, since 2018, as the called pastor of Cristo Rey (Christ the King) Lutheran Church, making the Gospel available to 11,000 Spanish-speakers in the Quad Cities, or (as Cristo Rey puts it) "Planting the Gospel's Seed in the QC." For over a decade, through CID we have additionally supported ministry in Spanish at St. John Lutheran Church in Beardstown, to serve some 1,850 Spanish-speaking people in that area.
- 502 503 504 505 506 *Deaf Ministry* in Jacksonville began in 1901. Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf was organized there in 1948. From 2005 to 2024, Pastor Thomas Phillips served as our Missionary to the Deaf in CID. In 2015, a District-wide deaf parish was created to extend this ministry. Now named Central Illinois Lutheran Deaf Outreach, the parish involves members of CID churches from the Mississippi River to the Indiana state line. When Pastor Phillips left CID in late 2024, he was one of only three pastors to the deaf called by any of the 35 LCMS Districts. It would be a shame if CID ceased funding deaf ministry as a District.
- 507 508 509 510 511 *Campus Ministry* is another specialized mission that CID has sustained on our behalf. We pay salaries for two full-time campus pastors, at the University of Illinois and at Illinois State University, and we own well-located church buildings on both campuses. CID also owns a campus church building a block away from Western Illinois University and gives Immanuel Lutheran Church, Macomb funds for its pastor to serve half-time in campus ministry. CID owns no property in Charleston, but we help support student leaders who work with the pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church – just across the street from Eastern Illinois University. "What we need, and need badly," wrote CID's first full-time campus pastor in 1941, "is preaching on the campus." The Central Illinois District has never forgotten these words.
- 514 515 516 The CID office in Springfield comprises two buildings. One provides office space plus chapel and meeting facilities for the CID President, two executives, and bookkeeper, also Church Extension Fund staff. The other houses the extensive District archives, and is the gathering place for Immanuel Lutheran Chapel, a CID-supported new church start.

517 Prospects for the Duration

- 518 519 520 521 522 *Ministry in Spanish*: "I soon discovered," Pastor Dominguez writes, "that the majority of Hispanics knew nothing about the Bible, nor did they attend church." As one way to reach them, Cristo Rey broadcasts a Spanish program on KALA-FM, Davenport, which is heard by 4000-5000 listeners. "I heard the messages of Pastor Dominguez every Saturday on the radio. Later I started to go to Cristo Rey," writes Ana. "I know I'm a sinner, but Jesus paid the price for me and, thanks to Him, I have the assurance of eternal life. I'll keep going to this church every Sunday..."
- 523 524 525 526 527 528 *Deaf Ministry*: This work's "center of gravity" has been shifting. Before Pastor Phillips left, it was growing clear that being near the Illinois School for the Deaf no longer brings the advantages it once did. CID plans to sell the former Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Jacksonville and put the sale proceeds into the deaf parish's endowment fund, to be matched 20% by Lutheran Legacy Foundation. CID deaf work will be conducted more and more through the district-wide parish, as a new pastor is assisted by a woman from the parish who is about to enter deaconess training. By far, most deaf people are unchurched, yet Christ is for them too.
- 529 530 531 532 533 534 *Campus Ministry*: Pastor Heath Curtis, President of the Southern Illinois District of the LCMS, and former Coordinator for national Synod Stewardship, says: "Campus ministry (at University Lutheran, Champaign) has had an immeasurable impact on my daughter. In a sea of unbelief, LCMS campus ministry gives our kids an island of community, support, and living faith. Across the country in my work with Synod Stewardship I tell people: the best bang for your mission buck today is campus ministry. Hands down!" CID aims to keep Christ on campus. Large numbers of church workers come from seeds planted in campus ministry.

535 **IT'S TIME TO DECIDE**

536 WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us, brings giving home to us through His Word and Sacraments; and

537 WHEREAS, Giving, once brought home, does not remain “at home,” but enables Gospel proclamation beyond one’s own
538 congregation; and

539 WHEREAS, In CID, such proclamation has touched lives with the Gospel of Christ in Campus Ministry, Deaf Ministry, and Ministry
540 in Spanish; and

541 WHEREAS, Proactive major repairs and upgrades to District-owned facilities where such Gospel proclamation is done, and to the
542 District office campus, from which support of these and other ministries is offered, has been projected to cost the District approximately
543 \$1.5 million over the next 10 years; and

544 WHEREAS, Endowment funds are now in place with Lutheran Legacy Foundation (which generously provides 20% matching funds)
545 for all four CID-supported Campus Ministries (at University of Illinois, ISU, EIU, and WIU), Deaf Ministry, and Ministry in Spanish
546 at Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline; and

547 WHEREAS, Sizable contributions toward either proactive major repairs and upgrades or growing the endowment funds do not seem
548 possible from the limited resources in the District’s budgeted monies or from Dollar for Missions contributions; and

549 WHEREAS, a “Ministry Readiness Study” conducted this past spring by The Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod,
550 funded by a generous grant from the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, showed that

- 551 • Respondents reported high degrees of support for the above-mentioned specialized District missions, but some of them
552 lack detailed information about these missions
- 553 • Priority ought to be placed on the proactive major repairs and upgrades contemplated for the next 10 years
- 554 • A target of \$2-3 million seems feasible for a campaign to be conducted over the next three years; and

555 WHEREAS, CID’s Circuit Pastoral Conferences and/or Circuit Forums during 2025 have been urged to take the discussion of a
556 prospective District funding campaign to the congregations of the District, and the Mission Commission’s convention report has been
557 featured on the District website since April to help inform such discussions; and

558 WHEREAS, Opportunities beckon to CID to continue to take Christ to people via Campus Ministry, Deaf Ministry, and Ministry in
559 Spanish;

560 therefore be it

561 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District approve the launch of a funding campaign to raise \$3 million: \$1.5 million for proactive
562 major repairs and upgrades to District-owned facilities (“Phase I”) and \$1.5 million for longer-range financial support through
563 contributions to endowment funds for continued funding of these valuable District mission treasures (“Phase II”); and be it further

564 *Resolved*, That Phase I be entirely completed before campaign contributions are devoted to Phase II; and be it further

565 *Resolved*, That during Phase II, all campaign contributions received will be divided equally six ways, between the following:

- 566 • Endowment for campus ministry at University of Illinois
- 567 • Endowment for campus ministry at Illinois State University
- 568 • Endowment for campus ministry at Eastern Illinois University
- 569 • Endowment for campus ministry at Western Illinois University

570 (earnings from the four above endowments go directly to the CID office, to support campus ministry expenses)

- 571 • Endowment for Central Illinois Lutheran Deaf Outreach, the District wide deaf parish
- 572 • Endowment for Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline

573 (earnings from the two above endowments go directly to the respective ministries – they report their annual
574 endowment earnings to CID, and the District adjusts its support accordingly);

575 and be it finally

576 *Resolved*, That each delegate’s affirmative vote indicates his/her congregation’s (or individuals’ therein) intent to support this
577 campaign.

Resolution 25-1-01**To Stimulate Training for Witness**

(Passed 106-11)

Overture 25-06

WHEREAS, Christians as God's people are to "proclaim the excellencies of him who called [us] out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9) and to maintain constant preparation "to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15); and

WHEREAS, As Martin Luther observed, it might seem "best for God to take away our breath and let us die as soon as we are baptized and have begun to believe. But He lets us live here in order that we may lead other people to believe, doing for them what He has done for us" (What Luther Says, [CPH, 1959] number 3021; WA 12:267); and

WHEREAS, Christians know and interact with many non-Christian and unchurched people through their vocations and daily lives (e.g., family, coworkers, classmates); and

WHEREAS, Most people who attend church for the first time or for the first time in a long time do so at the invitation of a member who has a relationship with them; and

WHEREAS, In this sinful world, Christians often fear to speak of Christ with others; and

WHEREAS, Such fear can be addressed through teaching and learning not only the biblical message of the Gospel but also particular ways to become conversant concerning it; and

WHEREAS, There are resources for learning such as Synod's Every One His Witness (E1HW), both its core module and a growing number of context modules that help prepare Christians for witness to people from various specific backgrounds (all the foregoing is quoted directly from LCMS 2023 Res. 1-01A); and

WHEREAS, The Central Illinois District has recently released a set of Witnessing Helps to assist congregations in helping people to learn four key witnessing skills (i.e., listening discerningly to non-churched people, beginning a spiritual conversation, making a simple statement of the Gospel, defending the resurrection, as mentioned in LCMS 2023 Res. 1-01A);

therefore, be it

Resolved, That the District encourage its congregations to make diligent and widespread use of *Every One His Witness* (E1HW) as well as the CID's supplemental Witnessing Helps, available at <https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-witness-ministry.html>; and be it further

Resolved, That the District encourage its pastors and other church workers to inculcate a desire in people to witness, consistent with the Lutheran Confessions, particularly to non-churched people; and be it further

Resolved, That the District encourage all the baptized members of her congregations to recognize they are Christ's witnesses wherever they are; and be it further

Resolved, That the District encourage its congregations, their pastors, and other church workers to take serious and realistic stock of how often and how well they employ recurring parish education opportunities (including, but not limited to: Bible and catechism classes, youth ministry, retreats, etc.) to teach church members witnessing skills such as those addressed by CID's Witnessing Helps, including the provision of opportunity to practice such skills; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations of the district report to the Circuit Visitors their steps to implement this training for witness (i.e. *Every One His Witness* (E1HW), CID's supplemental Witnessing Helps, available at <https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-witness-ministry.html>); and be it finally

Resolved, That CID's Circuit Visitors report to the 2028 District Convention in their Circuit Reports the steps taken by the congregations in their Circuits to implement this training for witness (i.e. *Every One His Witness* (E1HW), CID's supplemental Witnessing Helps, available at <https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-witness-ministry.html>). The foregoing *Resolveds* are based on LCMS 2023 Res. 1-01A.

Resolution 25-1-02

To Encourage Lutheran School Accreditation

(Passed by voice vote)

Education and Congregational Life Report

WHEREAS, The National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) is an ongoing process of self-evaluation, improvement, and recognition based on national standards for childcare centers, early childhood centers, and elementary and secondary schools; and

WHEREAS, Of the 22 schools located in the CID, only 8 currently are accredited through the NLSA process; and

WHEREAS, Historically, the CID has had as many as 16 schools accredited;

therefore, be it

Resolved, That the schools of the CID be encouraged to pursue accreditation through the NLSA process.

Resolution 25-1-03

To Encourage Witness and Outreach in Nursing Homes

(Passed by voice vote)

Overture 25-05

WHEREAS, All people need to hear of Christ, the Lord Who died for them and rose again; and

WHEREAS, Residents of nursing homes and similar care facilities can find themselves lonely and under-visited by those who might tell them the Good News about Jesus;

therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Central Illinois District encourage all its congregations and pastors to pay particular attention to nursing home ministry, not only in the interests of their members who may be residents but also the non-churched population within such facilities; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations consider "adopting" a nearby nursing home and encourage congregation members, under the guidance of the pastor, to visit and witness with the residents and to provide regular devotions, services, and/or Bible classes as appropriate.

Resolution 251 -04

To Clarify Policies Regarding Application and Renewal of RSO Status

(Passed 176-6)

Overture 25-02

WHEREAS, Since before the fall into sin, God created human beings male and female, (Genesis 1:27); and

WHEREAS, Since before the fall into sin, God gave man and woman to be husband and wife, (Genesis 2:24); and

WHEREAS, After the fall into sin, God reiterates that he still gives man and woman to be husband and wife in marriage, (Mathew 19:5, Mark 10:7, Ephesians 5:31); and

WHEREAS, Sin is anything that goes contrary to God's purpose and design, (1 John 5:17); and

656 WHEREAS, Our country has adopted policies and practices that uphold, promote, and uplift LGBTQIA+ positions on gender,
657 sexuality, and marriage that are contrary to God's design and are therefore sinful according to God's Word, (e.g. ruling that marriage is
658 no longer exclusively the lifelong union of one man and one woman); and

659 WHEREAS, The LGBTQIA+ community is supported, uplifted, and celebrated at many times and places (e.g. Pride month, Pride
660 parades, etc.); and

661 WHEREAS, ~~God calls Christians~~ The Christian is called to not follow in the deeds of darkness, but rather, is to lead a holy and God-
662 pleasing life, (Ephesians 5:11; 1 Peter 2:9); and

663 WHEREAS, Such a God-pleasing life does not seek to remain in sin nor to celebrate it, but repents of it, receives forgiveness for it,
664 and strives to sin no more, (Romans 6:1-2, Psalm 32:5, John 8:11); and

665 WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) published a report on marriage and sexuality entitled *A*
666 *Chaste and Decent Life: An Update to Human Sexuality (1981)* which concludes that, "attitudes towards gender identity and dysphoria,
667 homosexuality and homosexual marriage, and societal pressures regarding sexuality, among others, have changed markedly in the last
668 forty years," yet still maintaining that "God's intention for human sexuality does not change," (*A Chaste and Decent Life: An Update*,
669 37); and

670 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has upheld and reaffirmed such positions regarding Marriage and
671 Sexuality, as recently as the 2023 Synod Convention, (Resolution 5-11, "To Reaffirm Synod's Biblical Positions on Marriage and
672 Sexuality"); and

673 WHEREAS, The granting of Recognized Service Organization (RSO) status by the Synod "signifies that a service organization fosters
674 the mission and ministry of the church, engages in program activity that extends the mission and ministry of the Synod, is in harmony
675 with the programs of the Synod, and respects and does not act contrary to the doctrine and practice of the Synod," (Bylaw 6.2.1); and

676 WHEREAS, Many resources from the Synod and its partners (LCEF, Concordia Plans, etc.) are made available to the RSOs of the
677 Synod to support their work; and

678 WHEREAS, RSOs are to "respect the authority of the Synod's districts" and the respective District Presidents are tasked with the
679 ecclesiastical oversight of RSOs, (Synod Bylaw 6.2.1.c); and

680 WHEREAS, The Office of National Mission (ONM) and the Office of International Mission (OIM) are tasked with the oversight of
681 RSO status, (Bylaw 6.2.4); and

682 WHEREAS, For example:

- 683 3. RSO Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW), as recently as June of 2024, participated in an annual Pride Parade in
684 Spokane, WA "as they do every year" in an effort to make their communities "more healthy, just, hopeful and [sic] *Prideful* for
685 all," ("Pride is more than a month at LCSNW; it's a mindset to serve LGBTQ clients", accessed October 1, 2024,
686 <https://www.lcsnw.org/2024/06/pride-is-more-than-a-month>)
- 687 4. RSO Lutheran Social Services of Northern California (LSSNorCA) stands with the LGBTQIA+ community and proudly
688 supports them, as stated in a 2023 letter from the President and CEO of the LSSNorCA, ("Statement on LGBTQIA+ Pride",
689 accessed October 1, 2024, https://www.lssnorcal.org/file_download/b8699925-8345-437f-8cda-dad7d95d3d77),

691 therefore be it

692 *Resolved*, That the CID memorialize Synod to direct the respective District Presidents in their duties of ecclesiastical supervision
693 of RSOs to enforce Bylaw 6.2.1.c; and be it further

694 *Resolved*, That the CID memorialize Synod to direct the ONM and OIM to abide by Synod bylaw 6.2.1 in granting and/or renewing
695 of RSO status to any organization supporting, uplifting, celebrating, or otherwise promoting LGBTQIA+ groups, agendas, thoughts,
696 ideas, ideals, etc., including organizations seeking RSO status that are partnered with an organization supporting, uplifting, celebrating,
697 or otherwise promoting LGBTQIA+ groups, agendas, thoughts, ideas, ideals, etc.; and be it further

698 *Resolved*, That the CID memorialize Synod to amend Synod Bylaw 6.2.3 as follows:

699 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

700 6.2.3 Program administration shall be carried out by the Offices of National and International Mission according to these bylaws,
701 and according to policies and criteria developed by the Synod Board of Directors, mission boards, and mission offices.

702 (a) The Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall adopt common policies and criteria for
703 granting of recognized service organization status by Synod's mission offices, such policies relating to expectations
704 for the corporate structure and governance of the organizations, statements regarding their legal and corporate
705 independence from the Synod, and the necessary relation of their work to the mission and ministry of the Synod as
706 generally expressed in its Constitution and Bylaws. These policies shall include an agreement with the recognized
707 service organization stating that they adopt and will uphold the biblical definition of manhood, womanhood, and
708 marriage, as adopted by the Synod and that they will not endorse, support the work of, nor enter into partnerships with
709 other organizations who either undermine or do not uphold the same. The Board of Directors shall approve the
710 standard form of agreement to be entered into by the Synod and each recognized service organization.

711 ...

712 and be it finally

713 *Resolved*, That the CID memorialize Synod to amend Synod Bylaw 6.2.4 as follows:

714 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

715 6.2.4 Subject to policies adopted by the Synod's Board of Directors and the respective mission board, recognized service
716 organization status may be granted or revoked by the Office of National Mission or the Office of International Mission to
717 a service organization (other than an auxiliary) that extends the mission and ministry of the Synod but is not part of the
718 Synod as defined by its Constitution and Bylaws.

719 ...

720 (b) Within the area of its responsibility and in accordance with policies and criteria developed by the Synod Board of
721 Directors, the respective mission board and office, each mission office shall determine to which organizations
722 recognized service organization status will be granted or revoked.

723 **Resolution 2025-1-05A**

724 **To Amend and Update Selected Bylaws of the CID Handbook**

725 (Passed 173-10)

726 *Overture 25-08, Late Overture 25-L02*

727 WHEREAS, The CID Board of Directors and the CID ~~Commission on Constitutional Matters and District Handbook Congregational~~
728 ~~Constitutions & District Handbook Committee~~ recommended changes and updates to the present edition of the CID Handbook and have
729 received communication from the Commission on Constitutional Matters with regards to the recommended changes;

730 therefore, be it

731 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District in convention adopt the following revised bylaws to be included as amended in the CID
732 Handbook for 2025.

733 ***25-1-05A - Appendix A***

734 **BYLAWS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD**
735 **CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT**

736 **I. MEMBERSHIP**

737 1.1 Application and Reception

738 The application for membership and the reception into membership shall be governed by the Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—
739 Missouri Synod.

740 1.2 Duties of Members

747 Every member of the Synod shall, in accordance with his vocation, his ability, and the means at his command, diligently and
748 earnestly promote the purposes of the Synod by word, deed, and adequate financial support.
749

750 1.3 Accrediting of Delegates
751

752 A pastor of a voting congregation and the lay delegate of a voting congregation shall stand accredited and entitled to vote
753 upon presenting to the Secretary at the opening of the convention the proper credentials signed by two of the congregation's
754 officers. If a pastor serves two or more congregations, these congregations shall be regarded as one parish and shall be entitled to
755 only one lay vote (Synod Bylaw 4.2.2 (a).).
756

757 **II. ADMINISTRATION**
758

759 **A. OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES**
760

761 2.1 Officers
762

763 The elective officers of the District shall be the following: a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a
764 Treasurer, a Financial Secretary, and a Circuit Visitor for each circuit.
765

766 2.2 Boards, Commissions, Committees
767

768 The boards, commissions, and committees of the District to be elected or appointed shall be the following:
769

770 2.2.a. Elected by the Delegate Convention of the District
771

772 2.2.a.1 A Board of Directors – subdivided by appointment as follows:
773

774 A Commission on Mission Services
775

776 A Commission on Evangelism Services
777

778 A Commission on Congregational Life
779

780 A Commission on Education Services
781

782 A Commission on Stewardship Services
783

784 A Commission on Finance and Management
785

786 2.2.a.1. A Congregational Constitutions and District Handbook Committee
787

788 2.2.a.2. A District Nominations Committee
789

790 2.2.b. Appointed by the Board of Directors
791

792 A committee on Communication Services
793

794 A Human Care and Church Worker Support and Wellness Committee
795

796 An Auditing Committee
797

798 An Archivist
799

800 2.2.e. Appointed by the President

801 A Ministerial Health Committee

802 A Christian Legislative Concerns Committee

803 A Committee on Architecture and Construction Assistance to Local Congregations

804 2.3 Term of Office

805 2.3.a. The term of office for all officers and members of boards, commissions, and committees, elected or appointed, shall
806 be three years, unless otherwise specified.

807 2.3.b. Newly elected officers and members of boards, commissions, and committees shall assume office at close of the
808 convention. The District President shall assume office on September 1 of the year of the District Convention.

809 2.4. Successive Terms

810 2.4.a. The office of President of the District and of the two Vice-Presidents shall be limited to three consecutive terms.

811 2.4.b. All other officers and members of boards, commissions, and committees shall be limited to two consecutive terms, except
812 members of the Nominations Committee whose term of service is three years and who may not succeed themselves.

813 2.4.c. Any officer or member of a board, commission, or committee, who is ineligible for re-election or reappointment, may be
814 elected or appointed to any other position. He may become eligible again for election or appointment to the same office, board or
815 committee after an interval of three or more years.

816 2.5. Vacancies

817 2.5.a. Special provisions are indicated for vacancies occurring in the District Presidency. See Bylaw 2.11.

818 2.5.b. Vacancies that occur in the office of circuit visitor between conventions shall be filled by appointment by the District
819 President (Synod Bylaw 5.2.2.1).

820 2.5.c. Any vacancy occurring in any other elective office, board, or committee shall be filled by appointment of the District
821 President with the approval of the Board of Directors in the respective classification of ordained minister, ~~teacher or DCE~~
822 commissioned minister, or layman.

823 2.5.d. The member thus appointed shall serve out the term of the person he succeeds. If the unexpired term is less than 1 1/2 years,
824 it shall not prevent his being elected for two successive terms thereafter. More than one half a term shall be regarded as a full term
825 under limited tenure rules.

826 2.6. How Offices are Filled

827 The District offices shall be filled in the following manner in the year preceding the general Synodical convention:

828 2.6.a. By election

829 2.6.a.1. The President of the District

830 2.6.a.2. The Two Vice-Presidents

831 2.6.a.3. The Secretary

853
854 2.6.a.4. The Assistant Secretary

855
856 2.6.a.5. The Treasurer

857
858 2.6.a.6. The Financial Secretary

859
860 2.6.a.7. The Board of Directors: four parish pastors, four laymen who are voting members of congregations of the
861 District, two ~~parish teachers or DCEs~~ commissioned ministers.

862
863 2.6.a.8. The Circuit Visitors

864
865 2.6.a.9. Congregational Constitution and District Handbook Committee: two ~~Ministers of Religion Ordained~~
866 ordained ministers (one to be a parish pastor), one layman (a lawyer)

867
868 2.6.a.10. District Nominations Committee: two parish pastors, two ~~parish teachers or DCEs~~ commissioned ministers,
869 two laymen who are voting members of congregations of the District.

870
871 2.6.b. By Appointment

872
873 2.6.b.1. Committee on Communication Services: ~~one Minister of Religion Ordained, one Minister of Religion~~
874 ~~Commissioned, one layman (TV Radio Newspaper), one editor~~ at least five members to include at least one ordained minister, at
875 least one commissioned minister, and also at least one lay member. Skills and interests sought among members include editorial
876 services, as well as acquaintance with print and/or electronic media (radio, television, internet).

877
878 2.6.b.2. ~~Social Ministries Human Care and Church Worker Support and Wellness Committee: two Ministers of~~
879 ~~Religion Ordained, one Minister of Religion Commissioned, two laymen~~ two ordained ministers, one commissioned minister, one
880 layman who is voting member of a congregation of the District, and a fifth member of a District congregation who is not an
881 ordained minister.

882
883 2.6.b.3. ~~Ministerial Health Committee: two ordained ministers, one teacher or DCE, two laymen (one physician or~~
884 ~~psychiatrist, if possible)~~

885
886 2.6.b.43. Archivist

887
888 2.6.b.5. Christian Legislative Concerns Committee

889
890 2.6.b.6. Committee on Architecture and Construction Assistance to local congregations

891
892 2.7. Sundry Regulations

893
894 2.7.a. The district convention shall be concluded no later than July 31 in the calendar year prior to a synod convention.

895
896 2.7.ab Every board, commission, and committee shall organize at the first meeting after its election or appointment to
897 select a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary, and shall conduct its business in accordance with accepted parliamentary rules.

898
899 2.7.bc. All officers, boards, committees, and personnel shall surrender all records and equipment in their custody to their
900 successors at the expiration of their term of office.

901
902 2.7.ed. All board, commissions, and committees, including the Archivist, shall be accountable to the District for all their
903 actions and shall make a full report on the activities to the District at each convention.

904
905 **B. THE PRESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT**

906
907 2.8 Relation to President of Synod
908

909 The District President by virtue of his office represents Synod in his respective territory. He shall therefore regularly report to
910 the President of Synod (Synod Bylaw 4.4.2).

911
912 2.9 Duties
913

914 2.9.a. The District President, in accordance with the Constitution of the Synod (Article XII) and Bylaws of the Synod (section 4.4),
915 shall supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration on the part of the ~~pastors and the teachers ordained and~~
916 ~~commissioned ministers~~ of the District. Therefore, as often as possible, he shall attend the professional workers conferences of
917 ~~pastors and teachers, ordained and commissioned ministers~~, advise the congregations of the District as to the calling of ~~pastors~~
918 ~~ordained and teachers, commissioned ministers~~, give counsel, and respond to requests and inquiries. He may call upon the vice-
919 presidents and the circuit visitors to assist him (Synod Bylaw 4.4.5).

920
921 2.9.b. The District President, even without formal request therefore, may through the proper channels arrange for an official visit or
922 an investigation when a controversy arises in a congregation or between two or more congregations of the District, or when there is
923 evidence of a continuing unresolved problem in doctrine or practice. He shall ask for a full report on the case in order that he may
924 have a clear understanding of the situation. If the District President authorizes anyone to represent him in such matters, his
925 representative shall be accorded the same rights as the District President (Synod Bylaw 4.4.6).

926
927 2.9.c. The District President shall ~~annually revise the official roster of Ministers of Religion Ordained and Ministers of Religion~~
928 ~~Commissioned for publication in the LUTHERAN ANNUAL and remove the names of those who have died, have severed their~~
929 ~~connections with the Synod, have been eliminated from the roster by the Council of Presidents, have resigned their status as~~
930 ~~Ministers of Religion Ordained or Ministers of Religion Commissioned in the Synod, or have in some way disqualified~~
931 ~~themselves for service in the church be responsible for maintaining the official rosters of his district, reporting changes regularly to~~
932 ~~the Secretary of the Synod, and shall, with the assistance of the circuit visitors, promote and pursue unanimous participation by~~
933 ~~congregations in the submission of annual statistical reports~~ (Synod Bylaws 4.4.7 and 4.4.8).

934
935 2.9.d. The District President has the responsibility to see to it that the resolutions of the Synod and District are implemented.

936
937 2.9.e. The District President shall make an official report to the District at its convention.

938
939 2.9.f. At the sessions of the District, the President shall conduct the meetings according to the accepted parliamentary
940 rules and in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and the Rules and Regulations of the District.

941
942 2.9.g. The District President shall be an ex-officio member of all commissions and committees of the District, except the
943 Nominations Committee. As ~~supervising~~ the officer of the District charged with oversight, he shall advise the Board of Directors
944 and its various commissions and committees.

945
946 2.9.h. The District President and the Secretary shall sign all legal documents and instruments.

947
948 2.9.i. The District President shall perform all additional duties which the District places upon him through its Bylaws, regulations,
949 or special resolutions.

950
951 2.10 President – A Full-Time Executive

952
953 2.10.a. The District President shall be a full-time executive. He shall not be in charge of a congregation or hold a chair at
954 any educational institution, but may be called as an assistant pastor to a congregation in an assisting capacity provided such
955 services do not interfere with his official duties as President.

956
957 2.10.b. A District President who, before he has reached the official (pension) retirement age, fails to be reelected to this full-
958 time office, or is ineligible for reelection because of term limits, or elects to resign his position because of infirmity, shall receive

959 full monthly compensation for up to six (6) months or until the commencement of full-time employment or retirement benefits, if
960 sooner.

961
962 2.11 If the President is Unable to Serve
963

964 2.11.a. The duties and responsibilities of the Presidency shall be assumed by the First Vice-President on a part-time basis
965 whenever the Board of Directors determines that the District President is temporarily unable to serve because of prolonged illness
966 or disability.

967 2.11.b. In the event that the office of District President is permanently vacated on or less than 18 months prior to the next
968 District convention, the First Vice-President shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the Presidency on a part-time basis until
969 the next regular District convention. He would be eligible to serve in three consecutive terms thereafter.

970 2.11.c. In the event that the office of District President is permanently vacated more than 18 months prior to the next
971 District convention, the First Vice-President shall serve on a full-time basis until the next regular District convention.

972 2.11.d. In the event that the First Vice-President is unable to assume the duties and responsibilities of the Presidency on a
973 part-time basis, the Second Vice-President shall serve in such capacity.

974
975 C. THE VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT
976

977 2.12 Regional Vice-Presidents
978

979 2.12.a. The District shall elect two Vice-Presidents, who shall be regional Vice-Presidents, that is, one of the Vice-
980 Presidents shall at the time of the election be in the and throughout the time of service hold membership in a congregation of the
981 eastern region of the District, namely, the Altamont, Champaign, Decatur, Effingham, Iroquois, Mattoon, Shelby, Springfield East,
982 or Springfield West Circuits; the other shall at the time of election be in the and throughout the time of service hold membership in
983 a congregation of the western region of the District, namely, the Bloomington North & South, Jacksonville, Lincoln, Peoria,
984 Quincy, Rock Island, or Tazewell Circuits.

985 2.12.b. If a regional Vice-President moves out no longer holds membership in a congregation of the region, he must vacate
986 his office (Synod Bylaw 4.3.3).

987 2.13 Relation to President
988

989 Each Vice-President shall, upon request of the President, or as may be provided by the District, advise, assist, or represent the
990 President.

991 2.14 Ranking of Vice-Presidents
992

993 The Vice-Presidents shall be ranked as First Vice-President and Second Vice-President in the manner prescribed by the Bylaws
994 under procedure for election (see Central Illinois District Bylaw 2.37 and following).

995 2.15 Succession
996

997 2.15.a. The Vice-Presidents shall, in the order in which they have been ranked, perform the duties of the President in the
998 event the President becomes incapacitated, or the President's office is vacated.

999 2.15.b. A vacancy in the First Vice-Presidency shall be filled by advancing the Second Vice-President. A vacancy in the
000 Second Vice Presidency shall then be filled by the President from the reserve list of nominations, that is from the nominees left
001 after the previous election, according to the number of votes received, as long as the nominee resides in holds membership in a
002 congregation of the vacant region.

003
004 D. THE SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT
005

013
014 2.16 Qualifications
015

016 The Secretary shall be an ordained minister who is a member of the District and of one of the congregations of the District.
017

018 2.17 Duties
019

020 2.17.a. The Secretary shall record the proceedings during District conventions, publish the proceedings after the President
021 has approved the manuscript, sign (in conjunction with the President) all legal documents and instruments, and perform such other
022 work as the Synod or District may direct him through its Bylaws, regulations, or special resolutions.
023

024 2.17.b. The Secretary shall receive and cause to be preserved signed copies of constitutions of congregations newly
025 accepted into the Synod (Synod Bylaw 2.3.2), oversee selection of district advisory delegates to conventions of Synod (Synod
026 Bylaw 3.1.3.1(a)), certify delegates for ~~s~~Synodical conventions (Synod Bylaws 3.1.3.2) accredit delegates from voting
027 congregations or multi-congregation parishes to the district convention (Synod Bylaw 4.2.2), and oversee the nomination process
028 for District President (Central Illinois District Bylaws 2.40 and 2.41).
029

030 2.17.c. The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary whenever requested to do so. In the event that the Secretary
031 becomes incapacitated or vacates his office, the Assistant Secretary shall ~~take over~~ assume the office and duties of the Secretary.
032

033 **E. THE TREASURER OF THE DISTRICT**
034

035 2.18 Qualifications
036

037 The Treasurer shall be a lay voting member of one of the congregations of the District and shall be familiar with accounting and
038 good business practices, and of good standing in his congregation and community.
039

040 2.19 Duties
041

042 2.19.a. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt, safeguarding, and proper disbursement of District funds through
043 the establishment of appropriate procedures, systems, records, and internal controls, possibly utilizing the services of the Business
044 Manager (if appointed), whose assistance in such functions would be under the supervision of the Treasurer.
045

046 2.19.b. He shall be responsible for the establishment of one or more bank accounts as authorized by the Board of Directors
047 and shall establish proper safeguarding and custody of securities, documents, and other legal or valuable papers of the District in
048 one or more safe-deposit boxes or other depository or file as may be appropriate in the interest of security against loss or
049 destruction.
050

051 2.19.c. He shall cause to be prepared such financial reports, budgets, work programs, statistics, and related data as shall be
052 requested by the Board of Directors or as shall be appropriate in the operation of the District's business.
053

054 2.19.d. He shall supervise the purchase of investments as authorized by the Board of Directors.
055

056 2.19.e. He shall attend meetings of the Board of Directors, the Commission on Finance and Management, ~~Budget Advisory~~
057 ~~Conferences~~, District conventions, and any other meetings where the financial affairs of the District are being considered or
058 reviewed, and he shall present such reports and summaries as necessary or required.
059

060 **F. THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT**
061

062 2.20 Qualifications
063

064 The Financial Secretary shall be a lay voting member of one of the congregations of the District and shall be familiar with general
065 business practices.
066

067 2.21 Duties

068 2.21.a. The Financial Secretary shall be responsible for the preparation of a statistical record of all budget and

069 miscellaneous contributions received by the District Treasury.

070

072 2.21.b. He shall be responsible for the issuance of regular reports in the official District news publication showing the

073 contributions of each congregation in such manner and frequency as directed by the Board of Directors.

074

075 2.21.c. He shall be responsible for keeping an accurate account of the communicant membership of every congregation, of

076 each circuit, and of the district.

077

078 2.21.d. He shall be responsible for reporting to the Board of Directors, congregations which may experience difficulty in

079 being current with District/Synod mission commitment.

080

081 2.21.e. He may be assisted in the fulfillment of these responsibilities through such service and assistance as may be

082 arranged with the Business Manager (if appointed).

083

G. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DISTRICT

084 2.22 Membership

085

086 2.22.a. The Board of Directors shall be constituted as follows: The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the

087 Treasurer, and the Financial Secretary shall be members of the Board. Four parish pastors, four laymen who are voting members of

088 congregations of the District, and two commissioned ministers actively serving shall be elected according to procedures defined in

089 these Bylaws.

090

091 2.22.b. The Assistant Secretary shall be an advisory member of the Board.

092

093 2.22.c. The Administrative Assistant(s) to the President and the Business Manager (if appointed), while not members of the

094 Board (Synod Bylaw 1.5.1.1) shall attend open sessions of the Board, giving reports and advice directly to the Board.

095

096 2.22.d. Every member of the Board shall be a member of a voting congregation of the District. No two members of the

097 same congregation may be members of the Board. When a member of the Board ceases to be a member of a voting congregation of

098 the District or when the nature of his major duties is such that he no longer is a member of the group from which he was elected, he

099 is automatically eliminated from membership on the Board.

100

101 2.23 Officers

102

103 The Board of Directors shall elect its own chairman and vice-chairman.

104

105 2.24 Prohibition of Conflict of Interest

106

107 2.24.a. No officer, director, board or commission member of the District or any agency of the District shall use his position

108 or knowledge acquired from his services in such a manner that a conflict between his personal or business interest and the interest

109 and general welfare of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod arises (see Synod Bylaw 1.5.2).

110

111 2.24.b. Officers or members of District boards or commissions shall not enter into gainful business transactions directly or

112 indirectly, with any board or commission on which they serve.

113

114 2.25 Responsibilities, Commissions

115

116 2.25.a. The Board of Directors as a whole is charged with the responsibility of handling for the District all matters

117 pertaining to missions, evangelism, parish education, youth ministry, finances, stewardship, and student aid.

118

119

120

121 2.25.b. After each District election the Board shall appoint out of its voting and/or advisory membership six commissions
122 for a period of three years:

123 A Commission on Mission Services

124 A Commission on Evangelism Services

125 A Commission on Congregational Life

126 A Commission on Education Services

127 A Commission on Stewardship Services

128 A Commission on Finance and Management

129 136 Immediately after such organization it shall inform all congregations and ordained and commissioned ministers of the District
130 concerning the personnel of such commissions and indicate to which member communications inquiring for information and/or
131 assistance are to be sent.

132 140 In order properly to direct the work in the different fields, various duties and powers are prescribed for the Board of
141 Directors. Since the Board through the commissions administers the work in the different fields, the regulations apply primarily to
142 the particular commission involved and shall be so stated. However, as each commission must submit its findings to the Board for
143 action, all duties and powers delegated to any particular commission actually remain the responsibility of the Board of Directors,
144 although it may act through a particular commission. Rules and regulations are assigned to the various commissions only in order
145 to designate which phases of the work are the primary responsibility of certain groups within the Board of Directors.

146 2.25.d. Each commission shall meet at the call of its chairman as often as is necessary to conduct its business.

147 2.25.e. Each commission shall be responsible for its share of the Board of Directors triennial report to the District
148 convention.

149 2.25.f. Each commission, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may augment itself and/or appoint such personnel
150 and committees as are needed to carry out the overall objectives of the commission. All such appointments will terminate at the
151 close of the following district convention.

152 2.26. Meetings

153 2.26.a. The Board shall meet not fewer than four times a year, or at the call of the Chairman, or at the call of three members
154 of the Board. A majority of the Board members shall constitute a quorum. The District shall pay all expenses incurred.

155 2.26.b. The Secretary of the Board shall keep accurate minutes of each meeting of the Board and copies of these minutes
156 shall be sent after each meeting to all members of the Board. A summary of the actions of the Board shall be sent to each
157 congregation on a regular basis.

158 2.27 Administrative Assistant(s) to the President and the Business Manager (if appointed)

159 The Board shall appoint the Administrative Assistant(s) to the President and may appoint a Business Manager.

160 2.28 Financial Duties

161 2.28.a. The Board shall bond or insure the fiduciary officers and such employees of the District as it deems advisable, such
162 bond or insurance policy to be in the custody of the District President.

174 2.28.b. The Board shall designate the signatories, in addition to the President and the Treasurer, who are to be duly certified
175 for the financial transactions of the District.

176
177 2.28.c. The Board shall determine the remuneration of the President, the Administrative Assistant(s) to the President, and
178 the Business Manager (if appointed).

179
180 2.28.d. Budgeting Procedure: The Budget Committee (Central Illinois District Bylaw 9.1.c.) shall propose a tentative
181 income and expenditures budget for the next fiscal year for the consideration of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors
182 shall establish the budget at its last meeting of the prior fiscal year or the first meeting in the new fiscal year.

183
184 2.28.e. Following the District Convention and before the beginning of the next fiscal year, the Board shall appoint a
185 Financial Review Committee. Such committee shall stand for three years.

186
187 2.29 Powers and Duties with Respect to the Property of the District

188
189 2.29.a. The Board of Directors shall hold in trust all properties of the Central Illinois District and shall have the power to
190 transact the business of the District between conventions; always, however, subject to the rules and regulations of the District.

191
192 2.29.b. The Board of Directors is hereby empowered to hold, purchase, and sell property, make loans, hold mortgages and
193 chattels, etc., in the name of and for the benefit of the Central Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

194
195 2.29.c. Purchase or sale of property exceeding \$300,000 must be approved by a majority of circuit visitors and circuit lay-
196 delegates present at a meeting called for this purpose.

197
198 2.30 Other Duties

199
200 2.30.a. The Board may call missionaries-at-large and place them in new mission fields within the boundaries of the District.
201 The Board may also call campus pastors and institutional chaplains and make appointment of part-time workers at various
202 institutions within the boundaries of the District.

203
204 2.30.b. The circuit visitors of the District shall be regularly informed of the transactions and directions of the Board. In any
205 matter affecting a particular circuit the Board shall confer with the visitor of that circuit.

206
207 2.30.c. The Board of Directors shall be accountable to the delegate convention of the District and shall present a complete
208 report of its actions at each District convention. Appeals may be made from the actions of the Board to the District convention, and
209 the action of the convention on such appeals shall be final.

210
211 2.30.d. Nothing shall be done by the Board which is in conflict with the rules and regulations of the Synod or of the Central
212 Illinois District. The Board of Directors may adopt policies and guidelines governing various aspects of District operations that are
213 not in conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod or the Bylaws and resolutions of the District.

214
215 **H. STAFF**

216
217 2.31 Administrative Assistant(s) to the President

218
219 2.31.a. Administrative Assistant(s) to the President may be appointed by the Board of Directors as it deems necessary or as
220 may be determined by the District convention.

221
222 2.31.b. The Administrative Assistant(s) shall report regularly to the Board of Directors and to the President on the activities
223 of his office.

224
225 2.31.c. The term of office, unless otherwise specified, shall be for a period of three years, with no limitation on
226 reappointment to successive terms. Appointees may normally expect reappointment if their work proves satisfactory and there is a

227 continuing need for their services, but every appointment shall be subject to mandatory review and decision on reappointment
228 every 3 years.

229
230 2.31.d. ~~Procedures for removing or terminating an appointment shall be in accordance with the Bylaws of the Synod (cf.~~
231 ~~Synod Bylaw 3.11.1).~~

232
233 2.31.d. Duties of the Administrative Assistant(s)

234
235 2.31.d.i. Devote his efforts to the promotion of the Kingdom of God in the Central Illinois District of The Lutheran
236 Church—Missouri Synod;

237
238 2.31.d.ii. Carry out the decisions of the Board as it may direct;

239
240 2.31.d.iii. Assist the President, as he directs, in the President's supervisory responsibility with reference to
241 the operating and service divisions of the District;

242
243 2.31.d.iv. Serve as an advisory member of and as field representative for the respective commission(s) to
244 which he has been assigned, and shall seek to visit all congregations in the interest of the assigned responsibilities and areas of
245 service as time permits, and make such special visits as directed by the commission(s) or the President or by the Board of
246 Directors.

247
248 2.32 Business Manager (if appointed)

249
250 2.32.a. The Board of Directors may appoint a Business Manager, who is to be generally responsible to the Board of
251 Directors and specifically responsible to certain commissions or officers as indicated herein.

252
253 2.32.b. Duties of the Business Manager (if appointed)

254
255 2.32.b.i. Property Management: The Business Manager shall be responsible for the regular inspection of all District-owned
256 property, recommending any items for repair and maintenance to the appropriate commission or the Board of Directors, and shall
257 maintain records on major maintenance items such as roofs, redecoration, and exterior painting.

258
259 2.32.b.ii. Property Selection: The Business Manager shall assist the Board of Directors or any commission, upon
260 request, in the examination of sites and buildings in contemplation of purchase or other acquisition by the District.

261
262 2.32.b.iii. Legal Responsibilities: The Business Manager shall assist the Board of Directors or any commission in the
263 legal details involved in all purchases of sites and buildings and shall supervise the safekeeping of the deeds, mortgages, abstracts,
264 and related records of all District-owned or mortgaged property.

265
266 2.32.b.iv. Insurance Management: The Business Manager shall maintain proper insurance coverage on all property of
267 the District, shall seek to obtain the best insurance values on behalf of the District, shall verify and recommend for payment any
268 premiums as they come due, and shall handle all claims arising under such insurance coverage. He shall also handle any other
269 forms of insurance which the District may purchase. Such duties may be delegated to a layman of the District, appointed by the
270 Board, as Insurance Manager under the supervision of the Business Manager.

271
272 2.32.b.v. Other Property Management: The Business Manager shall assure the Board of Directors that the proper taxes, if any,
273 are being paid on District-owned property, or that exemptions are filed and in effect if such is appropriate. He shall likewise be
274 available to any District commission in connection with any property matters, such as acting as liaison between an architect, a
275 contractor, and any commission of the District, in contemplation of or in process of the construction of any building. He shall seek
276 such assistance as is necessary or appropriate in all property management functions, utilizing where possible the experience and
277 abilities of members of the congregations and reporting such appointments to the Board of Directors for approval or recognition, as
278 may be appropriate.

2.32.b.vi. Office Management: The Business Manager shall serve as office manager for the District office and shall be responsible for the maintenance of adequate facilities, supplies, and clerical and secretarial employment.

2.32.b.vii. Assisting the District Treasurer: The Business Manager shall assist the Treasurer and shall be under his supervision with respect to the receipt, custody, recording, and disbursement of District funds. He shall handle such business matters as supervision of receipts, check preparation, general correspondence pertaining to general District financial matters, and such other duties as may be assigned by the Treasurer.

I. OTHER COMMITTEES

2.33 The Congregational Constitutions and District Handbook Committee

2.33.a. Membership: The Congregational Constitutions and District Handbook Committee shall consist of two ordained ministers, at least one of whom shall be a parish pastor, and one layman who is a voting member of a congregation of the District, who shall be an attorney.

2.33.b. Duties

2.33.b.i. A congregation which applies for membership in the Synod shall send its constitution and bylaws to the District President, who shall refer them to the Congregational Constitutions and District Handbook Committee. This committee shall examine the constitution and bylaws to ascertain whether or not their provisions are in harmony with Scriptures and the teachings and practices of the Synod, in order that any necessary changes may be made by the congregation. A congregation shall not be granted membership in the Synod until it has made such changes as the Committee has deemed necessary and the Committee has notified the District President of its approval of the congregation's constitution and bylaws. Once a congregation's application for membership has been approved by the District Board of Directors or, if denied by the Board of Directors and requested by the congregation, approved by the District Convention, a copy of its constitution and bylaws shall be forwarded to the secretary of the District and retained in the District office for future reference (Synod Bylaws 2.2.1 – 2.3.2).

2.33.b.ii. A member congregation which translates, revises, or amends desires to revise its constitution and/or bylaws or adopts a new constitution and/or bylaws shall submit such translation, revision, amendment, or new a proposed revised constitution and/or bylaws to the District President who shall direct it refer such to the Congregational Constitutions and District Handbook Committee for review to ascertain that the provisions are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures, the Confessions, and the teachings and practices of the Synod. Upon advice of the committee and recommendation of the District President, the District Board of Directors shall determine if the changes are acceptable to the Synod. Upon favorable action by the District Board of Directors, the congregation shall be notified that the changes have been approved are acceptable to the Synod, and that the congregation may function under the new or changed proceed with formal adoption of the revised constitution and/or bylaws without jeopardizing its good standing in and remain a member in good standing of the Synod. Upon formal adoption of the proposed revised constitution and/or bylaws, the congregation shall provide to the District a dated copy of the action taken, accompanied by a copy of the dated and revised constitution and/or bylaws. Until a congregation formally adopts a revised constitution and/or bylaws using this process, the Synod shall consider the existing constitution and bylaws to be in effect for all purposes. Such actions Completed congregational constitution and/or bylaws revisions shall be reported to the next convention of the District. A copy of such revised constitutions and/or bylaws shall be retained in the District office for future reference (Synod Bylaws 2.4.1 and 2.4.2).

2.33.b.iii. The committee shall request, receive and keep on permanent file a copy of the constitution and bylaws of every congregation in the District.

2.33.b.iv. The committee shall be responsible for revising the District Handbook and for providing the ~~Synodical~~ Commission on Constitutional Matters with a copy of any proposed revisions for its prior approval. After each District convention the committee shall be responsible for disseminating copies of the revised version of the District Handbook to the congregations of the District.

2.34 The Committee for Human Care and Church Worker Support and Wellness

333 2.34.a. Membership: The Board of Directors shall appoint a Committee for Human Care and Church Worker Support and
334 Wellness consisting of two ordained ministers, one commissioned church worker from the Synod roster minister, one layman who
335 is voting member of a congregation of the District, and a fifth member of a District congregation who is not an ordained minister.
336

337 2.34.b. The Duties of the Committee for Human Care and Church Worker Support and Wellness:
338

339 2.34.b.i. Provide services which will deepen congregation members' concern for human care and endeavors to remove or
340 alleviate human suffering;
341

342 2.34.b.ii. Promote and participate in human care activities from the Synod's Offices of National and International Mission;
343

344 2.34.b.iii. Encourage and support the personal and vocational growth and well-being of the church's workers.
345

346 2.34.b.iv. Recommend to the Board of Directors the granting of assistance to congregations, or through them to their
347 members or others, in dire emergencies or disaster situations;
348

349 2.34.b.v. Assist the Commission on Mission Services, upon request, in the institutional ministries of the District.
350

351 **2.35 The Ministerial Health Committee**
352

353 2.35.a. Membership: The President of the District shall appoint a Ministerial Health Committee consisting of two ordained
354 ministers, one teacher or DCE, and two laymen who are voting members of congregations of the District, at least one of whom
355 shall, if possible, be a physician or psychiatrist.
356

357 2.35.b.4.b.vi Duties: The Committee shall provide opportunity for the continuing education and vocational growth of the church's
358 workers, advocate and facilitate care and counsel for the church's workers to support them in the performance of their official
359 duties, and advocate and facilitate support for the personal well-being of the church's workers and their family members.
360

361 2.36 The Auditing Committee
362

363 2.36.a. Membership: The Auditing Committee shall consist of three laymen who are voting members of congregations of
364 the District and qualified for such work through accounting and related experiences, one of whom shall be a certified public
365 accountant.
366

367 2.36.b. Duties: The Auditing Committee shall meet in mid-year with the Treasurer and Business Manager (if appointed) to
368 review records, vouchers, instruments, cash and bank balances, notes receivable and payable, insurance papers, etc., and shall
369 submit its report to the Board of Directors.
370

371 2.36.c. Special Audit: The Auditing Committee shall annually, or more frequently at the request of the Board of Directors,
372 engage a firm of Certified Public Accountants to audit the books and financial records of the District and such other funds and
373 records as the Auditing Committee or the Board of Directors in their judgment may consider appropriate. The Auditing Committee
374 shall review the audit reports as submitted by the independent CPA firm, and shall prepare a report with recommendations to the
375 Board of Directors and to the District convention. At least annually notice shall be given to each congregation within the District
376 that a copy of the latest audit is available from each circuit visitor and upon request from a congregation, a copy or copies will be
377 supplied from the District office.
378

379 2.36.d. Bonding: The Auditing Committee shall recommend to the Board of Directors the amount and form of bonding or
380 insurance which the District shall maintain in force on the Treasurer, Business Manager (if appointed), employees, and such other
381 persons as may be deemed appropriate for such bonding coverage.
382

383 **J. REGULATIONS GOVERNING NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**
384

385 2.37 General Regulations
386

387 2.37.a. Appointment of Committee: In preparation for the elections at the District convention the President, in consultation
388 with the Vice-Presidents, shall appoint an Elections Committee, consisting of two ordained ministers, two teachers or DCEs,
389 commissioned ministers, and two laymen who are voting members of congregations of the District.
390

391 2.37.b. The Elections Committee, in consultation with the Nominations Committee, shall make the necessary provisions for
392 elections and shall conduct and supervise the elections according to District regulations. The members of the Election Committee
393 shall serve until their successors have been appointed.
394

395 2.38 Order of Elections
396

397 2.38.a. In the year preceding the election of the officers of Synod, At the regular conventions of the District, the election
398 shall proceed as follows: The President and Vice-Presidents shall be elected first, as provided hereinafter; then the Secretary, the
399 Assistant Secretary, the Treasurer, the Financial Secretary, the members of the Board of Directors, the circuit visitors, and the
400 members of the standing commissions and committees of the District.
401

402 2.38.b. Proxy: There shall be no voting by proxy at any District election.
403

404 2.39 Order of Names on Ballot
405

406 The names, congregational affiliation, and post office address of the congregation of each candidate in all elections shall be placed
407 on the ballot in alphabetical order and without any distinctive mark., except where congregational membership is required by the
408 district (cf. Central Illinois District Bylaw 2.22.d.).
409

410 2.40 Nomination for President
411

412 2.40.a. Advance Nominating Ballot: Five months before the regular election each congregation holding voting membership
413 in the District shall receive from the Secretary of the District an official nominating ballot on which to nominate one or two
414 candidates for President. The congregation's ballot shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of the congregation. The ballot,
415 duly filled in and signed, must be returned to the Secretary of the District at least eight weeks prior to the convention at which the
416 election will be held in order to be counted.
417

418 2.40.b. Notice of Nomination for President: The Secretary of the District shall notify the five candidates who received the
419 highest number of nominations for the office of President (provided they received at least 5% of the total nominations submitted),
420 but the number of nominating votes shall not be revealed. Such nominees who for good and sufficient reasons will not be able to
421 serve in this particular full-time office shall so inform the Secretary of the District at least five weeks prior to the convention.
422 Should any of the five nominees decline the nomination, the Secretary of the District shall notify the nominee receiving the next
423 highest number of votes (as long as it is at least 5% of the total nominations submitted).
424

425 2.41 Election of President
426

427 2.41.a. The Secretary of the District shall report to the convention and deliver to the Elections Committee an alphabetical
428 list of the up to five persons nominated for the office of President in accord with the provisions above together with a tabulation of
429 the nominating votes. These candidates shall be introduced to the convention.
430

431 2.41.b. The election of the President shall take place as soon as possible after the convention is in session.
432

433 2.41.c. If no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, the name of the candidate who received the smallest number of
434 votes shall be stricken from the list, and a new ballot taken immediately. This procedure is to be followed until a person is elected.
435

436 2.42 Nominations for Vice-Presidents
437

438 A primary election for the nomination of candidates for the office of Vice-President shall be held after the President has been
439 elected. Ballots for the nominations shall be prepared in such manner that each voting delegate shall have opportunity for one
440 nomination for each of the regional Vice-Presidents.
441

441
442 2.43 Election of Vice-Presidents
443

444 2.43.a. The ballot for the election of the Vice-Presidents shall list three candidates for each of the regional Vice-Presidents.
445 The names of those candidates who received the greater number of votes in the primary election shall be placed on the ballot, even
446 though one or two may have received a majority in the primary election.
447

448 2.43.b. In the regular election each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for each of the regional Vice-Presidents. If a
449 candidate in either region receives a majority on the first ballot, such candidate or candidates shall be declared elected. If no
450 candidate receives a majority in one region or in either region, the name of the candidate or candidates receiving the smallest
451 number of votes for his region shall be removed from the next ballot. Another vote shall then be taken.
452

453 2.44 Ranking of the Vice-Presidents
454

455 After the two Vice-Presidents have been elected, another ballot shall be taken to determine their rank. Each voting delegate shall
456 indicate his choice for the office of First Vice-President. The candidate receiving the greater number of votes shall be declared First
457 Vice-President, and the other candidate shall automatically be declared Second Vice-President.
458

459 2.45 Election of the Circuit Visitor
460

461 2.45.a. The District shall create a sufficient number of circuits and elect a circuit visitor for each circuit from among the
462 pastors serving congregations and emeriti pastors who are members of voting congregations thereof, to make possible official visits
463 to each congregation once in three years, should the assistance of the circuit visitor be requested by the District President, in
464 accordance with Synod Bylaw 4.4.4.
465

466 2.45.b. Each circuit forum shall meet at the call of its circuit visitor at least four months prior to the District convention.
467

468 2.45.b.i. Nominations for candidates for the office of circuit visitor may be submitted by a voting congregation of the circuit
469 and suggested by the District President, in consultation with the praesidium of the District.
470

471 2.45.b.ii. Selection of the circuit visitor at the circuit forum shall be election by written ballot. The privilege of voting shall be
472 exercised by the representatives from each member congregation or parish of the circuit, who shall have been selected in the
473 manner prescribed by the congregation (Synod Bylaw 5.3.2).
474

475 2.45.b.iii. Following presentations of pertinent information regarding each pastor- (cf. Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.6(c)) and
476 regarding circuit visitor responsibilities as provided in Synod Bylaw 5.2.3, each voter shall write in the names of two pastors- on
477 the initial ballot.
478

479 2.45.b.iv. The three pastors (or more in case of a tie) who receive the highest number of votes in this preliminary
480 ballot shall be placed on the next ballot. Each voter shall then vote for only one candidate. The pastor- who shall have received a
481 simple majority of all votes cast shall be declared the nominee.
482

483 2.45.b.v. If no pastor receives a majority, balloting shall continue with the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes
484 being removed from each succeeding ballot.
485

486 2.45.b.vi. Immediately following the circuit forum, the circuit visitor shall report in writing the results of the selection
487 process to the secretary of the district in preparation for ratification by the district convention.
488

489 2.45.b.vii. Should the candidate(s) no longer be available for this office, the District President shall make the
490 selection, which selection shall then be included on the convention slate of circuit visitors.
491

492 2.45.b.viii. The convention shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment.
493

2.45.b. ix. The convention shall then ratify the slate of Circuit Visitors, which ratification shall constitute election (Synod Bylaw 5.2.2).

2.45.c. Vacancies which occur in the office of circuit visitor between conventions shall be filled by appointment by the District President (Synod Bylaw 5.2.2.1).

2.46 Election of District Nominations Committee

2.46.a. At each regular convention of the District six persons (two parish pastors, ~~two parish teachers or DCEs, two commissioned ministers~~, two laymen who are voting members of congregations of the District) shall be elected to serve as the Nominations Committee for the next convention. They are to be chosen from a list of candidates representative of the various geographical areas of the District, submitted by the current Nominations Committee and augmented by additional candidates, if any, nominated from the floor of the convention.

2.46.b. The Nominations Committee is an ad hoc convention committee, to which limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply but whose members may not succeed themselves.

2.46.c. Should a vacancy occur on the Nominations Committee, the District President shall appoint a replacement from the list of non-elected nominees to this committee for the same classification as the vacancy in the order of the highest number of votes received.

2.46.d. The chairman and secretary of the committee shall be advisory members of the succeeding Nominations Committee.

2.47 Nominations for Other Offices

2.47.a. The District Nominations Committee shall nominate two candidates each for the following offices: the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary (in accordance with Synod Bylaw 4.3), for members of the Board of Directors, the Congregational Constitutions and District Handbook Committee, the District Nominations Committee, and for the District member and alternate to the ~~Synodical~~ Committee for Convention Nominations, in accordance with Synod Bylaws 3.12.3 - 3.12.3.3.

2.47.b. Candidates for membership on the Board of Directors shall be nominated so as to give equal representation, as nearly as practicable, to the various circuits of the District.

2.47.c. The Nominations Committee shall present these lists of nominations to the convention for ratification or amendment in alphabetical order. This report shall contain pertinent information concerning the specific experiences and qualifications of each candidate for the office in question. Additional nominations from the floor are permitted for offices other than the District President and Vice-Presidents.

2.48 Election

2.48.a. After approval of the nominations by the convention the Elections Committee shall prepare the ballots and direct the election of the above-named officers, boards, commissions, and committees.

2.48.b. Election shall be by simple majority vote.

2.48.c. In situations where delegates are asked to vote for more than one candidate on a single ballot, it is possible for more nominees to receive a majority vote than there are offices to fill. Should this situation occur, those nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

III. CIRCUIT OFFICIALS

A. THE CIRCUIT VISITORS

548 3.1 Circuit Visitors and District President

549

550 3.1.a. Each circuit visitor, by virtue of his office, shall assist the District President within the circuit.

551

552 3.1.b. The circuit visitor shall regularly report on his activities to the District President.

553

554 3.1.c. The circuit visitor is the principal officer of the circuit and serves in accordance with the duties assigned to this position in the

555 Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and District (Synod Bylaw 5.2.1).

556

557 3.2 Circuit Visitors and Member Congregations

558

559 3.2.1. The circuit visitor shall, when requested to do so by the District President, serve as his representative to visit each

560 congregation once in three years and otherwise as he the District President deems it necessary (Synod Bylaw 5.2.3.1).

561

562 3.2.b. The purpose of the official visits with pastors, congregations, and schools shall be those described in the Synodical Handbook

563 (Synod Bylaws 5.2.3.1 and 5.2.3.2).

564

565 3.2.c. The circuit visitor may be assisted by an Administrative Assistant to the President in the visitation to Lutheran Schools.

566

567 3.3 Expenses of Circuit Visitors

568

569 The circuit visitor is authorized to draw on the District treasury for his expenses.

570

571 3.4 Circuit Forum

572

573 3.4.a. Representation: Each congregation shall be represented at the circuit forum by its pastor and one lay member designated by the congregation. Depending on its adopted objectives, the circuit may request additional representation. The circuit forum consists of one pastor and one layperson from each member congregation or multi-congregation parish designated by the congregation or parish. Congregations of a multi-congregation parish not contributing a lay voter may send an advisory lay representative with voice but no vote. The Circuit Forum is encouraged to meet at least twice a year (Synod Bylaw 5.3.1).

574

575

576

577

578 3.4.b. Purpose: The circuit forum is the group which aids the process of keeping congregations, particularly the lay leaders, 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 levels. The circuit visitor, with any other circuit officers, shall have the primary responsibility of preparing the agenda for the circuit forum.

579

580

581

582

583

584

585 3.4.c. Functions: Among the functions which the circuit forum may perform are the following: (Synod Bylaw 5.3.1).

586

587 3.4.c.i. To study the Scriptures and the Confessions in order to promote an evangelical spirit in our walking together.

588

589 3.4.c.ii. To develop and adopt within existing policies of the District complementary and sometimes joint plans for missions

590 outreach in the circuit area;

591

592 3.4.c.iii. To devise and develop programs and services relevant to the needs of circuit congregations, lay leaders, ~~teachers~~,

593 ~~and~~ pastors , and commissioned ministers;

594

595 3.4.c.iv. To receive and respond as appropriate to advice, guidance, resolutions, and programs in other sections of the Synod

596 as such may be addressed to it from other circuits, the District, and the general Synod;

597

598 3.4.c.v. To serve as a setting to review and evaluate programs, plans and long-range directions of the District and Synod,

599 and thus participate in the triennial process of suggesting, developing, and attaining the Synod's priorities and goals.

600

3.4.c.vi. To select the circuit visitor to be ratified by the convention.

602
603 3.4.d. Election of ~~Synodical~~ Convention Delegates: The circuit forum of an electoral circuit (which may consist of one or two
604 adjacent visitation circuits) triennially shall elect the pastoral and lay delegate and their alternates, to the general convention of the
605 Synod according to the regulations of the Synod (Synod Bylaws 3.1.2 and 3.1.2.1). The lay delegate shall, upon election, serve
606 through the triennium following the next convention as an advisory member of the circuit forum (Synod Bylaw 5.3.3).
607

608 3.4.e. Overtures: The circuit forum shall be qualified to submit overtures to national and district conventions (Synod Bylaw 5.3.5).
609

610 3.5 Circuit Convocations
611

612 3.5.a. The circuit convocation is a larger gathering of members from circuit congregations during a year in which there is no
613 national or district convention. The circuit visitor, with any other circuit officers, shall have the primary responsibility of preparing
614 for the circuit convocation.
615

616 3.5.b. The purpose of a circuit convocation is to provide a setting in which congregational members may know of and celebrate the
617 ministry pursued by each congregation, may review and discuss the work of the circuit forum, may discuss and evaluate mission
618 potential within the circuit, and may receive information on various phases of the work pursued through districts and Synod. As
619 such, its emphasis should be on inspiration, education, motivation, and mission and theological discourse (Synod Bylaw 5.4.2).
620

621 **B. THE CIRCUIT LAY DELEGATES**
622

623 3.6 Office
624

625 The lay delegate elected by the circuit forum shall be the circuit lay delegate.
626

627 3.7 Duties of the Circuit Lay Delegates
628

629 3.7.a. The circuit lay delegate shall attend all meetings of ~~his circuit, the circuit(s) represented, the Budget Advisory Conference,~~
630 and such other meetings requiring his presence as may be called by the Board of Directors. He shall serve as an advisory member
631 of the circuit forum.
632

633 3.7.b. On special visits to the congregations he may accompany the circuit visitor.
634

635 3.7.c. He shall assist the circuit visitor in reporting on the work of the Synod and of the District on his visits to the congregations.
636

637 3.7.d. He shall endeavor to acquaint himself with the affairs of the Synod and of the District by every means available.
638

639 3.7.e. He shall support the circuit visitor in encouraging the congregations in the fuller use of the educational agencies available.
640

641 3.7.f. He shall interest himself especially in the financial contributions of the congregations for home, district, and
642 Synodical purposes.
643

644 **IV. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**
645

646 4.1 Disputes defined in Bylaw Article 1.10 of the ~~Synodical~~ Handbook shall be resolved by the procedure set forth
647 therein.
648

649 **V. EVANGELISM**
650

651 **THE COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM SERVICES**
652

653 5.1 Duties
654

655
656 5.1.a. The Commission on Evangelism Services shall co-operate with Synod's Office of National Mission to develop policies and
657 provide programs of evangelism for use by individuals, congregations, circuits, and the District. In keeping with the Synod's Office
658 of National Mission, the policies and programs provided will include inreach, outreach, and assimilation/retention.
659

660 5.1.b. It shall have the responsibility to make the work of evangelism the chief goal of our church.
661

662 5.1.c. It shall strive to cultivate in members a greater mission consciousness and evangelistic concern.
663

664 5.1.d. It shall arrange leadership training workshops and conferences in evangelism.
665

666 5.1.e. It shall recommend and distribute evangelism materials.
667

668 5.1.f. It is encouraged to avail itself of the assistance and experiences of additional pastors, teachers, commissioned
669 ministers, and laymen in the District.
670

671 5.1.g. The Commission on Evangelism Services may delegate much of the actual work to an evangelism field representative
(Central Illinois District Bylaw 2.31.e.).
672

673 5.2 Subcommittees
674

675 The Commission, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may appoint committees to assist in the various areas of activity.
676

677 **VI. CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**
678

679 **THE COMMISSION ON CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**
680

681 6.1 Duties
682

683 The Commission on Congregational Life shall, in cooperation with Synod's Office of National Mission, support and serve the
684 congregations and professional workers of the District in their ministries of worship, nurture, service, and youth.
685

686 The commission shall:
687

688 6.1. a. Assist congregations and professional workers in stimulating members to serve the temporal needs of others in the
689 community and world (so that the response to the Gospel of loving and caring for others may be demonstrated in life and vocation).
690

691 6.1.b. Maintain liaison and cooperation with appropriate auxiliary and other service organizations recognized by the District.
692

693 6.1.c. Assist congregations and professional workers in worship by providing literature for the understanding and love of our
694 Lutheran heritage, and by recommending new worship forms worthy of use in Lutheran worship.
695

696 6.1.d. Assist congregations and professional workers in developing loving and caring ministries to households of various Christian
697 lifestyles.
698

699 6.1.e. Encourage and assist congregations in establishing family life ministries.
700

701 6.1.f. Encourage and assist congregations in establishing and maintaining youth ministries.
702

703 6.1.g. Encourage and assist congregations with their educational ministries such as Sunday Schools, Bible Classes, Vacation Bible
704 Schools, Saturday Schools, etc., with the exception of Christian Day Schools.
705

706 6.2 Subcommittees
707

708 The commission, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may appoint committees to assist in furthering its work.
709

710 **VII. EDUCATION SERVICES**

711 **THE COMMISSION ON EDUCATION SERVICES**

712 **7.1 Duties**

713 The Commission on Education Services shall cooperate with the Synod's Office of National Mission and shall assist and advise the
714 local congregations with regard to the whole range of Christian education, full time parochial education and continuing education
715 for full and part-time church workers. The Commission shall help the local congregation achieve the objectives and scope of
716 Christian education as outlined:

717 7.1.a. Aid those congregations which have full-time schools, e.g., preschools, elementary or high schools.

718 7.1.b. Aid congregations by assisting in providing for continuing education for full and part-time church workers.

719 7.1.c. Provide personnel services and resources for calling competent teaching staffs for the schools of the District.

720 7.1.d. Work toward an improved quality of Christian education through in-service training programs for ~~pastors, teachers, and~~
721 ~~DCEs~~ ~~ordained and commissioned ministers~~; through analysis and interpretation of statistics gathered on the educational functions
722 of our congregations; and by visiting congregations and Lutheran elementary and secondary schools.

723 7.1.e. Encourage and promote congregation members to become lay or professional church workers.

724 7.1.f. Provide a liaison with ~~Synodical~~ education experts.

725 **7.2 Subcommittees**

726 The Commission, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may appoint committees to assist in furthering its work, e.g.,
727 in the areas of Lutheran preschools, elementary and secondary schools; and continuing education for full and part-time church
728 workers.

729 **VIII. MISSIONS**

730 **THE COMMISSION ON MISSION SERVICES**

731 **8.1 Duties**

732 8.1.a. The function of the Commission on Mission Services shall be to "strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold
733 witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the
734 world" (Synodical Constitution III 2).

735 8.1.b. The Commission on Mission Services shall direct its attention to the entire mission work of the District (home missions,
736 institutional mission, campus ministry, etc.) and shall promote the cause of mission work in general. It shall explore territories in
737 the District with a view to establishing mission stations and congregations. It shall recommend to the Board of Directors the calling
738 of missionaries to new fields, if conditions warrant it, and the filling of vacancies occurring in the parishes which are not yet
739 organized, and it shall supervise the work of the missionaries and ~~pastors~~ of subsidized congregations. Much of the actual work of
740 exploring new fields, visiting and encouraging mission congregations, etc., may be delegated to a field representative for this
741 commission.

742 8.1.c. Salaries: The Commission on Mission Services shall submit to the District Board of Directors recommendations to set and
743 adequately update ~~the scale of~~ salaries, equipment allowance, and mileage payments for the missionaries and other mission church
744 workers of the District.

762
763 8.1.d. Report to the convention: In presenting its report to the District, the Commission on Mission Services shall list the
764 membership statistics of the subsidized congregations and parishes, losses and gains, funds raised by these congregations for work
765 at home and at large, indebtedness, amount of subsidy received, the year when subsidies were begun, as well as other data, which
766 will give the convention a comprehensive picture of their respective missions.
767

768 8.1.e. ~~Synodical~~ Membership: The Commission on Mission Services shall urge every newly organized congregation to become a
769 member of the Synod as soon as possible. A copy of the tentative draft of the constitution and bylaws of a congregation about to
770 organize shall be submitted to the Congregational Constitutions and District Handbook Committee for review and appropriate
771 action.
772

773 8.1.f. Educational Agencies: The Commission on Mission Services shall urge all congregations under its care to maintain
774 adequate educational agencies for all age levels.
775

776 8.1.g. Conferences: The Commission on Mission Services shall conduct conferences and workshops in the interest of missions as
777 needed and when appropriate.
778

779 8.1.h. Expansion: The Commission on Mission Services shall offer support and assistance to congregations and pastors interested in
780 beginning mission stations or establishing daughter churches.
781

782 8.1.i. ~~Instructions to Subsidized congregations: The Commission on Mission Services shall notify the congregations under its care
783 of the following duties and regulations governing them:~~
784

785 8.1.i.i. ~~Application for Subsidy: All applications for subsidy shall be made in writing by congregation resolution, where this
786 is possible, to the Commission on Mission Services. At a station where there is no organized congregation as yet, the Commission
787 shall estimate the amount of subsidy needed and recommend the same to the Board of Directors. Every subsidized congregation
788 shall make an earnest effort to reduce its request for subsidy, so that it may become self supporting as soon as possible.~~
789

790 8.1.i.ii. ~~Regular Reports: Subsidized congregations and their pastors shall be held to make regular reports, and such other
791 special reports as the Commission may deem necessary, to the Commission on Mission Services. This is to be done promptly on
792 forms provided for this purpose and as required by the Commission. The regularity of these reports conditions the regularity of the
793 subsidies.~~
794

795 8.1.i.iii. ~~Calling of Pastors: Vacant subsidized congregations shall seek the counsel of the District President and of the
796 Commission on Mission Services when calling a new pastor. They should request the advice and presence of the District President
797 or the field representative for the Commission on Mission Services at the meetings when calls are extended, or when considering
798 calls which their pastors have received. If a congregation acts contrary to such advice without valid reason, subsidy may be
799 withheld. When a pastor of a subsidized congregation has received a call, he shall immediately inform the Commission on Mission
800 Services and the District President and seek their advice.~~
801

802 8.1.i.iv. ~~Repairs, Improvements, and Investments: Subsidized congregations intending to incur larger expenses not included
803 in their annual budget shall first obtain the advice and approval of the Commission on Mission Services and/or the Board of
804 Directors.~~
805

806 8.1.i.v. ~~Welfare and Retirement Plans: All subsidized congregations and their ordained and commissioned ministers shall be
807 required to join Synod's Concordia Retirement, Disability and Survivor, and Health Plans. Premiums are to be included in the
808 congregation's budget.~~
809

810 8.1.i. The Commission on Mission Services shall deal with congregations wishing to receive CID mission funding in
811 accordance with guidelines adopted by the District Board of Directors.
812

813 8.2 Subcommittees
814

815 The Commission, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may appoint committees to explore each area of its concerns, e.g.,
816 small, rural, dual parish ministry, campus ministry, institutional ministry, town and country, human care, and world relief.
817

818 **IX. FINANCES**

819 **THE COMMISSION ON FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

820 9.1 Duties
821

822 The Commission on Finance and Management shall:
823

824 9.1.a. Be responsible for the management of all fiscal and financial affairs of the District;
825

826 9.1.b. Have as members the Treasurer and Financial Secretary and three other members with financial expertise as appointed by the
827 Board of Directors.
828

829 9.1.c. Provide a Budget Committee made up of the Treasurer, the Financial Secretary, and one member of each Commission of the
830 Board to receive, review, and submit a proposed budget from all spending commissions of the District;
831

832 9.1.d. Recommend to the Board of Directors a balanced budget. A balanced budget is one in which budgeted income minus
833 budgeted expenditures plus unrestricted net assets, not including investment in plant, is greater than zero. A balanced budget is
834 based on the mission commitments of the District congregations plus other income and on the spending request of all departments
835 and agencies of the District;
836

837 9.1.e. Study the finances of the District on the basis of reports prepared by District officers and constantly look for ways and means
838 to improve the financial performance of the District;
839

840 9.1.f. Keep the congregations of the District informed of the financial status of the District through the use of official news
841 publications of the District and other means of communications.
842

843 **X. STEWARDSHIP**
844

845 **THE COMMISSION ON STEWARDSHIP SERVICES**
846

847 Theological Principle: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice,
848 holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1 NKJV)
849

850 Christian stewardship is managing all God's resources which have been entrusted to us in such a way as to accomplish God's
851 purpose with them. It is the recognition and the fulfillment of personal privilege and responsibility for the managing of the whole
852 life in accordance with the will of God.
853

854 10.1 Objectives
855

856 Christian stewardship is an attitude which sees all of one's life as a sacred trust to be used in the Master's business.
857 Therefore, objectives of the Commission on Stewardship Services are as follows:
858

859 10.1.a. To help the people of God understand that stewardship originates and centers in His actions and therefore
860 stewardship centers on the cross and our total response to Christ.
861

862 10.1.b. To help the people of God to be motivated, to make personal commitments regarding the use of their time, talents,
863 and resources in every part of their life in order to fulfill God's purpose for their existence on earth.
864

865 10.1.c. To help the people of God to understand how they, through cooperative action with their fellow believers, can carry
866 out the Great Commission of the Church.
867

869
870 10.1.d. To help the people of God comprehend why He blesses them with material resources and the ways in which these
871 blessings might be shared with others.
872

873 10.2 Functions
874

875 The functions of the Commission on Stewardship will be:
876

877 10.2.a. Equip the leaders, the pastors, and the members of the congregations of the Central Illinois District in the principles
878 and practices of the total stewardship life on a year-round basis.
879

880 10.2.b. Guide the leaders, the pastors and the members of the congregations of the Central Illinois District to a greater
881 appreciation of the privileges and responsibilities of Church membership.
882

883 10.2.c. Offer training and develop skills of the leaders, pastors, and members of the congregations of the Central Illinois
884 District for more effective stewardship ministry.
885

886 10.2.d. Provide encouragement and challenge to professional church workers as they serve as examples of committed
887 stewards of God.
888

889 10.2.e. Promote the recruitment of professional church workers.
890

891 10.2.f. Assist the leaders, the pastors, and the members of congregations of the Central Illinois District as they continue to
892 grow in their attitudes and skills in the area of stewardship through Bible study, workshops, seminars, conferences, etc.
893

894 10.2.g. Assist the leaders, the pastors, and the members of the congregations of the Central Illinois District to gain a greater
895 understanding and appreciation of their worldwide mission and ministry for Christ through the Synod, and thereby grow in its
896 support.
897

898 10.2.h. Assist the leaders, the pastors, and the members of the congregations of the Central Illinois District to grow in the
899 grace of Christian sacrificial giving.
900

901 10.2.i. Provide counsel and materials for the congregations as they endeavor to enlist their members' time, talents and
902 treasures for Kingdom service in and through the congregation.
903

904 10.2.j. Study and evaluate contemporary trends in Christian stewardship and share these studies with pastors and leaders of
905 the congregations of the Central Illinois District.
906

907 10.2.k. Plan and prepare stewardship programs which will offer helpful suggestions to pastors and elders of the
908 congregations of the Central Illinois District.
909

910 10.2.1. Counsel with circuits and congregations of the Central Illinois District in the use of stewardship programs and
911 materials.
912

913 10.2.m. Cooperate with those district departments which offer specific programs and services for the purpose of
914 coordinating these programs and services into an overall program.
915

916 10.3 Duties
917

918 It will be the duty of each member of the Commission on Stewardship Services to:
919

920 10.3.a. Faithfully attend the Commission on Stewardship Services meetings.
921

922 10.3.b. Participate in the discussion and decision-making process of the commission.
923
924 10.3.c. Accept special assignments from time to time that may be required to carry out the commission's functions more
925 effectively.
926

927 10.3.d. Represent the Commission on Stewardship Services in a positive manner and to set an example of the spirit of total
928 Christian stewardship in his life and attitudes.
929

930 10.3.e. Pray that the Lord of the Church will bless the stewardship efforts of His stewards.
931
932 10.4 Student Aid
933

934 The Commission on Stewardship with the approval of the Board of Directors shall appoint a Committee on Student Aid which
935 shall receive all applications for financial assistance from students preparing for service in the church and shall make
936 recommendations to the Board of Directors through the Commission on Stewardship. Each year the Committee shall give adequate
937 publicity to the Student Aid Fund in an official District news publication. The committee shall be guided by the following
938 provisions:
939

940 10.4.a. Eligibility: Communicant members of a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the Central
941 Illinois District who are students or prospective students enrolled at ~~s~~Synodical colleges, universities, or seminaries with the intent
942 of preparing themselves for full-time work in the church are eligible.
943

944 10.4.b. Applications: Application forms are to be obtained from the school in which the student is enrolled. The forms are to
945 be sent to the school, not to the Central Illinois District office; the colleges, universities, or seminaries will forward the forms to the
946 District by June 15.
947

948 10.4.c. Nature of Support: All financial assistance shall be in the form of student grants. The amount of each grant shall be
949 ratified by the Board of Directors. Financial assistance shall be determined on the basis of need determined by the accepted practice
950 of the respective school. Grants shall be made only on an annual basis. If support is needed and desired for more than one year, an
951 application shall be submitted prior to each new school year. Grants to students shall be sent only to the person in charge of such
952 funds at the respective school.
953

954 10.4.d. District Aid: Student grants shall be made available primarily to students who have completed high school and are
955 enrolled in colleges and seminaries for studies leading to ~~s~~Synodical certification.
956

957 10.4.e. In the event a student who has received a student grant determines not to pursue studies leading to professional
958 church service, it is understood that the recipient has a moral obligation to repay the grant.
959

960 10.5 Subcommittees
961
962 The Commission, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may appoint committees to assist in its various areas of activity.
963

964 XI. COMMUNICATION SERVICES 965

966 11.1 The Communications Committee
967
968 11.1.a. Membership: The Communications Committee, appointed by the Board of Directors, shall consist of at least five
969 ~~members: one ordained minister, one teacher or DCE, one layman, one member at large who may be acquainted with electronic~~
970 ~~and/or print media, and one editor. The editor shall be appointed for a three year term. The chairman of the committee shall be~~
971 ~~appointed by the Board of Directors. members to include at least one ordained minister, at least one commissioned minister, and~~
972 ~~also at least one lay member. Skills and interests sought among members include editorial services, acquaintance with print media,~~
973 ~~acquaintance with electronic media (radio, television, internet). An editor may be appointed for a three-year term. The chairman of~~
974 ~~the committee is appointed by the Board of Directors.~~
975

976 11.1.b. Area Representatives: The Communications Committee shall select one representative, a layman if possible, from
977 each circuit to assist the committee in the publicity work in that circuit. Additional area representatives may be selected as the
978 committee deems necessary.

979
980 11.2 Duties

981
982 11.2.a. The Communications Committee shall be responsible for all aspects of communication of District happenings.

983
984 11.2.b. The editor shall be responsible for the official District news publication.

985
986 11.2.c. The Communications Committee shall handle the publicity of all events of District-wide importance, such as the
987 District convention, conferences, special rallies, and the like. The committee shall be responsible for the publishing of a daily
988 summary of business and events of the District convention.

989
990 11.2.d. The committee shall serve as a clearing house for all publicity in the District. To this end, all pastors shall be
991 encouraged to keep this committee informed on what is being done in their locality in this respect, and pastors should feel free to
992 call upon this committee for counsel in promoting local publicity. Likewise, the Board of Directors, the officers and staff, and all
993 commissions and committees of the District shall in a timely manner notify the Communications Committee of all newsworthy
994 items.

995
996 11.2.e. The committee may issue a digest of District news, releases from Synod's Board for Communication Services, and
997 such other publicity materials that are being produced for the purpose of bringing our church to the attention of the public. This
998 shall be sent to all pastors, professors, and teachers ordained and commissioned ministers of the District.

2000 11.2.f. The committee shall promptly answer attacks or unfavorable comments made by the press, radio, or television
2001 concerning the church; when church. When feasible this shall be done after consultation with the appropriate District officials.

2002
2003 11.2.g. The committee shall promote articles and broadcasts that will publicize the position of the District or the Synod on
2004 matters currently controversial or directly affecting the attitude of many of our own people.

2005
2006 11.2.h. The committee shall cooperate with the communication services of Synod and of neighboring districts by furnishing
2007 them with District news for possible nation-wide distribution and by supplying such other information and reports as may be found
2008 advisable.

2009
2010 11.2.i. The committee shall send to the District Archivist for possible inclusion in the archives such material, photographs,
2011 and the like which it deems no longer necessary to retain in its own files.

2012 **XII. SPECIAL MINISTRIES**

2013
2014 12.1 The Archivist

2015
2016 The Board of Directors shall appoint a District Archivist. The District President may appoint an Assistant Archivist.

2017
2018 12.1.a. Duties

2019
2020 12.1.a.i. The Archivist shall compile the history of the District in all phases of its work, such as organization, missions,
2021 educational agencies, young people's work, finances, etc., as well as the history of the individual local congregations and their
2022 interrelations.

2023
2024 12.1.a.ii. He shall preserve copies of all the Proceedings of District conventions, records of all boards, committees, and
2025 officers, reports and periodicals, minutes of all pastors' and teachers' commissioned church workers from the Synod rosters'
2026 conferences and circuit meetings, when no longer in use, and any documents of historical value, such as letters, printed anniversary
2027 booklets, parish papers, newspaper clippings, etc.

2030 12.1.a.iii. He shall index all such records, books, and documents, and keep them in the archives of the District.
2031
2032 12.1.a.iv. Whenever an officer, committee, or conference no longer has need of any records, they shall be placed into
2033 the care of the archivist.
2034
2035 12.1.a.v. He shall inform himself, and be kept informed, of any change in the secretaryship of the various conferences, so that
2036 he may know where, at any time, to locate the minutes of the individual conferences.
2037
2038 12.1.a.vi. All expenses incurred by the work of the archivist shall be defrayed from the District treasury.
2039
2040

XIII. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

2041 13.1 ~~How Made~~ Amendments to the Bylaws may be made, provided they are:
2042
2043 13.1.a. not contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod;
2044
2045 13.1.b. submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod for review and prior approval (Amendments
2046 not approved prior to the convention shall not take effect until approved by the commission.);
2047
2048 13.1.c. presented in writing to a convention of the District;
2049
2050 13.1.d. adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting at such a convention.
2051
2052

Resolution 25-1-06

To Encourage Use of *Beyond the Classroom (BTC)*

(Passed by voice vote)

Evangelism Commission Report

2053 WHEREAS, The BTC was developed by the ONM to support and develop outreach to unchurched families in our Lutheran Schools;
2054 and

2055 WHEREAS, 30% of the ~~kids~~ children who attend CID Lutheran Schools are unchurched; and

2056 WHEREAS, There is a need expressed by our CID schools and congregations to reach these unchurched families with the saving Gospel
2057 of Jesus Christ; therefore be it

2058 *Resolved*, That the congregations/schools of the CID be encouraged to engage the services of the CID office to provide support and
2059 training using the BTC module of *re: Vitality*

Resolution 25-2-04

To Annualize Congregational Assessments

(Passed 135-32)

Overture 25-10

2060 WHEREAS, The congregations of the CID currently contribute towards the synod convention, district convention, official district
2061 pastors' conferences, district pastors' wives' retreats, official district teachers' conferences, and official district school administrators'
2062 conferences through the payment of registration fees and/or assessments just prior to each of these events, and

2073 WHEREAS, These contributions vary greatly over the course of a triennium, from several dozen dollars in the non-convention year
2074 to several hundred (and for some congregations - a few thousand dollars) in the synod convention year (our largest congregations
2075 fluctuating from around \$500 in the non-convention year to between \$3,500-\$7,000 in the Synod convention year), and

2076 WHEREAS, These huge fluctuations are a difficulty for some congregations in providing consistent budgeting of their expenses from
2077 year to year, and

2078 WHEREAS, Several districts of the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod (including the Atlantic, English, Iowa East, Michigan,
2079 Montana, Nebraska, Northern Illinois, and Southern Illinois Districts, among others) ease this burden on congregations by requesting
2080 an annualized assessment of roughly equal value across the years of the triennium, and

2081 WHEREAS, The largest expenditure is the assessment for synod convention expenses, for which there is currently no current reserve,
2082 which will next occur in 2026,

2083 therefore be it

2084 *Resolved*, That the cost for the Synod Convention in 2026 will be assessed in total in 2026 (as it was in 2023, and for previous
2085 synod conventions), and be it further

2086 *Resolved*, That, starting with calendar year 2027, the district will calculate for each congregation an annualized assessment totaling
2087 1/3 of the anticipated cost for the district's conference and convention expenses for the upcoming triennium (the synod convention, the
2088 district convention, 5 official district pastors' conferences (with no conference in the Spring of a District Convention year), 3 official
2089 pastors' wives' retreats, 2 official district teachers' conferences, and 9 official district education administrators' conferences), and be it
2090 further

2091 *Resolved*, This assessment will be divided proportionally among the congregations, 40% based on communicant membership, 40%
2092 based on average attendance (both as reported by the congregations in their most recent annual statistical report to synod), and 20%
2093 based on total number of congregations in the district, and be it further

2094 *Resolved*, That the amount of this annual assessment will be set by the CID Board of Directors at their May meeting and
2095 communicated to congregations no later than June 1 of the calendar year prior to the assessment being due to assist those congregations
2096 utilizing a July-June fiscal year for budgeting, and be it finally

2097 *Resolved*, That token registration payments for these events may be collected as a queueing technique for accurate registration
2098 counts, but a substantial registration fee shall not be required of workers, wives, delegates, or congregations for those events covered
2099 under this assessment.

2100 **25-2-04 - Appendix A**

2101 *The following table represents the annualized assessments that would have been sent to each congregation at the end of May 2025
2102 (payable during fiscal year 2026) had Resolution 25-2-04 been in place for this year. The two figures under Confirmed Membership
2103 and Average Attendance are the last reported numbers and an adjusted total based on a 1% increase for each year since the last
2104 Statistical Report was submitted. This assessments would have been set (if approved by the Board of Directors) at \$281.00/congregation,
2105 \$2.00/Communicant (Confirmed) Member, \$6.00/Attendee to find the 3-year total, one-third of which would be assessed in FY2026.
2106 These numbers would be adjusted each year based on actual costs of the covered conferences/conventions and the updated statistical
2107 numbers.*

2108 Confirmed 2109 Congregation	2110 Average 2111 Membership	2112 Last Year 2113 Attendance	2114 Reported	2115 3-yesr 2116 Annual	2117 2023 Synod 2118 Total	2119 Conv. Assmt.
Bethlehem - Altamont	142/142	118/118	2024	\$424.33	\$1,273.00	\$461.70
Immanuel - Altamont	659/665	391/395	2023	\$1,327.67	\$3,983.00	\$1,949.40
Zion - Altamont	45/45	38/38	2024	\$199.67	\$599.00	\$119.70
Trinity - Arenzville	285/285	103/103	2024	\$489.67	\$1,469.00	\$812.25
Immanuel - Athens	15/15	9/9	2024	\$121.67	\$365.00	\$45.60
Trinity - Auburn	314/314	99/99	2024	\$501.00	\$1,503.00	\$1,342.35
Immanuel - Augsburg	222/222	54/54	2024	\$349.67	\$1,049.00	\$789.45
St. John - Bath	186/186	40/40	2024	\$297.67	\$893.00	\$535.80

2118	St. John - Beardstown	167/167	73/73	2024	\$351.00	\$1,053.00	\$487.35
2119	Good Shepherd - Bloomington	115/115	78/78	2024	\$326.33	\$979.00	\$413.25
2120	Our Redeemer - Bloomington	221/221	86/86	2024	\$413.00	\$1,239.00	\$954.75
2121	Confirmed Congregation	Average Membership	Last Year Attendance	3-yesr Reported	2023 Annual	2023 Synod Total	Conv. Assmt.
2122	Trinity - Bloomington	2180/2180	467/467	2024	\$2,481.00	\$7,443.00	\$6,897.00
2123	St. Paul - Blue Point	246/269	115/126	2015	\$525.00	\$1,575.00	\$666.90
2124	Trinity - Bluffs	190/196	33/34	2021	\$292.33	\$877.00	\$786.60
2125	St. Paul - Bowen	47/47	25/25	2024	\$175.00	\$525.00	\$173.85
2126	St. Paul - Brimfield	96/96	33/33	2024	\$223.67	\$671.00	\$470.25
2127	Immanuel - Broadlands	341/341	133/133	2024	\$587.00	\$1,761.00	\$1,105.80
2128	St. John - Buckley	596/608	135/138	2022	\$775.00	\$2,325.00	\$1,610.25
2129	Risen Savior - Buffalo	12/12	5/5	2023	\$111.67	\$335.00	\$37.05
2130	Trinity - Casey	86/86	25/25	2024	\$201.00	\$603.00	\$239.40
2131	Friendship/ Church of Joy - Champaign	93/94	45/45	2023	\$246.33	\$739.00	
2132	\$296.40						
2133	St. John - Champaign	712/712	286/286	2024	\$1,140.33	\$3,421.00	\$2,579.25
2134	University - Champaign	27/27	60/61	2023	\$233.67	\$701.00	\$54.15
2135	Salem - Chandlerville	57/57	15/15	2024	\$161.67	\$485.00	\$176.70
2136	St. Paul - Chapin	70/75	54/58	2017	\$259.67	\$779.00	\$342.00
2137	Immanuel - Charleston	132/132	56/56	2024	\$293.67	\$881.00	\$994.65
2138	St. John - Chatham	283/283	109/109	2024	\$500.33	\$1,501.00	\$937.65
2139	St. Paul - Chenoa	228/228	66/66	2024	\$377.67	\$1,133.00	\$681.15
2140	Zion - Chestnut	84/84	65/65	2024	\$279.67	\$839.00	\$205.20
2141	Immanuel - Cissna Park	23/25	20/21	2017	\$152.33	\$457.00	\$62.70
2142	Trinity - Cissna Park	257/257	54/54	2024	\$373.00	\$1,119.00	\$769.50
2143	Good Shepherd - Clayton	50/50	34/34	2024	\$195.00	\$585.00	\$153.90
2144	Christ - Clinton	80/80	42/42	2024	\$231.00	\$693.00	\$222.30
2145	Trinity - Coal Valley	116/116	62/62	2024	\$295.00	\$885.00	\$228.00
2146	Zion - Danvers	25/26	14/14	2021	\$139.00	\$417.00	\$74.10
2147	Immanuel - Danville	426/430	87/88	2023	\$556.33	\$1,669.00	\$1,305.30
2148	Trinity - Danville	393/393	111/111	2024	\$577.67	\$1,733.00	\$1,034.55
2149	Concordia - Decatur	75/75	24/24	2024	\$191.67	\$575.00	\$230.85

152	Mount Calvary - Decatur	261/261	115/115	2024	\$497.67	\$1,493.00	\$743.85
153	St. John - Decatur	1108/1108	185/185	2024	\$1,202.33	\$3,607.00	\$3,337.35
154	St. Paul's - Decatur	1874/1874	559/559	2024	\$2,461.00	\$7,383.00	\$5,560.35
155	Trinity - Decatur	170/170	70/70	2024	\$347.00	\$1,041.00	\$444.60
156	Christ - Delavan	105/106	20/20	2023	\$204.33	\$613.00	\$310.65
157	Confirmed Congregation	Average Membership	Last Year Attendance	3-yesr Reported	2023 Annual	2023 Synod Total	Conv. Assmt.
158	Grace - Dieterich	84/84	12/12	2024	\$173.67	\$521.00	\$265.05
159	St. John - Dieterich	150/150	77/77	2024	\$347.67	\$1,043.00	\$407.55
160	Cristo Rey - East Moline	18/18	18/18	2024	\$141.67	\$425.00	\$48.45
161	St. John - East Moline	424/424	123/123	2024	\$622.33	\$1,867.00	\$1,510.50
162	Zion - East Moline	130/139	50/54	2017	\$294.33	\$883.00	\$396.15
163	Saint Peters - East Peoria	187/187	75/75	2024	\$368.33	\$1,105.00	\$575.70
164	Trinity - Edinburg	132/132	25/25	2024	\$231.67	\$695.00	\$513.00
165	St. John - Effingham	785/785	399/399	2024	\$1,415.00	\$4,245.00	\$2,254.35
166	Trinity - El Paso	199/199	110/110	2024	\$446.33	\$1,339.00	\$513.00
167	Our Redeemer - Eureka	125/129	55/57	2021	\$293.67	\$881.00	\$356.25
168	Mt. Calvary - Galesburg	164/164	108/108	2024	\$419.00	\$1,257.00	\$450.30
169	Concordia - Geneseo	308/308	121/121	2024	\$541.00	\$1,623.00	\$880.65
170	St. John - Geneseo	167/167	47/47	2024	\$299.00	\$897.00	\$532.95
171	Holy Cross - Golden	79/79	50/50	2024	\$246.33	\$739.00	\$293.55
172	St. John - Green Valley	915/915	113/113	2024	\$929.67	\$2,789.00	\$2,641.95
173	St. Paul - Havana	558/575	100/103	2021	\$683.00	\$2,049.00	\$1,587.45
174	Good Shepherd - Hoopeston	25/25	15/15	2023	\$140.33	\$421.00	\$111.15
175	Christ - Jacksonville	24/24	15/15	2023	\$139.67	\$419.00	\$71.25
176	Our Redeemer - Jacksonville	147/147	74/74	2024	\$339.67	\$1,019.00	\$416.10
177	Salem - Jacksonville	663/663	132/132	2024	\$799.67	\$2,399.00	\$1,886.70
178	Faith - Kewanee	109/109	21/21	2024	\$208.33	\$625.00	\$290.70
179	St. Paul - Kewanee	72/74	35/36	2021	\$215.00	\$645.00	\$133.95
180	Our Savior - Lawrenceville	42/42	19/19	2024	\$159.67	\$479.00	\$48.45
181	St. Paul - Lexington	208/208	54/54	2024	\$340.33	\$1,021.00	\$609.90
182	Faith - Lincoln	326/326	70/70	2024	\$451.00	\$1,353.00	\$934.80
183	Zion - Lincoln	303/303	174/174	2024	\$643.67	\$1,931.00	\$1,268.25
184	Immanuel - Loda	75/75	24/24	2024	\$191.67	\$575.00	\$233.70

2186	St. John - Louisville	243/243	132/132	2024	\$519.67	\$1,559.00	\$695.40
2187	Immanuel - Macomb	72/73	50/51	2023	\$244.33	\$733.00	\$202.35
2188	St. Paul - Manito	138/138	50/50	2024	\$285.67	\$857.00	\$416.10
2189	Trinity - Manito	107/107	35/35	2024	\$235.00	\$705.00	\$336.30
2190	Christ - Mason City	194/194	67/67	2024	\$357.00	\$1,071.00	\$558.60
2191	St. John's - Mattoon	713/713	213/213	2024	\$995.00	\$2,985.00	\$2,408.25
2192	St. Paul - Mattoon	109/109	68/68	2024	\$302.33	\$907.00	\$726.75
2193	Confirmed Congregation	Average Membership	Last Year Attendance	3-yesr Reported	2023 Annual	2023 Synod Total	Conv. Assmt.
2194	St. Matthew - Milan	583/583	162/162	2024	\$806.33	\$2,419.00	\$1,618.80
2195	Our Savior - Milford	176/176	77/77	2024	\$365.00	\$1,095.00	\$627.00
2196	Good Shepherd - Miner	45/45	24/24	2023	\$171.67	\$515.00	\$145.35
2197	Holy Cross - Moline	185/185	80/80	2024	\$377.00	\$1,131.00	\$900.60
2198	Faith - Monticello	57/57	60/60	2024	\$251.67	\$755.00	\$293.55
2199	Bethel - Morton	1498/1498	683/683	2024	\$2,458.33	\$7,375.00	\$3,819.00
2200	Zion - Mt Pulaski	289/289	69/69	2024	\$424.33	\$1,273.00	\$880.65
2201	First - Mt. Sterling	55/60	25/27	2015	\$187.67	\$563.00	\$85.50
2202	Mount Zion - Mt. Zion	55/56	18/18	2023	\$167.00	\$501.00	\$142.50
2203	St. John - New Berlin	144/144	66/66	2024	\$321.67	\$965.00	\$407.55
2204	Zion - New Holland	71/72	29/29	2023	\$199.67	\$599.00	\$114.00
2205	Good Shepherd - Newton	36/36	12/12	2024	\$141.67	\$425.00	\$125.40
2206	Christ - Normal	534/534	195/195	2024	\$839.67	\$2,519.00	\$1,282.50
2207	St. John - Onarga	188/188	62/62	2024	\$343.00	\$1,029.00	\$521.55
2208	Immanuel - Osman	100/100	43/43	2024	\$246.33	\$739.00	\$342.00
2209	St. Paul - Pana	214/220	35/36	2021	\$312.33	\$937.00	\$607.05
2210	Grace - Paris	215/215	105/105	2024	\$447.00	\$1,341.00	\$598.50
2211	St. John - Pekin	527/527	110/110	2024	\$665.00	\$1,995.00	\$1,698.60
2212	Trinity - Pekin	261/261	66/66	2024	\$399.67	\$1,199.00	\$803.70
2213	Christ - Peoria	438/438	126/126	2024	\$637.67	\$1,913.00	\$1,299.60
2214	Mt. Calvary - Peoria	308/308	84/84	2024	\$467.00	\$1,401.00	\$906.30
2215	Redeemer - Peoria	901/901	410/410	2024	\$1,514.33	\$4,543.00	\$3,705.00
2216	Trinity - Peoria	509/509	326/326	2024	\$1,085.00	\$3,255.00	\$2,462.40
2217	Bethlehem - Petersburg	399/399	60/60	2024	\$479.67	\$1,439.00	\$826.50
2218	St. Paul - Pittsfield	29/30	16/16	2022	\$145.67	\$437.00	\$116.85

2220	Zion - Pleasant Plains	152/152	36/36	2024	\$267.00	\$801.00	\$458.85
2221	LC of St. John - Quincy	547/547	197/197	2024	\$852.33	\$2,557.00	\$1,775.55
2222	Our Redeemer - Quincy	474/479	142/143	2023	\$699.00	\$2,097.00	\$1,308.15
2223	St. James - Quincy	444/444	160/160	2024	\$709.67	\$2,129.00	\$1,778.40
2224	Immanuel - Riverton	40/40	20/20	2023	\$160.33	\$481.00	\$99.75
2225	Trinity - Roanoke	68/68	42/42	2024	\$223.00	\$669.00	\$299.25
2226	Our Redeemer - Robinson	36/36	22/22	2024	\$161.67	\$485.00	\$88.35
2227	Good Shepherd - Rochester	125/134	43/46	2017	\$275.00	\$825.00	\$356.25
2228	Immanuel - Rock Island	228/228	60/60	2024	\$365.67	\$1,097.00	\$698.25
2229	Confirmed Congregation	Average Membership	Last Year Attendance	3-yesr Reported	2023 Annual	2023 Synod Total	Conv. Assmt.
2230	St. John - Rushville	118/129	49/54	2015	\$287.67	\$863.00	\$165.30
2231	St. Paul - Sadorus	300/303	82/83	2023	\$461.67	\$1,385.00	\$769.50
2232	Salem - Salem	399/399	212/212	2024	\$783.67	\$2,351.00	\$1,271.10
2233	St. Luke - San Jose	136/137	35/35	2023	\$255.00	\$765.00	\$384.75
2234	St. John - Secor	232/232	21/21	2024	\$290.33	\$871.00	\$695.40
2235	Holy Cross - Shelbyville	289/289	100/100	2024	\$486.33	\$1,459.00	\$866.40
2236	Good Shepherd - Sherman	451/451	97/97	2024	\$588.33	\$1,765.00	\$1,539.00
2237	St. Paul - Shobonier	130/133	32/33	2022	\$248.33	\$745.00	\$242.25
2238	Faith - Shumway	219/235	115/123	2017	\$496.33	\$1,489.00	\$572.85
2239	St. Paul - Sigel	112/112	23/23	2024	\$214.33	\$643.00	\$339.15
2240	Concordia - Springfield	151/151	50/50	2024	\$294.33	\$883.00	\$715.35
2241	Holy Trinity - Springfield	7/7	7/7	2023	\$112.33	\$337.00	\$57.00
2242	Immanuel - Springfield	133/133	76/76	2024	\$334.33	\$1,003.00	\$353.40
2243	Our Savior's - Springfield	1283/1283	386/386	2024	\$1,721.00	\$5,163.00	\$4,143.90
2244	Trinity - Springfield	1391/1521	438/479	2015	\$2,065.67	\$6,197.00	\$3,964.35
2245	St. Peter - St. Peter	493/498	121/122	2023	\$669.67	\$2,009.00	\$1,416.45
2246	Trinity - Stewardson	401/401	136/136	2024	\$633.00	\$1,899.00	\$1,097.25
2247	Grace - Strasburg	96/96	54/54	2024	\$265.67	\$797.00	\$285.00
2248	St. Paul - Strasburg	377/392	150/156	2020	\$667.00	\$2,001.00	\$1,026.00
2249	Faith - Sullivan	169/169	74/74	2024	\$354.33	\$1,063.00	\$256.50
2250	Zion - Taylor Ridge	212/212	67/67	2024	\$369.00	\$1,107.00	\$749.55
2251	Trinity - Taylorville	420/424	72/73	2023	\$522.33	\$1,567.00	\$1,268.25
2252	St. Peter - Thawville	96/104	22/24	2016	\$211.00	\$633.00	\$267.90

2254	Peace - Thomasboro	151/153	65/66	2023	\$327.67	\$983.00	\$427.50
2255	Immanuel - Tuscola	158/158	106/106	2024	\$411.00	\$1,233.00	\$487.35
2256	Trinity - Urbana	130/131	85/86	2023	\$353.00	\$1,059.00	\$769.50
2257	Holy Cross - Vandalia	139/139	69/69	2024	\$324.33	\$973.00	\$778.05
2258	St. Paul - Varna	117/117	35/35	2024	\$241.67	\$725.00	\$324.90
2259	Concordia - Warsaw	24/26	13/14	2017	\$139.00	\$417.00	\$68.40
2260	St. John - Washburn	180/182	20/20	2023	\$255.00	\$765.00	\$521.55
2261	Our Savior - Washington	379/394	186/194	2020	\$744.33	\$2,233.00	\$969.00
2262	Calvary - Watseka	338/338	100/100	2024	\$519.00	\$1,557.00	\$912.00
2263	Christ - Waverly	106/110	18/19	2020	\$205.00	\$615.00	\$307.80
2264	Zion - Wenona	44/44	20/20	2024	\$163.00	\$489.00	\$136.80
2265	Confirmed Congregation	Average Membership	Last Year Attendance	3-yesr Reported	2023 Annual	2023 Synod Total	Conv. Assmt.
2266	St. Paul - Wheeler	134/134	60/60	2024	\$303.00	\$909.00	\$322.05
2267	Christ - Winchester	42/42	19/19	2024	\$159.67	\$479.00	\$131.10
2268	St. Paul - Woodworth	330/330	120/120	2024	\$553.67	\$1,661.00	\$1,077.30

2270 Resolution 25-2-05

2271 To Commemorate the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicæa

2272 (Passed by voice vote)

2273 *President's Report*

2274 WHEREAS, The Council of Nicæa was the first of seven ecumenical (church-wide) councils that shaped how the Christian faith has
2275 been confessed, and

2276 WHEREAS, This council combatted the heresy of Arianism (that Christ was a created being, not co-eternal or part of the Trinity),
2277 and

2278 WHEREAS, The Creed from this council formed the basis of first and second articles of what is now known as the Nicene Creed,
2279 therefore be it

2280 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District in convention commemorate this anniversary by standing and confessing together the
2281 Nicene Creed.

Resolution 25-2-06

To Commemorate the 125th Anniversary of Deaf Ministry in Central Illinois

(Passed by voice vote)

Mission Commission Report

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod Gospel outreach to the deaf and hard of-hearing community in Jacksonville, Illinois began in 1901, six years before Illinois was divided into three districts, and

WHEREAS, Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf continues to exist, and deaf ministry is now conducted through a district-wide deaf parish, Central Illinois Lutheran Deaf Outreach, and

WHEREAS, The vast majority of deaf people are non-churched and in need of the Gospel, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Central Illinois District give thanks to God for nearly 125 years of outreach to the deaf with the good news of Christ, and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to observe the 125th anniversary of deaf ministry in Central Illinois on Sunday, August 23, 2026 when the One-Year Lectionary Gospel will be Mark 7:31-37, and the Three-Year Lectionary Gospel will be Matthew 16:13-20, and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations and schools, as well as pastors and teachers be encouraged to give thanks to God for deaf ministry and to support it with prayers and gifts.

Resolution 25-1-07

To Encourage Sabbaticals for Church Workers

(Passed by voice vote)

Human Care and Church Worker Support and Wellness Report

Whereas, There is a growing attrition rate of called church workers in the Synod who have suffered from burn-out in the ministry; and

Whereas, The difficult cultural and financial setting of our time can easily take its toll on church workers; and

Whereas, The Central Illinois District recommends that its congregations institute a sabbatical policy for their called church workers; and

Whereas, Sabbaticals are a biblically rooted concept that are common practice in academic and other similar vocations; and

Whereas, The name “sabbatical” comes from the Hebrew word “sabbath,” and denotes a period of rest and renewal for those who serve the Lord in full-time calls with the aim of encouraging and motivating them in their vocation;

therefore, be it

Resolved, That congregations are encouraged to look toward the long-term health and wellness of their called church workers; and be it finally

Resolved, that the congregations/schools of the CID be encouraged to study, and if possible, implement the “Recommendations for Church Worker Sabbaticals” as defined in the yearly CID Salary Guidelines document.

Resolution 25-1-09

To Encourage Study of the Left-hand and Right-hand Modes of Governance

(Passed by voice vote)

Overture 25-01

WHEREAS, The Left-hand and Right-hand Modes of Governance are commonly referred to as “Two Kingdoms” teaching; and

WHEREAS, Jesus teaches there are two kingdoms (Matt. 22:21): the Kingdom of the Left, which has authority over earthly citizenship concerning one's country (Rom. 13:1-7); and the Kingdom of the Right, which has authority over the preaching of the Gospel which yields faith in Christ and thereby heavenly citizenship (Phil. 3:20; 1 Pet. 2:11; Martin Luther's "Temporal Authority: To What Extent It Should Be Obeyed," AE 45:75-129; AC XVI; Ap XVI; FC, Ep XII, 12-16 and SD XII, 17-23); and

WHEREAS, “[T]he powers of the church and civil government must not be mixed. The power of the church possesses its own command to preach the gospel and administer the sacraments. It should not usurp the other’s duty, transfer earthly kingdoms, abrogate the laws of magistrates, abolish lawful obedience, interfere with judgment concerning any civil ordinances or contracts, (AC XXVIII, 12 [Latin text]); and

WHEREAS, LCMS members have Christian freedom to think differently on kingdom of the left issues, and are encouraged “to exercise the greatest care in judging one another in their individual and different responses to complex social problems as each endeavors to apply the divine principle of Christian love to the specific human situation” (CTCR, *Civil Obedience and Disobedience*, D p. 6, 1965); and

WHEREAS, Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world" (Jn. 18:36); and

WHEREAS, Lobbying and advocating for increased or decreased government action is a matter of the Kingdom of the Left and no Christian should feel their conscience bound on such matters by association of their church with such advocacy;

therefore be it

Resolved, That the CID reaffirm Christ's teaching on the two kingdoms and encourage its membership to take up their duty to pray for wisdom and fulfil their vocations to love their neighbors according to each kingdom; and be it further

Resolved, That the CID encourage its congregations to engage in thoughtful study of the theology of the two kingdoms and their practical applications; and be it finally

Resolved, That CID memorialize Synod to direct organizations affiliated with The Synod to exercise extreme caution when advocating (lobbying) for positions in the Kingdom of the Left in which Christians of good conscience may differ.

Resolution 25-1-10

To Decline Overture 25-03

(Passed 101-47)

Overture 25-03

WHEREAS, There are already options available to congregations with regard to healthcare alternatives; therefore, be it

Resolved. That Overture 25-03 be declined.

To Commemorate the Life and Ministry of Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn

President's Report

WHEREAS, President Robert Kuhn served faithfully in our Central Illinois District for his entire pastoral career – first at St. John’s-Bath/Salem-Chandlerville (1963-70), then Concordia-Geneseo (1970-77), and Zion-Pleasant Plains (1979-85), with a brief hiatus from the parish to serve (from his Central Illinois home) as Assistant Director of Development for Concordia University – River Forest (1977-79), and

WHEREAS, The Rev. Dr. Kuhn was elected to a then-unprecedented four terms as CID President, but that service in our midst was cut short as he was elected the First Vice President of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1995, and

WHEREAS, Upon the death of Rev. Dr. A.L. Barry in March of 2001, he became the 11th President of the LCMS, and

WHEREAS, Following his retirement in September 2001, Rev. Dr. Kuhn continued to serve the church at large, serving terms as Chairman of the LCMS Board of Directors and as Regional Vice President, and

WHEREAS, He was called to glory on March 1, 2025,

therefore be it

Resolved, That we give thanks to our God for the life and work of His servant, Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn, and be it finally

Resolved, That the Convention delegates and guests stand and sing, "For All the Saints,"

For all the saints who from their labors rest,

Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,

Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Alleluia! Alleluia! (LSB 677:1)

Resolution 25-2-08

To Encourage Church Planting

(Passed by voice vote)

Mission Commission Report

WHEREAS, CID noted in a resolution at its last convention (2022 R2022-02), church planting remains an outstanding way to bring the Good News about Jesus to new people, and

WHEREAS, That resolution directed Circuit Forums to discuss it and consider establishing Circuit Mission Councils to facilitate it, and

WHEREAS, It appears little, or nothing has been done to fulfill Resolution R2022-02, and

WHEREAS, The Synod has made available new tools 1) demographic studies and visualized data concerning every county in the United States, 2) the Church Planting Simplified Process, which lays out step by step a procedure for beginning a new congregation, and 3) church planting grants from the Office of National Mission,

therefore be it

Resolved, That the CID encourages congregations and Circuit Forums to make use of the newly supplied Synod tools for church planting.

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25-2-08 - Appendix A

Resolution R2022-02
To Instigate Church Planting Considerations

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ told His church to “make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20 ESV); and

WHEREAS, Planting new churches forms an important step in this direction since

- new congregations are frequently quite attuned to bringing in unchurched people;
- a new church may get the attention of unchurched people more readily than an existing one;
- there is a need to bring the Gospel to inner cities and across ethnic lines;
- the church does well to be physically close to unchurched people; and
- starting new churches can help existing churches in a variety of ways (e.g., focusing on reaching out with the Gospel); and

WHEREAS, One of the reasons why Circuit Forums exist is “considering and recommending new work” (LCMS Bylaw 5.3.1; see 5.3.1b.2); and

WHEREAS, The Synod’s very first word in stating the first of its mission priorities is “plant”; and

WHEREAS, The Synod’s last convention resolved that “congregations and circuits be encouraged and supported by their respective districts to investigate and identify new mission plants”; and

WHEREAS, The Synod added that “congregations, circuits, and district leaders be encouraged to think strategically and plan collaboratively when establishing these new mission plants. . .” (quotes are from LCMS 2019 Res. 1-02);

therefore be it

Resolved, That the Central Illinois District (CID) encourage its member congregations to give consideration to church planting, using tools developed by CID in cooperation with the LCMS Office of National Mission; and be it further

Resolved, That every CID congregation be invited to think about ways in which it could be involved in church planting, even if its involvement might at first seem only small or slight; and be it further

Resolved, That the District urge congregations to conduct candid conversations that do not turn a blind eye to possible difficulties, yet that also take note of church planting’s potential for telling the Good News about Jesus to the unchurched; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations and small groups of congregations be invited and encouraged to call upon CID personnel for consultation regarding church planting; and be it further

Resolved, That Circuits be instructed to devote time to the subject of church planting at their various meetings, also calling upon CID personnel for consultation regarding this topic; and be it finally

Resolved, That Circuits consider appointing Circuit Mission Councils, which would serve as committees for a specific assignment (LCMS Bylaw 5.2.1.b) – in this case, encouraging and facilitating mission activity within the Circuit, including church planting.

Resolution 25-2-09

To Encourage Ministry In Prisons and County Jails

(Passed by voice vote)

Mission Commission Report, President’s Report

2444
2445 WHEREAS, CID encourages congregations to “lend” their pastors for visits to nearby prisons or county jails one day per week
2446 throughout the year, and not necessarily for an entire day, and

2446 WHEREAS, Dollar For Missions funds are presently available so the District can thank such congregations with a \$5,000 gift each
2447 year,

2448 therefore be it

2449 *Resolved*, That congregations and pastors prayerfully consider extending CID prison ministry efforts in this
2450 way.

2452

Resolution 25-2-02B

To Reaffirm “A Dollar For Missions” in the Central Illinois District

(Passed by voice vote)

2453 *Overture 25-04, Overture 25-07, Resolution 25-02-02*

2454 WHEREAS, the 2022 CID Convention overwhelmingly adopted “A Dollar For Missions,” therefore be it

2455 *Resolved*, that the Central Illinois District reaffirm “A Dollar For Missions” in the same form approved and authorized by the 2022
2456 CID Convention to provide funding for 1) new church starts, 2) mission-oriented augmentation of existing ministries and 3) present CID
2457 missions, in that order.

2461

CID Convention Essay Springfield IL July 13-15

2462

2463 **This We Believe, This We Confess, This We Witness.”**

2464

2465 **Rev. Brady Finnerin, District president of Minnesota North Convention**

2466

This We Believe, This We Confess, This We Witness #1

2467 Brothers and sisters in Christ. It is an honor for me to be with you, first, because of the
2468 great respect and joy I have for the work of the saints here in Central Illinois and
2469 President Mohr. Second, it is coming back to where my father served his first parishes
2470 from 1974-1979 in St. John, Ash Grove, St. John, Onarga, and Immanuel, Loda. My
2471 parents moved to Wadena, MN in July and I was born in October! Technically, I have
2472 lived in Central Illinois.

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2481 Paul tells Timothy, “Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life to which
you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many

witnesses (I Timothy 6:12)." Make the good confession. What we confess matters. Salvation is at stake. When I was ordained in 2006, a brother pastor encouraged and welcomed me into the ministry with this verse, "Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers (I Timothy 4:16)." He followed by saying, "When our doctrine is correct, the Church is blessed."

These blessings of faithful doctrine are often unnoticed and underappreciated. When the faithful saints confess the Apostles Creed, we confess the Truth of the whole Counsel of God and this is a witness to the world. As we celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea, which as the gathering of bishops in 325 to confess the Truth of the person of Christ, we confess and witness the Truth of God's Word.

We see how God's Word bears fruit in this confession and witness (Isaiah 55:10-11). I visited St. Paul Lutheran Church, Montevideo, MN. It was in January of 2024 and the weather was well below -30 windchill. On my drive, I thought to myself, "Why am I driving all this way for a worship service that will only have older people and probably very few of them." I was wrong. There was an average crowd for them, probably around 70, but at least 50 of them were under 45. To hear them confess the Apostles Creed had a whole different meaning to me that Sunday. Those 70 people could easily be somewhere else that morning. They could have made a commitment to the holy Minnesota trinity of fishing, hockey, and sleeping in. There is no cultural expectation to be in worship, especially when it is that cold outside. Yet by God's grace the third article of the creed rings in our ears,

"In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. (SC, 3rd Article.)"

Dr. Carl Trueman writes, "The recitation of a creed in a worship service is one of the countercultural things that Christians can do. It is an act of defiance, if not even of actual revolution." We tell the world that we are not dependent on ourselves, but on Almighty God. On account of Christ, we receive undeserved forgiveness in an unforgiving world. We are telling the world that God the Holy Spirit has brought us together and by the Word He keeps us in the one True Faith. By the work of the Holt Spirit, we live holy lives according to His Word. This is true whether you have 10 people in worship or 500, whether the pastor is incredibly dynamic or dry as toast. We confess it and it provides a powerful witness to the world.

Simply by all of you going to worship, we make the good confession:

“²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:23-25

One of my goals for our time together is to consider how our confession as a Church, and as the baptized is a bold witness for our world. What I ask for you to consider how you can be a witness in your daily vocations and how your confession of faith impacts that witness.

What are the offices I hold as the baptized (spouse, parent, job, neighbor, volunteer)? These offices are not to pump up daily tasks, like “Lawn mower” but what I do as a father and husband.

-
-
-
-

What is my confession of faith (What are the tools in my tool box of faith)? I can fill this one in because we know it’s the Bible and the Book of Concord.

- Bible
- Lutheran Confessions

What is your main task in these vocations?

How can I witness in these vocations?

-
-
-
-

Hold on to these thoughts throughout our time and we will continue to come back to these questions for you consideration.

2559
2560 To re-emphasize again. One of the great tools in your tool box are the creeds.
2561
2562

2563 One of our pastors in MN North, Rev. Patrick Lovejoy of First Lutheran, Grand Rapids,
2564 previously served a parish in Washington. He had many former evangelicals in the
2565 congregation that would fight him endlessly that creeds were bad. "Why would we
2566 follow a human document? It got to the point that members were saying that the creed
2567 was "unbiblical." Pastor Lovejoy started to include the Scriptural passages for the Nicene
2568 Creed in the bulletin. This calmed the waters. This change did not make the Church
2569 grow by leaps and bounds, it did not begin a revival, or cause the Church to make
2570 budget. It witnessed to the congregation, any who came to worship, and any who saw
2571 their bulletin, that they were all about the Word of God in doctrine and practice.
2572
2573

2574 The first President of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, CFW Walther presented an
2575 essay to the Iowa District Convention in 1879 titled, "The Duties of an Evangelical
2576 Lutheran Synod." He confessed that the primary responsibility of a Lutheran Church
2577 Body is to confess the creeds & confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church without
2578 reservation. We confess them because they are faithful to the Word of God. We confess
2579 the creeds as a witness to the next generation, because many people will say, "I believe in
2580 the Bible." In the same breath some will tell you that your baptism isn't valid. The
2581 Lord's Supper is just a memorial meal. Your desires are a more important identity than
2582 as a redeemed child of God. We have public confessions, agreed upon by the Church,
2583 not some secret code for the whole world to see. Everyone who hears it, confesses it,
2584 and studies these confessions has the opportunity to call it to question, "Does it confess
2585 the Truth of God's Word or not?"
2586

2587 We use a "human document" because it confesses the Truth of the Scriptures and not
2588 contradict that Truth. We can use human tools to glorify God just like how we can use a
2589 clock to tell time. Walther mockingly said, {Let me give you an example}, "Up there in
2590 the sky is the lovely sun, and other there is a good clock. Now, when it has been
2591 determined that the tower clock says precisely the same thing as the sun does, consider if
2592 someone were to say, "Why do you govern your time according to a human invention
2593 like this tower clock? Isn't it disgraceful that you ignore God's creation in the sky and
2594 tell time by this manmade clock?"
2595
2596

2597 We confess it and it is a great witnessing tool.

Who is God the Father?

2598 One God

2599 Almighty God

2600 Maker of heaven and earth. We do not worship CREATION, the Father who is
2601 CREATOR.

2602

2603 **Who is God the Son?**

2604 God and man

2605 Savior for all of human kind.

2606 Died and Rose

2607 Reigns

2608 Will return in judgement.

2609

2610 **Who is God the Holy Spirit?**

2611 One God proceeding from the other persons.

2612 Giver of life in Christ

2613 Provider of God's Word

2614 Bring the Church together and sustains her until the end.

2615 How can you keep the creed on your lips ready to be shared when the time comes.

2616 We believe it, we confess it, our lives are living sacrifices (Romans 12:2) to the Truth.
2617 The Truth of Scripture and the witness we give is desperately needed in our world.

2618 Let's look at parts of the Small Catechism:

2619

Small groups

2620

What is the Office of the keys ?

2621 The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church
2622 on earth to forgive the sins of the repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from
2623 the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

2624

2625 *What is the witness?*

2626

2627 What do we witness we pronounce the full forgiveness of sins on repentant sinners
2628 account of Christ?

2636 What do we witness when we retain forgiveness of the unrepentant?

2637
2638 Why does the world need this witness?

2639
2640
2641 **The Book of Concord as our witness**

2642
2643 What we believe, teach, & confess of the Holy Scriptures is our witness. This was an
2644 obsession for the Concordians during the Reformation.

2645
2646 In the preface to the Book of Concord it is stated:

2647
2648 “We should take pains with the greatest earnestness and out utmost ability, to attend to
2649 those matters that promote a) the extension of God’s name and glory; b) the spread of
2650 His Word (from which alone we hope for salvation); c) the peace and tranquility of
2651 churches and schools; and (d) the instruction and consolation of disturbed consciences.”
2652 (Preface to the BOC, 10).

2653
2654 We do not confess to prove how we are better than everyone else. We desire that His
2655 kingdom would extend to the ends of the earth and that His Word would be spread (Acts
2656 1:8).

2657
2658 The Concordians saw the Book of Concord as an evangelistic book. That unbelievers
2659 would believe and believers would be comforted. The Church would have peace in
2660 Christ.

2661
2662 Our confession has a purpose: **Clear Conscience in Christ**

2663
2664 The clear words of the Confessions give us a clear conscience before our Lord on account
2665 of Christ. During COVID, I decided to read the whole Book of Concord straight
2666 through. I received a challenge from Dr. John Kleinig several years ago to highlight how
2667 often the Concordians had emphasized the conscience in their writings. After a few
2668 months I had finished the book and counted over 300x.

2669
2670 When the Concordians were confessing the Truth of Scripture they desired to provide a
2671 comforted conscience in Christ. It’s like a window in your home looking out to your
2672 backyard that is fogged over and you can’t see what is on other side. You are never quite
2673 sure what is out there. However, when it is clean you can clearly see your trees, birds
2674 singing, and your growing garden. The same with our LORD. When we receive the

clarity of forgiveness, life, and salvation in Christ, you see the fullness of God's love for us in Christ. We see the clarity of our relationship with God in Christ when you know you are baptized into Christ, receive the Lord's Supper, and receive absolution. We also receive consolation when we are instructed on what to do. E.g. I can have a comforted conscience knowing that I am able to honor my parents by stopping by their home on my travels and help where they have needs. This is part of the reason why they kept hitting the same doctrinal subjects repeatedly. When the discussions turned away from the subject matter, they rehashed it.

We will spend time looking at the Epitome of the Formula of Concord written in 1577. This document is a masterpiece to assure that the church is clear in its confession as she struggled with various theological issues after the death of Martin Luther in 1546. These issues were not resolved in one convention, one congregational meeting, or one circuit winkel. They were sometimes decades long controversies which didn't end with Kumba Ya's, but the Church needing to tell others they were wrong. There are many parts of the Book of Concord that can be difficult to read because the Concordians were not ones to say, "Well, that's just your opinion" but "We reject!" Although it might be a bit shocking at first, it is vital for the Church today. Sometimes we do not listen to the full Truth until we hear what we "DON'T BELIEVE." It's too easy to allow the questions to be filled with cultural presuppositions.

What we confess now, has major implications for the witness of the next generation.

In 1976, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wyoming, MN left the LCMS to join the AELC. It was the only LCMS church to leave in the MN North District. One of our members in Sartell was a member there prior to their leaving. He told me that he went to another church because he was tired of hearing more questions from the pulpit the preaching of the Word of God. Now almost 50 years later, you drive up to the Church and the first thing you see is a rainbow flag. A confession of faith that witnesses a message to the community for the next generation.

The Sixth Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

What do we witness when we promote sexual purity?

What do we witness when husbands and wives love and honor each other (e.g. celebrating a 50th anniversary)?

Why does the world need this witness?

Nicene Creed

(Scripture references from Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy, Grand Rapids, MN)

I believe (*Rom 10:8-10; 1 John 4:15; Heb 11:6*)

in one God, (*Deut 6:4; I Cor 8:4-6; John 10:30; Eph 4:4-6; Matt. 28:19*)

the Father Almighty, (*Mt 6:9; Ex 6:2-3; Rev 1:8, 4:8*)

Maker of heaven and earth, (*Gen 1:1; Ex 20:11; Ps 33:6-7*)

and of all things visible and invisible (*Col 1:15-16*).

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, (*John 10:30; Rom 10:9; Rev 22:20; Matt. 28:19*)

the only-begotten Son of God, (*Mt 14:33; 16:16; John 3:16; 1 John 4:15*)

begotten of His Father before all worlds, (*John 1:2; 1:18; 3:16; 1 John 4:9*)

God of God, Light of Light, (*Ps 27:1; John 8:12, 12:35-36; 1 John 1:5-7; Mt 17:2*)

Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, (*John 5:18, 8:58, 17:1-5*)

being of one substance with the Father, (*John 10:30*)

by Whom all things were made;

(John 1:3 [Gen 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 26; Ps 33:6]; Heb 1:1-2; Col 1:16)

Who for us men and for our salvation (*Mt 1:21; 1 John 1:8-10; Is 53:11*)

came down from heaven (*John 3:31; 6:33-35; Is 12:2*)

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, (*Luke 1:35, Mt 1:16; Is 7:14*)

and was made man; (*John 1:14*)

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate (*Mt 27:22-26; I Cor 15:3-5; Gal 6:14; Is 53:4-6*).

He suffered and was buried (*Mt 27:50-60 [Is 53:9]; Mk 8:31; Luke 23:53*).

2748 **And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; (Mt 28:5; Luke**
2749 **24:1-12; Rom 10:9; 1 Cor 15:3-5)**
2750 **and ascended into heaven, (Acts 1:9-11; Luke 24:51)**
2751 **and sits at the right hand of the Father. (Mk 16:19; Acts 7:55-56)**
2752 **And He shall come again with glory (Mt 24:27, 25:31; Acts 1:11; Rev 22:20)**
2753 **to judge both the living and the dead; (Acts 10:42; 3:21-26, Gal 2:21]**
2754 **whose kingdom shall have no end (Luke 1:33 [I Cor 15:57]).**
2755 **And I believe in the Holy Spirit, (Gen 1:2; John 14:26; Eph 1:13-14; Matt. 28:19)**
2756 **the Lord and Giver of Life, (Rom 8:2-4; 2 Cor 2:6)**
2757 **Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, (John 15:26; Rom 8:9-11)**
2758 **Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,**
2759 **(Mt 3:16-17; Eph 4:4-6)**
2760 **Who spoke by the Prophets. (2 Pet 1:21; 2 Tim 3:16; Ezek 11:5)**
2761 **And I believe in one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. (Eph 2:19-22, 5:26-**
2762 **27; I Pet 2:9)**
2763 **I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,**
2764 **(Mk 16:16 [1 Pet 3:21]; Acts 2:38; Titus 3:4-7)**
2765 **and I look for the resurrection of the dead (John 11:23-27;; I Cor 15:12-28)**
2766 **and the life of the world to come (Mt 25:34; Mk 10:29-30; John 11:25-26)**
2767 **Amen (Ps 106:48; Rev 22:20).**
2768
2769

This We Believe, This We Confess, This We Witness #2

Matthew 16:14-18¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Our confession is a witness simply by being LCMS. I’m not sure what it is like in Illinois, but in MN we are never the cool church in town. Never have been and probably never will be. Yet, people know our confession. A young gal visited the church I served in Sartell. She had never grown up in the Church and was excited to be with us for a few weeks. She went back home for a holiday and told her family that she was attending Messiah Lutheran Church. This de-churched, inactive family asked her, “It isn’t LCMS is it?” Her reply, “Does it really matter, you don’t go to church?” “Yes it matters” they said, “We don’t believe what the LCMS believes.” They didn’t mention that people were mean or weird. They didn’t talk about a bad experience with a former pastor or subpar facilities. They talked about doctrine. Who do you say that I am? Some people will not come to your church because of doctrine. Sometimes they will come because of our beliefs. Either way it is a witness, so may we not be tempted to teach what itching ears want to hear, but to preach truth! Often the Church will try address these issues through leadership principles, business acumen, and sociological studies---but what we need is to CONFESS!

The desire of the Church is to be one as Jesus prayed for it in His High priestly prayer (John 17:20-23). We yearn for it when people ask, “Why are there so many different churches in town?” We believe that our unity is to be found only in the inerrant and infallible Word of God. When our confession is united, there is a greater witness. As we discussed yesterday, there are plenty of church bodies that confess to believe in the inerrancy of Scripture, but confess completely different understandings of the Sacraments, the office of the Ministry, office of the keys, and even creation. To better understand how we are to seek unity, we look at our forefathers of the Reformation and the formation of the Formula of Concord, specifically the Epitome in 1577.

Here are a few reasons why we look at the Formula:

- The formation of the Epitome was over 30 years of theological and political controversies throughout Germany within the Reformation Churches. Quickly the

Church needed to clarify and refine their confession in direct reaction to issues of the day.

- We subscribe to a “quia” subscription to the Book of Concord, which means that we confess it BECAUSE it is in accordance with the Word of God. Each congregation, school, RSO, pastor, teacher, and worker in the LCMS commit to not only believing in these words, but also to teach & preach according to them. If we subscribe to them, it’s good for us to read and learn.
- FOC teaches us how to confess. It is written in a manner to not only clarify what we believe, but what we don’t. The theological issues addressed in these 12 articles are still relevant for our time today. I wanted to get a feel for what you think are the most relevant topics still for today. So let’s take a poll...

Voting-Top three subjects to be addressed today?

Lay people vote first---

Pastor vote second---

p.36

The Summary Content, Rule, and Norm

- I. Original Sin
- II. Free Will or Human Powers
- III. The Righteousness of Faith before God
- IV. Good Works
- V. The Law and the Gospel
- VI. The Third Use of God’s Law
- VII. The Holy Supper of Christ
- VIII. The Person of Christ
- IX. The Descent of Christ to Hell
- X. Church Practices
- XI. God’s Eternal Foreknowledge and Election

History (p.6)

After Luther’s death on February 18, 1546, many controversies with the Lutheran Church started to brew. Only four months later (June 26, 1546), Pope Paul the III and

Holy Roman Emperor Charles the V made an agreement to try to crush the Reformation. The Smalcaldic War broke out in Germany. Wittenberg, Torgau, and Mühlberg were taken in 1547.

Charles realized that he couldn't win the hearts of Germany through bloodshed, so several "Interims" were written to compromise

The scary part for me is that when you read the Augsburg and Leipzig Interims, you can easily be deceived when reading part of documents, "Yeah, that's pretty good!" but the Church is never blessed by compromising our confession.

AUGSBURG INTERIM (1548)

On May 15, 1548, Charles issued a decree that all Lutheran rulers and ministers were to obey and not teach counter the Augsburg Interim. The Interim insisted that they desired public peace, never to oppose its words. The Interim allowed Lutheran Clergy to marry and celebrate the Lord's supper in both kinds. Yet, it was insisted that they accept authority of the Pope, restore the 7 sacraments, but the wording on justification was confusing...

"Because of his incomprehensible wisdom and immense goodness, he mixed his justice with mercy and determined that the price for redeeming us would be the blood of His Son....(Kolb, 150)."

Yet, they indicated that works are NECESSARY for salvation (Kolb, 153), the Church has the power to make canons (Kolb, 158), and the view that the Lord's Supper unbloody sacrifice of Christ (Kolb, 169).

If you don't read it carefully, you can say, "That's not that big of a deal." Yet, whenever we try to add any conditional clause to our salvation outside of Christ, we lose the Gospel. This is what Luther and the Reformers were giving up their lives for, only a few words, but salvation was at stake!

Charles the V enforced the Augsburg Interim brutally throughout southern Germany, yet, Northern Germany held strong. The ruler of Saxony, Elector John Frederick, was arrested but held strong to the faith by saying

"I testify in the sight of God unswervingly to adhere in my conscience to this, that the articles composing the Augsburg Confession, and whatever is connected

therewith, are the correct, true, Christian, pure doctrine, confirmed by, and founded in, the writings of the holy prophets and apostles, and the teachers who followed in such a manner that no substantial object can be raised against it (Bente, 224-225)."

LEIPZIG INTERIM (December 1548)

The Leipzig Interim was another attempt to appease many sides. Charles the V made an oral promise to Duke Mortiz of Saxony that he promised to not force him to abandon his religious faith if he supported them above the Smalcald League. Melancthon worked on another document with the intent of Lutherans being able to retain justification by grace and faith alone while yielding to other matters. Leipzig accepted confirmation as a sacrament, canonical. Hours, Latin worship, festivals, and the understanding of salvation as an "infusion" of grace was allowed and required for salvation. Leipzig Interim never mentioned justification by faith (FOC, 12-13)

Family Connections

At a family gathering, my bride asked a relative, so what does your church believe? Nothing better than trying to watch a baseball game when your wife asks that question. This individual pulled out the website of his church and started listing off their beliefs. Everything sounded pretty good until...". We believe in the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper which Christ has given to us as a gift that we do to fulfill God's command"

No words of forgiveness, no rescuing from death and the devil, or giving eternal salvation as Scripture teaches.

They enjoy the Church because they like the music, that their kids can be entertained and taught the Bible during worship.

What I am waiting for is the day when the whole family will be getting rebaptized and we will be invited to attend! What would you do?

Philippists vs. Gnesio Lutherans

The controversies surrounding the Augsburg/Leipzig Interim caused a split in the Protestant side between *Philippists* and *Gnesio-Lutherans*, the so-called *adiaphora* controversies. In 1552 Moritz led a coalition against Charles V, which

resulted in the *Peace of Passau* which made the Augsburg Interim and similar statements a dead letter

Peace of Passau (1552)

The **Peace of Passau** was an attempt to resolve religious tensions in the *Holy Roman Empire*. After *Emperor Charles V* won a victory against the Protestant forces in the *Schmalkaldic War* of 1547, he implemented the *Augsburg Interim*, which largely reaffirmed *Roman Catholic* beliefs. This angered many Protestant princes, and led by *Maurice of Saxony*, in January 1552 several formed an alliance with *Henry II of France* in the *Treaty of Chambord*. In return for French funding and assistance, Henry was promised lands in western Germany. In the ensuing *Princes' Revolt*, also known as the *Second Schmalkaldic War*, Charles was driven out of Germany to his ancestral lands in Austria by the Protestant alliance, while Henry captured the three Rhine Bishoprics of *Metz, Verdun and Toul*.

In August 1552, weary from three decades of religious civil war, Charles guaranteed *Lutheran* religious freedoms in the *Peace of Passau*. The implementation of the Augsburg Interim was cancelled. The Protestant princes taken prisoner during the Schmalkaldic War, *John Frederick of Saxony* and *Philip of Hesse*, were released.^[1] A precursor to the *Peace of Augsburg* of September 1555, the *Peace of Passau* effectively surrendered Charles V's lifelong quest for European religious unity.

PEACE OF AUGSBURG (1555)

Elector Maurice forced out Emperor Charles from Augsburg, Treaty of Passau in 1552 and the Peace of Augsburg in 1555. **Settlement**,^[1] was a treaty between *Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor*, and the *Schmalkaldic League*, signed on 25 September 1555 in the German city of *Augsburg*. It officially ended the religious struggle between the two groups and made the legal division of Christianity permanent within the *Holy Roman Empire*, allowing rulers to choose either *Lutheranism* or *Roman Catholicism* as the official *confession* of their state.

War, compromise, and a leadership vacuum led the way to long controversies in the Church. A battle over the *Philippists*, named after *Melancthon* and the *Gnesio* (Genuine) Lutherans. What does it mean to be a Reformation church?

Theological Controversies

Throughout this time, theological controversies were being addressed, especially among the groups associated with the Reformation. No longer was it just a battle against the Roman Catholic Church, it was between each other. War, compromise, and a leadership vacuum led the way to long controversies in the Church.

Perseverance and patience are important parts of the Christian life. The local congregation, district gatherings, and wider church conventions tend to think that we can fix doctrinal issues in one meeting, one circuit winkel, or one convention. However, we see how the Concordians had to preach, teach, and confess through some major controversies for over a decade. We still ask the same questions concerning these theological questions:

(p.25 of the booklet)

I) Gospel Reductionism (Reducing everything to the Gospel WITHOUT the Law).

- a. Antinomian Controversy (1527-1556)
- b. What is the role of the 3rd use? Do believers still need the Law?
- c. “Without the Law the Gospel can not be comprehended. Without the Gospel, the Law either drives people to despair or makes them self-righteous hypocrite.” P.23

II) Adiaphora (non-essentials in faith or conduct)

- a. 1548-1555
- b. What best supports the pure teaching of the Gospel and the proper administration of the sacraments? (p.26)
- c. Not all Adiaphora is created equal.
- d. There is a big difference between how we light our candles and the way we worship.

III) Person of Christ

- a. 1549-1566
- b. Are we justified because of Christ’s divine or human nature?
- c. Are we justified by the indwelling of Christ? “I have Jesus in my heart!” or Jesus on the cross?

IV) Good works (works done in faith)

- a. 1551-1562
- b. Are good works necessary? Vs. Are they necessary for salvation?
- c. “If you do not share the Gospel today, all these people will go to hell.”

998 V) **Synergism** (to work with)

999 a. 1555-1560

000 b. What is my role in salvation?

001 c. "I have accepted Jesus into my heart"

002 d. Where is my assurance? Emotions or the outward means of grace.

003
004
005 **The Formation of the Formula of Concord**

006 As the Interims were started with political maneuvering, the Formula of Concord stated
007 with confessing!

008 1573-Six Christian sermons by Andrae showing the dissension in the Church from
009 1548-1573 among the the theologians of the Augsburg Confession: Justification, good
010 works, original sin, free will, adiaphora, Law & Gospel, and the person of Christ.

011 Formula was not a NEW confession. Formula purified the Lutheran Church from
012 Romanism, Calvinism, unionism, & synergism. It does not set forth a new faith or
013 contradict the rest of the Book of Concord (Bente, 584).

014 Two prominent people:

015 **Jacob Andrae**-Pastor and superintendant of Tuebingen (Bente, 566). He was an
016 incessant laborer for unity and peace in the Lutheran Church. He was an ardent visitor
017 (120 journeys visiting all parts of Northern and Southern Germany (Bente, 567). In
018 1573, he preached six sermons on the controversies of the day that led to the formation
019 of Swabian Concord, Torgau Book, and eventually the Epitome (p.34).

020 **Martin Chemnitz**-raised in Wittenberg and had heard Martin Luther preach. He was a
021 teacher, lecturer, and pastor in Brunswick. Both Andrae and Chemnitz meet in 1568 on
022 Andrae's visitations (Bente, 568). He is most commonly known for his carefully crafted
023 analysis of the Council of Trent (need reference).

024 **March 22, 1574**-Swabian Concord written with 11 articles: Original sin, Free Will, The
025 Righteousness of faith before God, Good works, Law & Gospel, Third use of the Law,
026 Adiaphora, Lord's Supper, person of Christ, Eternal Election, and Other factions. Sent
027 to lower Saxony (Bente, 571).

036 **Maulbronn Formula of 1575.** Treated the following articles: Original sin, Person of
037 Christ, Justification, Law & Gospel, Good works, Lord's Supper, Adiaphora, Free Will,
038 and the third use (Bente, 574).

039 **Torgau Book of 1576**-Swabian Concord recast and revised with a bit of the Maulbronn
040 Formula. Signed by:

041 Jacob Andreae, Martin Chemnitz, Nicholas Selneccer, David Chytraeus, Andrew
042 Musculus, and Christopher Cornerus.

043 **Formula of Concord: Epitome** written by Andeae as a summary of the Torgau Book,
044 formulized June of 1576.

045 **Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration (Bergic Book)** was submitted to Elector August
046 on May 28, 1577.

047 Signed by electors of Saxony, Brandenburg, Palatinate, 20 dukes and princes, 24 counts,
048 4 barons, 35 imperial cities, and 8,000 pastors and teachers making up 2/3 of Germany
049 (Bente, 578-579).

050 Back to your voting:

051 **I. Original Sin (p.475)**

052 Affirm- #4-WE are God's creation even after the fall.

053 #8-We are corrpt with nothing healthy or uncorrupt.

054 (p.475)

055 **Reject-**#12-Evil lusts are not sin, but essential properties of human kind.

063 **II. Free Will**

064 Affirm-#2-We are completely blind with spiritual matters

065 #3-We are enemies of God.

066 (p.477)

067 **Reject-**#10-By our own powers we can begin conversion. (p.478)

068 **III. Righteousness of Faith**

Affirm-#4-Our righteousness is credited to us by Christ's obedience (p.480)

Reject-#20-Faith begins the renewal for salvation (p.481)

IV. Good works

Affirm-#8-Christians are obligated to do good works (Necessary)

Reject-#16-Good works are necessary for salvation (p.483)

V. Law & Gospel

Affirm #3-Law is a divine doctrine needed for all people.

#5-Gospel is that Christ paid it all and made satisfaction for my sins (p.484)

Reject-Gospel-#11-Gospel strictly the calling to repentance.

Truth of Scripture is hidden.

VI. The Third Use of God's Law (p.486-487)

Affirm-#3-It is necessary that the Law of the LORD always shine before them that the Old Adam may not win!

Reject-#8-The Law is not needed to be applied to believers.

VII. The Holy Supper of Christ (p.488-489)

Affirm-#15-Christ's body and blood are received with the bread and wine in a supernatural, heavenly way.

Reject-#28-The bread and wine are only figures, points of comparison, and representations of Christ's far absent body and blood.

VIII. The Person of Christ (p.492-495)

Affirm-#5-The divine and human natures in Christ are personally united. One in the same, Son of God and the Son of Man.

**Affirmed in the Athanasian Creed.

102
103 *Reject-*#21-The divine and human natures have been mingled into one essence.
104

105 **IX. Christ's descent into hell**

106 Affirm-It is enough if we know that Christ descended into hell, destroyed hell for all
107 believers, and delivered them from the power of death and of the devil, from eternal
108 condemnation and the jaws of hell.
109

110 **X. Church Practices (Adiaphora)**

111 Affirm-#3-The community of God has the power to change such worship
112 ceremonies in a way that may be most useful and edifying to the Church.
113

114 *Reject-*#9-Human ordinances or institutions should be regarded as divine worship
115 or are forced on a community.
116

117 **XI. God's Eternal Foreknowledge and Election (p.498-500)**

118 Affirm-#11-God calls to repentance (Romans 1-2), knowledge of sins (Romans 3),
119 to faith in Christ (3:21-5:21), to divine obedience (6-8), and the mystery of election
120 (Romans 9-11)
121

122 Reject-#16-If election is taught in a way that Christians can not be comforted with
123 this teaching and led to despair, it is not according to Scripture.
124

125 #17-God is unwilling to save all.
126

127 Possible Good Shepherd, Alexandria story
128

This We Believe, This We Confess, This We Witness #3

I Corinthians 3:6-5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

What we confess as a Church has major implications on the home and our confession for the next generation. A beloved family from one of my former parishes, has a long history in the LCMS going back to the 1860's—pastors, teachers, elders, and pious attenders of worship in every generation. Like many of our families, probably ½ the boomers are active in a congregation (that is at least 1x a month in the divine service). Although most of the GenX cousins are inactive, there was still a respect for basic biblical values. Until one of them came out of the closet as a homosexual. In very short time, 80% of the family was supportive. Some fully support the lifestyle, some are fearful of other's reactions if they don't look supportive, while only a few took a stand and said that they could not attend the wedding or reception. Who are the ones who took a stand? The ones who had heard from their churches not only the blessing of marriage, but what we DON'T believe about marriage. That is, anything outside of marriage of a man and woman is an abomination, and we reject the idea that we can celebrate anything else as marriage. Sound familiar? How does this relate at all to your families or congregations?

What kind of Church do you want to leave for your grandchildren? Or for other people's grandchildren. CFW is told to have said, "The Church is always in a state of confession." Every generation needs to reaffirm what we believe, teach, and confess. Just because something is written down, doesn't mean it is being confessed. This is why its important for us to meet in convention. What we confess today will have a major impact on our church body in the future.

Take for example one of the predecessor bodies of the ELCA—The American Lutheran Church. In 1960, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the United Evangelical Lutheran Church, and American Lutheran Church merged to form The American Lutheran Church. Mergers were all the rage, but so was compromise. Lutheran Church leaders were almost making the case that mergers were in God's Will. If you have ever read John Tietjin's book, "Which way to Lutheran unity" you can see that in full force. Who wants to be the ones being against "God's Will?" In the constitution of the ALC it confessed the Old and New Testaments as the "divinely inspired, revealed, and inerrant

168 Word of God and the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and life.” It was
169 agreed that they used the word inerrant and infallible as a compromise of the older
170 generation. We don’t even have the word inerrant in our constitution in the LCMS, so
171 everything is good right?

172
173 In the fall of 1982, when the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) started
174 their merger process (ALC, LCA, and AELC) they had a meeting of the Commission for
175 a New Lutheran Church (CNLC). Now that the older generation that pushed for the
176 word inerrant in the ALC constitution were almost all retired by that point. A
177 compromise was made:

178
179 “This church accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the
180 inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith,
181 and life” (ELCA, constitution, p.2)

182
183 Only a few words (divinely, inerrant, revealed, and only) but as we know from the
184 ELCA today. It has had dire consequences. Even more dire...

185
186 Another battle over the name of God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), but many were
187 advocating for Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier. This was done out of fear of the
188 Patriarchal language of Scripture. The vote for the Biblical name of the Trinity, Father,
189 Son, and Holy Spirit was only by three votes (33-30) (Trexler, p.60). The author to this
190 book said, “It was apparent early on that the influence of feminism had made inroads to
191 the Church.” (p.60).

192
193 When speaking of the Lutheran Confessions, the ELCA will say that they accept the
194 “Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel.” (ELCA Constitution,
195 As commonly understood they would have a “quantenus” subscription of the Book of
196 Concord, that is, “they agree with the BOC, in so far as it agrees with the Gospel.”

197
198 Only a few words, but it has dire consequences. What’s the difference, Gospel vs. the
199 Word of God? The scary thing for me is that many people growing up were saying,
200 “We aren’t all that different.” But the confession of the ELCA has served as a witness to
201 the changes of that Church body for the next generation. Once again, we confess, re-
202 confess, and confess again the Truth for the sake of the next generation.

203
204 **Side note, what our Church leaders believe is also of the utmost of importance...the
205 first three presiding bishops:
206

207
208 Rev. Herb Chilstrom, Rev. H. George Anderson, and Rev. Mark Hanson all were
209 advocates of gay marriage dating back to the 80's. Think that had any influence to why
210 they made their decision in 2009?

211 Everything seem to be set after the Book of Concord was compiled, signed, and bound in
212 1580. However, a growing number of influences from Calvinism required the Lutheran
213 Church in Saxony needed refocus on their confession Elector of Saxony, Duke Frederich
214 Wilhelm had the Saxon Visitation articles written in 1592. These articles were provided
215 for church visitations to assure that all congregations, pastors, and teachers were united
216 in their confession and in their preaching/teaching. It is a wonderfully simple document
217 which, along with the Small Catechism, can be chewed on for decades and still be
218 relevant. It addresses the Person of Christ, Holy Baptism, Lord's Supper, and Election.
219

220 **Visitation is the heartbeat of the Church. Visitation is the heartbeat of witness (Acts
221 15:36-41).** Just like how a pastoral visit should always involve Word and prayer, the
222 visit of our congregations and schools should involve doctrinal study of important
223 confessions---as it is our witness.

224
225 You see the heartbeat of the whole book of Concord in these articles. The Lord's Supper
226 is important as we know how we receive Christ? Is it through an altar call or the bread
227 and wine with His true body and blood? What happens when you are baptized? Simply
228 an affirmation of your faith? Is it okay to be rebaptized? Should we wait to be baptized?
229

230 www.thebookofconcord.org

231
232 I think the confession on Election is masterpiece. It helps us lean on the grace of God,
233 while motivating our witness to the world.

234
235 It states:

236
237 The pure and true Doctrine of our Churches on this Article.

238 **1] That Christ died for all men, and, as the Lamb of God, took away the sins of the
239 whole world (John 3:16 & John 1:29).**

240 Dr. Leonard Payton's witness. A young person came to his office unsure of his
241 salvation. The pastor asked him to quote John 3:16 and asked him, "Are you in the

242 world?" The young man tried to use philosophy to reply, but the pastor asked again,
243 "Are you in the world or not?"

244 We are reminded that when we are speaking with others, they are not considered to be
245 potential converts or customers of our church, but ones that Christ died for.

246 **2] That God created no man for condemnation; but wills that all men should be saved
247 and arrive at the knowledge of truth. He therefore commands all to hear Christ, his
248 Son, in the gospel; and promises, by his hearing, the virtue and operation of the Holy
249 Ghost for conversion and salvation (I Corinthians 12:3)**

250 How do we know the elect? Those who hear the words of Christ. We will spend hours
251 evaluating building projects, constitutions, festival planning, and maintenance of the
252 grounds. So what do we do? Proclaim Christ and His Word.

253 One of our congregations, Emmanuel Lutheran, Barnum has communion services 6 days
254 a week (Monday evening, Tuesday morning, Wednesday evening, Thursday morning,
255 Friday morning, and Sunday). The services are not long, and the pastor will often utilize
256 devotions from Luther or a portion of the Book of Concord for his message. He is
257 committed to making sure that the sheep hearing the voice of their Shepherd (Smalcald
258 Articles, Part III, Article XII). This is not a prescription for your congregation. I have
259 no idea how I would have implemented anything like this in the congregations I served,
260 but it is a way that the Church is the Church.

261 **3] That many men, by their own fault, perish: some, who will not hear the gospel
262 concerning Christ; some, who again fall from grace, either by fundamental error, or
263 by sins against conscience.**

264 Why did some fall away? They don't believe. Why? In most cases, we don't know. We
265 can blame the liberal universities, public school education, creepy people at church, weak
266 catechesis, or a bad pastor. We rarely will hear the whole story. Lord have mercy.

267 We do not celebrate when our membership rolls are smaller because we will not need to
268 pay as much for assessments for the Synod convention dues. We grieve for these
269 individuals are like prodigal son, the lost sheep, and the lost coin. They are baptized,
270 confirmed their faith, and maybe were active members for a time. Some of the hardest
271 elder's meetings and annual pastor's reports were when we would list the individuals
272 who were removed from membership. Lord have mercy.

273 To be very clear, we have plenty to repent over as a Church. The Church does cause
274 suffering and pain. The stories of people who trusted the Church, but suffered abuse is
275 heartbreaking. People trusted us to teach the whole counsel of God and we gave pizza
276 parties. Yet, I have been in too many congregational meetings where people were
277 blaming each other for the lack of people in worship instead of praying to the LORD.
278 Lord haver mercy.

279 **4] That all sinners who repent will be received into favor; and none will be excluded,**
280 **though his sins be red as blood; since the mercy of God is greater than the sins of the**
281 **whole world, and God hath mercy on all his works.**

282 Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand! (Matthew 4:17) The blood of Christ has
283 set you free. You are freely justified for Christ's sake , through faith (which is given by
284 the Holy Spirit), when you believe that you are received into favor and that your sins are
285 forgiven for Christ's sake. By His death, Christ made satisfaction for your sins!

286 This Truth of salvation is always for all cultures and all people.

287 **Nuts and bolts**

289 I have coached shotput and discus for the Sartell High School track team for 13 years. I
290 competed in track in college, met my wife through track, who also coaches with me, and
291 I love the sport. Over the years, I have coached at least 400 athletes and gotten to know
292 well over 1,000 people. My main task is to teach crazy young people to chuck a metal
293 ball and fling a rubber disc farther between sectors without killing one another. Not as
294 easy as it sounds ☺. Yet, I fulfill this vocation as a Christian, baptized into His name,
295 and called "to always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a
296 reason for the hope that is in you (I Peter 3:15)."

298 All of you have something similar. In your job, neighborhood, volunteer, school, or in
299 your family.

300 In what ways are you planted in your community?

301 What is your main task? To be a good track coach!

302 What I have found to be humbling was how the more contact with people, the more
303 people who don't necessarily like you. The athlete who skipped practice and I needed to

308 tell them that they can't compete at the next meet is not usually at our Church the next
309 Sunday. The parent who didn't like how I chose another athlete to compete in Sections
310 versus another, don't usually call me to ask about our theology. Same is true in your
311 work and involvement in the community.

312
313 We made a commitment as a family when I started coaching to:

314
315 1) Pray for each athlete around the dinner table.
316 2) Treat each athlete whether they throw 150' in discus or 50' with dignity and respect.
317 3) Host a gathering at our home and begin the meal with a prayer.

318 Our prayer list grows every year, but the number of people that warmed the pews at our
319 congregation? Three people in thirteen years. One of them was a foreign exchange
320 student from Germany whose dad was part of the SELC church body when they visited
321 him at the end of his year in Sartell.

322
323 What "successes" have you seen?

324
325 What lack of success have you seen?

326
327
328 **Mark 4:26-29-**²⁶ And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on
329 the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he
330 knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full
331 grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the
332 harvest has come."

333
334 What you confess matters—salvation is at stake!

5. Ballot for District President (Multiple Choice)

Responses	
Percent	Count
Jason Braaten	7.65%
Mark Eddy	7.10%
Michael Mohr	85.25%
Totals	100%
	183

6. Ballot for Eastern Region Vice President (Multiple Choice)

Jason Braaten
Michael Burdick
Michael Schuermann
Totals

Responses	
Percent	Count
27.89%	41
48.30%	71
23.81%	35
100%	147

7. Ballot for Eastern Region Vice President (Multiple Choice)

Jason Braaten
Michael Burdick
Totals

Responses	
Percent	Count
30.52%	47
69.48%	107
100%	154

8. Ballot for Western Region Vice President (Multiple Choice)

Daniel Bishop

Karl Eckhoff

Mark Eddy

Totals

Responses	
Percent	Count
29.94%	47
17.83%	28
52.23%	82
100%	157

9. Ballot for Western Region Vice President (Multiple Choice)

Daniel Bishop

Mark Eddy

Totals

Responses	
Percent	Count
38.18%	63
61.82%	102
100%	165

10. Ballot for First Vice President (Multiple Choice)

Michael Burdick

Mark Eddy

Totals

Responses	
Percent	Count
51.18%	87
48.82%	83
100%	170

11. Resolution 25-2-01AAmendment to remove the final resolve
(Multiple Choice)

Yes, remove it

No, keep it

Totals

Responses	
Percent	Count
25.99%	46
74.01%	131
100%	177

12. Resolution 25-2-01A (Multiple Choice)

Yes

No

Totals

Responses	
Percent	Count
55.80%	101
44.20%	80
100%	181

13. Resolution 25-2-02, A Dollar for Missions

Strike line 7,8 & 11
(Multiple Choice)

Yes

No

Totals

Responses	
Percent	Count
64.97%	115
35.03%	62
100%	177

14. Ballot for Board of Directors,Clergy 1st vote (4 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Timothy Fitzner	20.83%	35
Ryan Meyer	14.88%	25
Steve Sommerer	4.76%	8
Kent Tibben	25.60%	43
Aaron Uphoff	17.26%	29
Kevin Wendorff	16.67%	28
Totals	100%	168

15. Ballot for Board of Directors,Clergy 2nd vote (4 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Timothy Fitzner	13.71%	24
Ryan Meyer	14.29%	25
Kent Tibben	28.00%	49
Aaron Uphoff	22.29%	39
Kevin Wendorff	21.71%	38
Totals	100%	175

16. Ballot for Board of Directors,Clergy 3rd vote (4 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Kent Tibben	51.15%	89
Aaron Uphoff	25.86%	45
Kevin Wendorff	22.99%	40
Totals	100%	174

17. Ballot for Board of Directors,Clergy 2nd vote (3 more will be elected) (Multiple Choice)

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Timothy Fitzner	18.99%	34
Ryan Meyer	12.85%	23
Steve Sommerer	8.94%	16
Aaron Uphoff	31.28%	56
Kevin Wendorff	27.93%	50
Totals	100%	179

18. Ballot for Board of Directors,Clergy 2nd vote (3 more will be elected) (Multiple Choice)

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Timothy Fitzner	16.85%	30
Aaron Uphoff	47.75%	85
Kevin Wendorff	35.39%	63
Totals	100%	178

19. Ballot for Board of Directors,Clergy 2nd vote (3 more will be elected) (Multiple Choice)

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Aaron Uphoff	60.56%	109
Kevin Wendorff	39.44%	71
Totals	100%	180

20. Ballot for Board of Directors,Clergy 3rd vote (2 more will be elected) (Multiple Choice)

Timothy Fitzner

Ryan Meyer

Steve Sommerer

Kevin Wendorff

Totals

Responses	
Percent	Count
21.67%	39
12.78%	23
8.33%	15
57.22%	103
100%	180

21. Ballot for Board of Directors,Clergy 4th vote (1 more will be elected) (Multiple Choice)

Ryan Meyer

Steve Sommerer

Totals

Responses	
Percent	Count
56.59%	73
27.13%	35
16.28%	21
100%	129

22. Resolution 25-1-01 (Multiple Choice)

Yes

No

Totals

Responses	
Percent	Count
90.60%	106
9.40%	11
100%	117

23. Resolution 25-1-04 (Multiple Choice)

Yes
No
Totals

Responses	
Percent	Count
96.70%	176
3.30%	6
100%	182

24. Resolution 25-1-05A, as Amended (Multiple Choice)

Yes
No
Totals

Responses	
Percent	Count
94.54%	173
5.46%	10
100%	183

25. Ballot for Board of Directors, Commissioned 1st vote (2 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)

Robinette Flach
Rebecca Heppe
Jordan Hopman
Steve Parry
Totals

Responses	
Percent	Count
24.22%	39
18.63%	30
18.63%	30
38.51%	62
100%	161

26. Ballot for Board of Directors,Commissioned 1st vote (2 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)

Steve Parry

Totals

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Robinette Flach	35.54%	59
	64.46%	107
Totals	100%	166

27. Ballot for Board of Directors,Commissioned 2nd vote (1 more will be elected) (Multiple Choice)

Robinette Flach

Rebecca Heppe

Jordan Hopman

Totals

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Robinette Flach	48.50%	81
	21.56%	36
	29.94%	50
Totals	100%	167

28. Ballot for Board of Directors,Commissioned 2nd vote (1 more will be elected) (Multiple Choice)

Robinette Flach

Jordan Hopman

Totals

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Robinette Flach	67.47%	112
	32.53%	54
Totals	100%	166

29. Ballot for 2028 District ConventionNominations Committee – Clergy1st Vote (2 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Jason Braaten	54.86%	96
David Dunlop	22.86%	40
Keith Kettner	22.29%	39
Totals	100%	175

30. Ballot for 2028 District ConventionNominations Committee – Clergy2nd Vote (1 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
David Dunlop	46.29%	81
Keith Kettner	53.71%	94
Totals	100%	175

31. Ballot for 2028 District ConventionNominations Committee – Commissioned1st Vote (2 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Gayle Dietsch	27.61%	45
Rebecca Heppe	51.53%	84
Sandy Spitz	20.86%	34
Totals	100%	163

**32. Ballot for 2028 District ConventionNominations Committee –
Commissioned2nd Vote (1 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Gayle Dietsch

Sandy Spitz

Totals

Responses	Percent	Count
56.71%	93	
43.29%	71	
100%	164	

**33. Ballot for 2028 District ConventionNominations Committee –
Lay1st Vote (2 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Deloris Blessman

David Harshaw

Don James

Brandon West

Totals

Responses	Percent	Count
33.33%	58	
22.41%	39	
16.09%	28	
28.16%	49	
100%	174	

**34. Ballot for 2028 District ConventionNominations Committee –
Lay1st Vote (2 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

David Harshaw

Brandon West

Totals

Responses	Percent	Count
43.60%	75	
19.77%	34	
36.63%	63	
100%	172	

**35. Ballot for 2028 District ConventionNominations Committee –
Lay1st Vote (2 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Deloris Blessman	55.17%	96
Brandon West	44.83%	82
Totals	100%	174

**36. Ballot for 2028 District ConventionNominations Committee –
Lay2nd Vote (1 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
David Harshaw	22.35%	38
Don James	15.88%	27
Brandon West	61.76%	105
Totals	100%	170

**37. Shall the Slate of Circuit Visitors (p. C-5)be ratified? (Multiple
Choice)**

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Yes	92.74%	166
No	7.26%	13
Totals	100%	179

Session Name

Current Session

Date Created

7/14/2025 3:57:25 PM

Average Score

0.00%

Results by Question

	Active Participants
1. Amendment to SubstituteResolution 25-2-02 A Dollar for Missions (Multiple Choice)	186

Yes
No
Totals

Questions

4

Responses	
Percent	Count
70.52%	122
29.48%	51
100%	173

2. Resolution 25-2-04 (Multiple Choice)

	Responses	Percent	Count
Yes		80.84%	135
No		19.16%	32
Totals		100%	167

3. Laity (Multiple Choice - Multiple Response)

- Original sin
- Free will or human powers
- The righteousness of faith before God
- Good Works
- The Law and Gospel
- The third use of the Law
- The holy supper of Christ
- The person of Christ
- Church practices
- God's eternal foreknowledge and election

Totals

	Responses	Percent	Count
		12.08%	29
		10.83%	26
		12.92%	31
		7.92%	19
		21.67%	52
		3.75%	9
		12.50%	30
		7.50%	18
		5.83%	14
		5.00%	12
		100%	240

4. Ordained (Multiple Choice - Multiple Response)

Original sin

Free will or human powers

The righteousness of faith before God

Good Works

Responses

Percent

Count

13.15%	28
11.74%	25
10.33%	22
5.16%	11
7.04%	15
11.27%	24
10.80%	23
Totals	17.84%
	38
6.57%	14
6.10%	13
100%	213