

**2025  
61<sup>st</sup> Regular Convention  
Central Illinois District  
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
PROCEEDINGS  
(minutes)**



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

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# 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Election was held for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Michael Burdick **87**, Mark Eddy 83. Michael Burdick is elected as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President & Mark Eddy 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

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

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

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

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 7<sup>th</sup> 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	<b>Justin Cullen elected by acclamation</b>
Assistant Secretary – Ordained	<b>Marcus Manley elected by acclamation</b>
Treasurer – Layman	<b>Joel Oswald elected by acclamation</b>
Financial Secretary – Layman	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)

Timothy Fitzner 24  
Ryan Meyer 25  
Kent Tibben 49  
Aaron Uphoff 39  
Kevin Wendorf 38

Board of Directors – Parish Pastors (4)

**Kent Tibben 89 Elected**  
Aaron Uphoff 45  
Kevin Wendorf 40

Board of Directors – Parish Pastors (4)

Timothy Fitzner 34  
Ryan Meyer 23  
Steve Sommerer 16  
Aaron Uphoff 56  
Kevin Wendorf 50

Board of Directors – Parish Pastors (4)

Timothy Fitzner 30  
Aaron Uphoff 85  
Kevin Wendorf 63

Board of Directors – Parish Pastors (4)

**Aaron Uphoff 109 Elected**  
Kevin Wendorf 71

Board of Directors – Parish Pastors (4)

Timothy Fitzner 39  
Ryan Meyer 23  
Steve Sommerer 15  
**Kevin Wendorf 103 Elected**

Board of Directors – Parish Pastors (4)

**Timothy Fitzner 73 Elected**  
Ryan Meyer 35  
Steve Sommerer 21

Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, Rev. Andrew Herzberg, introduced the committee: Rev. Matthew Berndt, Mr. Jerry Lindsey, Mr. John Casebeer, Mr. Larry Wooster, Mr. Jeff Shoumaker

R- 25-1-01– *To Stimulate Training for Witness* was presented to the delegates for consideration. The resolution passed. **106-11**

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

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

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

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

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

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*”

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

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

A video was presented on Beyond the Classroom.

Board of Directors – Commissioned (2)

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

Board of Directors – Commissioned (2)

Robinette Flach	59
<b>Steve Parry</b>	<b>107 Elected</b>

Board of Directors – Commissioned (2)

Robinette Flach	81
Rebecca Heppe	36
Jordan Hopman	50

Board of Directors – Commissioned (2)

<b>Robinette Flach</b>	<b>112 Elected</b>
Jordan Hopman	54

Board of Directors – Laymen (4)

**William Blessman Elected by acclamation**

**Kevin Block Elected by acclamation**

**Aaron Schroeder Elected by acclamation**

Congregational Constitutions & District Handbook

Ordained Ministers (at least 1 Parish Pastor) (2)

**Stephen Mueller Elected by acclamation**

**James Stuenkel Elected by acclamation**

Kent Tibben – asked to be removed from the ballot.

Lay – Attorney (1)

No candidate

Nominations Committee for 2028 District Convention

Parish Pastors (2)

**Jason Braaten 96 Elected**

David Dunlop 40

Keith Kettner 39

Parish Pastors (2)

David Dunlop 81

**Keith Kettner 94 Elected**

Parish Teachers or DCEs (2)

Gayle Dietsch 45

**Rebecca Heppe 84 Elected**

Sandy Spitz 34

Parish Teachers or DCEs (2)

**Gayle Dietsch 93 Elected**

Sandy Spitz 71

Laymen (2)

Deloris Blessman 58

David Harshaw 39

Don James 28

Brandon West 49

Laymen (2)

Deloris Blessman 75

David Harshaw 34

Brandon West 63

Laymen (2)

**Deloris Blessman 96 Elected**

Brandon West 78

Laymen (2)

David Harshaw 38

Don James 27

**Brandon West 105 Elected**

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

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

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

President Harrison answered questions submitted by delegates.

Substitute Resolution for R-25-2-02

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Guests were welcomed.

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

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

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

The CID District Convention paused and began sitting as the 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of the Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc.

### **Tuesday, July 15, 2025**

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

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

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

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

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

Welcome to Guests

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

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

A video was presented on Church work recruitment and formation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The advisory delegates and alternates were ratified by voice vote.

Another Dollar for Missions video was presented.

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

A video was presented featuring the CID missions.

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

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

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

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

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

Rev. Eddy offered closing prayers

President Mohr offered the benediction and adjourned the convention.

Respectfully submitted,

In Christ's Service,  
Rev. Kent A. Umbarger  
Central Illinois District Secretary

## SUMMARY OF ELECTIONS:

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2028 "TRIENNium"

President	Rev. Michael Mohr
First Vice-President	Rev. Michael Burdick
Second Vice-President	Rev. Mark Eddy
Secretary	Rev. Justin Cullen
Assistant Secretary	Rev. Marcus Manley
Financial Secretary	<i>None Elected</i>
Treasurer	Mr. Joel Oschwald

Pastors:	Rev. Timothy Fitzner
	Rev. Kent Tibben
	Rev. Aaron Uphoff
	Rev. Kevin Wendorf

Teachers:	Mr. Steve Parry
	Ms. Robinette Flach

Laymen:	Mr. William Blessman
	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.

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

## WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

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

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

## WHY IS THIS BEING PROPOSED?

Places in the District

- 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.
- *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.
- *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.
- 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.

Prospects for the Duration

- *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...”
- *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.
- *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.

578 **Resolution 25-1-01**

579 **To Stimulate Training for Witness**

580 (Passed 106-11)

581 *Overture 25-06*

582 WHEREAS, Christians as God's people are to "proclaim the excellencies of him who called [us] out of darkness into his marvelous  
583 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  
584 you" (1 Peter 3:15); and

585 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  
586 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  
587 for us" (What Luther Says, [CPH, 1959] number 3021; WA 12:267); and

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

590 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  
591 who has a relationship with them; and

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

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

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

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

601 therefore, be it

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

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

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

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

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

616 *Resolved*, That CID's Circuit Visitors report to the 2028 District Convention in their Circuit Reports the steps taken by the  
617 congregations in their Circuits to implement this training for witness (i.e. *Every One His Witness* (E1HW), CID's supplemental  
618 Witnessing Helps, available at <https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-witness-ministry.html>). The foregoing *Resolveds* are based on LCMS  
619 2023 Res. 1-01A.

621 **Resolution 25-1-02**

622 **To Encourage Lutheran School Accreditation**

623 (Passed by voice vote)

624 *Education and Congregational Life Report*

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

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

629 WHEREAS, Historically, the CID has had as many as 16 schools accredited;  
630 therefore, be it

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

632 **Resolution 25-1-03**

633 **To Encourage Witness and Outreach in Nursing Homes**

634 (Passed by voice vote)

635 *Overture 25-05*

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

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

640 therefore, be it

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

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

646 **Resolution 25 1 -04**

647 **To Clarify Policies Regarding Application and Renewal of RSO Status**

648 (Passed 176-6)

649 *Overture 25-02*

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

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

653 WHEREAS, After the fall into sin, God reiterates that he still gives man and woman to be husband and wife in marriage, (Mathew  
654 19:5, Mark 10:7, Ephesians 5:31); and

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



WHEREAS, Our country has adopted policies and practices that uphold, promote, and uplift LGBTQIA+ positions on gender, 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 no longer exclusively the lifelong union of one man and one woman); and

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

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-pleasing life, (Ephesians 5:11; 1 Peter 2:9); and

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, and strives to sin no more, (Romans 6:1-2, Psalm 32:5, John 8:11); and

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

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

WHEREAS, The granting of Recognized Service Organization (RSO) status by the Synod “signifies that a service organization fosters the mission and ministry of the church, engages in program activity that extends the mission and ministry of the Synod, is in harmony 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

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

WHEREAS, RSOs are to “respect the authority of the Synod’s districts” and the respective District Presidents are tasked with the ecclesiastical oversight of RSOs, (Synod Bylaw 6.2.1.c); and

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

WHEREAS, For example:

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

therefore be it

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

*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 of RSO status to any organization supporting, uplifting, celebrating, or otherwise promoting LGBTQIA+ groups, agendas, thoughts, ideas, ideals, etc., including organizations seeking RSO status that are partnered with an organization supporting, uplifting, celebrating, or otherwise promoting LGBTQIA+ groups, agendas, thoughts, ideas, ideals, etc.; and be it further

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

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

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

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

...

and be it finally

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

**PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

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

...

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

**Resolution 2025-1-05A**

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

(Passed 173-10)

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

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

therefore, be it

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

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

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

**I. MEMBERSHIP**

**1.1 Application and Reception**

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

**1.2 Duties of Members**

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

### 1.3 Accrediting of Delegates

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

## II. ADMINISTRATION

### A. OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES

#### 2.1 Officers

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

#### 2.2 Boards, Commissions, Committees

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

##### 2.2.a. Elected by the Delegate Convention of the District

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

A Commission on Mission Services

A Commission on Evangelism Services

A Commission on Congregational Life

A Commission on Education Services

A Commission on Stewardship Services

A Commission on Finance and Management

###### 2.2.a.1. A Congregational Constitutions and District Handbook Committee

###### 2.2.a.2. A District Nominations Committee

##### 2.2.b. Appointed by the Board of Directors

A committee on Communication Services

A Human Care and Church Worker Support and Wellness Committee

An Auditing Committee

An Archivist

2.2.e. Appointed by the President

~~A Ministerial Health Committee~~

~~A Christian Legislative Concerns Committee~~

~~A Committee on Architecture and Construction Assistance to Local Congregations~~

2.3 Term of Office

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

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

2.4. Successive Terms

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

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

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

2.5 Vacancies

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

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

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

~~2.5.d. The member thus appointed shall serve out the term of the person he succeeds. If the un-expired term is less than 1 1/2 years, 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 under limited tenure rules.

2.6. How Offices are Filled

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

2.6.a. By election

2.6.a.1. The President of the District

2.6.a.2. The Two Vice-Presidents

2.6.a.3. The Secretary

2.6.a.4. The Assistant Secretary

2.6.a.5. The Treasurer

2.6.a.6. The Financial Secretary

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

2.6.a.8. The Circuit Visitors

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

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

2.6.b. By Appointment

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

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

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

2.6.b.4. Archivist

~~2.6.b.5. Christian Legislative Concerns Committee~~

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

2.7 Sundry Regulations

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

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

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

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

## B. THE PRESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT

2.8 Relation to President of Synod

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

2.9 Duties

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

2.9.b. The District President, even without formal request therefore, may through the proper channels arrange for an official visit or an investigation when a controversy arises in a congregation or between two or more congregations of the District, or when there is 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 have a clear understanding of the situation. If the District President authorizes anyone to represent him in such matters, his representative shall be accorded the same rights as the District President (Synod Bylaw 4.4.6).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.10 President – A Full-Time Executive

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 any educational institution, but may be called as an assistant pastor to a congregation in an assisting capacity provided such services do not interfere with his official duties as President.

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

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

2.11 If the President is Unable to Serve

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

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 District convention, the First Vice-President shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the Presidency on a part-time basis until the next regular District convention. He would be eligible to serve in three consecutive terms thereafter.

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

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

**C. THE VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT**

2.12 Regional Vice-Presidents

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

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

2.13 Relation to President

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

2.14 Ranking of Vice-Presidents

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

2.15 Succession

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

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

**D. THE SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT**

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 ~~sSynodical~~ 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  
069 2.21.a. The Financial Secretary shall be responsible for the preparation of a statistical record of all budget and  
070 miscellaneous contributions received by the District Treasury.

071  
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  
084 **G. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DISTRICT**

085  
086 2.22 Membership

087  
088 2.22.a. The Board of Directors shall be constituted as follows: The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the  
089 Treasurer, and the Financial Secretary shall be members of the Board. Four parish pastors, four laymen who are voting members of  
090 congregations of the District, and two commissioned ministers actively serving shall be elected according to procedures defined in  
091 these Bylaws.

092  
093 2.22.b. The Assistant Secretary shall be an advisory member of the Board.

094  
095 2.22.c. The Administrative Assistant(s) to the President and the Business Manager (if appointed), while not members of the  
096 Board (Synod Bylaw 1.5.1.1) shall attend open sessions of the Board, giving reports and advice directly to the Board.

097  
098 2.22.d. Every member of the Board shall be a member of a voting congregation of the District. No two members of the  
099 same congregation may be members of the Board. When a member of the Board ceases to be a member of a voting congregation of  
100 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  
101 is automatically eliminated from membership on the Board.

102  
103 2.23 Officers

104  
105 The Board of Directors shall elect its own chairman and vice-chairman.

106  
107 2.24 Prohibition of Conflict of Interest

108  
109 2.24.a. No officer, director, board or commission member of the District or any agency of the District shall use his position  
110 or knowledge acquired from his services in such a manner that a conflict between his personal or business interest and the interest  
111 and general welfare of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod arises (see Synod Bylaw 1.5.2).

112  
113 2.24.b. Officers or members of District boards or commissions shall not enter into gainful business transactions directly or  
114 indirectly, with any board or commission on which they serve.

115  
116 2.25 Responsibilities, Commissions

117  
118 2.25.a. The Board of Directors as a whole is charged with the responsibility of handling for the District all matters  
119 pertaining to missions, evangelism, parish education, youth ministry, finances, stewardship, and student aid.

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

A Commission on Mission Services

A Commission on Evangelism Services

A Commission on Congregational Life

A Commission on Education Services

A Commission on Stewardship Services

A Commission on Finance and Management

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

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

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

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

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

## 2.26. Meetings

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 of the Board. A majority of the Board members shall constitute a quorum. The District shall pay all expenses incurred.

2.26.b. The Secretary of the Board shall keep accurate minutes of each meeting of the Board and copies of these minutes 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 congregation on a regular basis.

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

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

## 2.28 Financial Duties

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

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

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

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

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

## 2.29 Powers and Duties with Respect to the Property of the District

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

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

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

## 2.30 Other Duties

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

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

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

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 Illinois District.~~ The Board of Directors may adopt policies and guidelines governing various aspects of District operations that are not in conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod or the Bylaws and resolutions of the District.

## H. STAFF

### 2.31 Administrative Assistant(s) to the President

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.32 Business Manager (if appointed)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### ~~2.35 The Ministerial Health Committee~~

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

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

#### 2.36 The Auditing Committee

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

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

2.36.c. Special Audit: The Auditing Committee shall annually, or more frequently at the request of the Board of Directors, engage a firm of Certified Public Accountants to audit the books and financial records of the District and such other funds and records as the Auditing Committee or the Board of Directors in their judgment may consider appropriate. The Auditing Committee shall review the audit reports as submitted by the independent CPA firm, and shall prepare a report with recommendations to the Board of Directors and to the District convention. At least annually notice shall be given to each congregation within the District 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 supplied from the District office.

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

### J. REGULATIONS GOVERNING NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

#### 2.37 General Regulations

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

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

#### 2.38 Order of Elections

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

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

#### 2.39 Order of Names on Ballot

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

#### 2.40 Nomination for President

2.40.a. Advance Nominating Ballot: Five months before the regular election each congregation holding voting membership in the District shall receive from the Secretary of the District an official nominating ballot on which to nominate one or two candidates for President. The congregation's ballot shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of the congregation. The ballot, 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 election will be held in order to be counted.

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

#### 2.41 Election of President

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

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

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

#### 2.42 Nominations for Vice-Presidents

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

2.43 Election of Vice-Presidents

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

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

2.44 Ranking of the Vice-Presidents

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

2.45 Election of the Circuit Visitor

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

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

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

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 exercised by the representatives from each member congregation or parish of the circuit, who shall have been selected in the manner prescribed by the congregation (Synod Bylaw 5.3.2).

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

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

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

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

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

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



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 Synod ~~ical~~ 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

3.1 Circuit Visitors and District President

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

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

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

3.2 Circuit Visitors and Member Congregations

3.2.1. The circuit visitor shall, when requested to do so by the District President, serve as his representative to visit each congregation once in three years and otherwise as he the District President deems it necessary (Synod Bylaw 5.2.3.1).

3.2.b. The purpose of the official visits with pastors, congregations, and schools shall be those described in the Synodical Handbook (Synod Bylaws 5.2.3.1 and 5.2.3.2).

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

3.3 Expenses of Circuit Visitors

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

3.4 Circuit Forum

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).

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.

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

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

3.4.c.ii. To develop and adopt within existing policies of the District complementary and sometimes joint plans for missions outreach in the circuit area;

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

3.4.c.iv. To receive and respond as appropriate to advice, guidance, resolutions, and programs in other sections of the Synod as such may be addressed to it from other circuits, the District, and the general Synod;

3.4.c.v. To serve as a setting to review and evaluate programs, plans and long-range directions of the District and Synod, and thus participate in the triennial process of suggesting, developing, and attaining the Synod's priorities and goals.

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

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

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

### 3.5 Circuit Convocations

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

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

## B. THE CIRCUIT LAY DELEGATES

### 3.6 Office

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

### 3.7 Duties of the Circuit Lay Delegates

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

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

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.

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

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

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

## IV. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

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

## V. EVANGELISM

### THE COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM SERVICES

### 5.1 Duties

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.).

## 5.2 Subcommittees

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

# VI. CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

## THE COMMISSION ON CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

### 6.1 Duties

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

The commission shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 6.2 Subcommittees

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

## VII. EDUCATION SERVICES

### THE COMMISSION ON EDUCATION SERVICES

#### 7.1 Duties

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.1.f. Provide a liaison with ~~sSynodical~~ education experts.

#### 7.2 Subcommittees

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

## VIII. MISSIONS

### THE COMMISSION ON MISSION SERVICES

#### 8.1 Duties

8.1.a. The function of the Commission on Mission Services shall be to "strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold 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 world" (Synodical Constitution III 2).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8.2 Subcommittees

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

## **IX. FINANCES**

### **THE COMMISSION ON FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **9.1 Duties**

The Commission on Finance and Management shall:

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

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

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

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

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 to improve the financial performance of the District;

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

## **X. STEWARDSHIP**

### **THE COMMISSION ON STEWARDSHIP SERVICES**

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

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

#### **10.1 Objectives**

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

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

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

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

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

## 10.2 Functions

The functions of the Commission on Stewardship will be:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10.2.l. Counsel with circuits and congregations of the Central Illinois District in the use of stewardship programs and materials.

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

## 10.3 Duties

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

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



- 10.3.b. Participate in the discussion and decision-making process of the commission.
- 10.3.c. Accept special assignments from time to time that may be required to carry out the commission's functions more effectively.
- 10.3.d. Represent the Commission on Stewardship Services in a positive manner and to set an example of the spirit of total Christian stewardship in his life and attitudes.
- 10.3.e. Pray that the Lord of the Church will bless the stewardship efforts of His stewards.

#### 10.4 Student Aid

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

- 10.4.a. Eligibility: Communicant members of a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the Central Illinois District who are students or prospective students enrolled at ~~s~~Synodical colleges, universities, or seminaries with the intent of preparing themselves for full-time work in the church are eligible.
- 10.4.b. Applications: Application forms are to be obtained from the school in which the student is enrolled. The forms are to be sent to the school, not to the Central Illinois District office; the colleges, universities, or seminaries will forward the forms to the District by June 15.
- 10.4.c. Nature of Support: All financial assistance shall be in the form of student grants. The amount of each grant shall be ratified by the Board of Directors. Financial assistance shall be determined on the basis of need determined by the accepted practice 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 application shall be submitted prior to each new school year. Grants to students shall be sent only to the person in charge of such funds at the respective school.
- 10.4.d. District Aid: Student grants shall be made available primarily to students who have completed high school and are enrolled in colleges and seminaries for studies leading to ~~s~~Synodical certification.
- 10.4.e. In the event a student who has received a student grant determines not to pursue studies leading to professional church service, it is understood that the recipient has a moral obligation to repay the grant.

#### 10.5 Subcommittees

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

### XI. COMMUNICATION SERVICES

#### 11.1 The Communications Committee

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

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

## 11.2 Duties

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## XII. SPECIAL MINISTRIES

### 12.1 The Archivist

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

#### 12.1.a. Duties

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

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

030 12.1.a.iii. He shall index all such records, books, and documents, and keep them in the archives of the District.

031  
032 12.1.a.iv. Whenever an officer, committee, or conference no longer has need of any records, they shall be placed into  
033 the care of the archivist.

034  
035 12.1.a.v. He shall inform himself, and be kept informed, of any change in the secretaryship of the various conferences, so that  
036 he may know where, at any time, to locate the minutes of the individual conferences.

037  
038 12.1.a.vi. All expenses incurred by the work of the archivist shall be defrayed from the District treasury.  
039

### 040 XIII. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

041  
042 13.1 ~~How Made~~ Amendments to the Bylaws may be made, provided they are:

043  
044 13.1.a. not contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod;

045  
046 13.1.b. submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod for review and prior approval (Amendments  
047 not approved prior to the convention shall not take effect until approved by the commission.);

048  
049 13.1.c. presented in writing to a convention of the District;

050  
051 13.1.d. adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting at such a convention.  
052

### 053 Resolution 25-1-06

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

055 (Passed by voice vote)

#### 056 *Evangelism Commission Report*

057  
058 WHEREAS, The BTC was developed by the ONM to support and develop outreach to unchurched families in our Lutheran Schools;  
059 and

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

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

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

### 065 Resolution 25-2-04

#### 066 To Annualize Congregational Assessments

067 (Passed 135-32)

#### 068 *Overture 25-10*

069  
070 WHEREAS, The congregations of the CID currently contribute towards the synod convention, district convention, official district  
071 pastors' conferences, district pastors' wives' retreats, official district teachers' conferences, and official district school administrators'  
072 conferences through the payment of registration fees and/or assessments just prior to each of these events, and

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

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

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

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

therefore be it

*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 synod conventions), and be it further

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

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

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

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

#### **25-2-04 - Appendix A**

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

Confirmed Congregation	Average Membership	Last Year Attendance	Reported	3-yr Annual	2023 Synod Total	Synod 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

118	St. John - Beardstown	167/167	73/73	2024	\$351.00	\$1,053.00	\$487.35
119	Good Shepherd - Bloomington	115/115	78/78	2024	\$326.33	\$979.00	\$413.25
120	Our Redeemer - Bloomington	221/221	86/86	2024	\$413.00	\$1,239.00	\$954.75
121	Confirmed	Average	Last Year		3-yesr	2023 Synod	
122	Congregation	Membership	Attendance	Reported	Annual	Total	Conv. Assmt.
123	Trinity - Bloomington	2180/2180	467/467	2024	\$2,481.00	\$7,443.00	\$6,897.00
124	St. Paul - Blue Point	246/269	115/126	2015	\$525.00	\$1,575.00	\$666.90
125	Trinity - Bluffs	190/196	33/34	2021	\$292.33	\$877.00	\$786.60
126	St. Paul - Bowen	47/47	25/25	2024	\$175.00	\$525.00	\$173.85
127	St. Paul - Brimfield	96/96	33/33	2024	\$223.67	\$671.00	\$470.25
128	Immanuel - Broadlands	341/341	133/133	2024	\$587.00	\$1,761.00	\$1,105.80
129	St. John - Buckley	596/608	135/138	2022	\$775.00	\$2,325.00	\$1,610.25
130	Risen Savior - Buffalo	12/12	5/5	2023	\$111.67	\$335.00	\$37.05
131	Trinity - Casey	86/86	25/25	2024	\$201.00	\$603.00	\$239.40
132	Friendship/ Church of Joy - Champaign		93/94	45/45	2023	\$246.33	\$739.00
134	\$296.40						
135	St. John - Champaign	712/712	286/286	2024	\$1,140.33	\$3,421.00	\$2,579.25
136	University - Champaign	27/27	60/61	2023	\$233.67	\$701.00	\$54.15
137	Salem - Chandlerville	57/57	15/15	2024	\$161.67	\$485.00	\$176.70
138	St. Paul - Chapin	70/75	54/58	2017	\$259.67	\$779.00	\$342.00
139	Immanuel - Charleston	132/132	56/56	2024	\$293.67	\$881.00	\$994.65
140	St. John - Chatham	283/283	109/109	2024	\$500.33	\$1,501.00	\$937.65
141	St. Paul - Chenoa	228/228	66/66	2024	\$377.67	\$1,133.00	\$681.15
142	Zion - Chestnut	84/84	65/65	2024	\$279.67	\$839.00	\$205.20
143	Immanuel - Cissna Park	23/25	20/21	2017	\$152.33	\$457.00	\$62.70
144	Trinity - Cissna Park	257/257	54/54	2024	\$373.00	\$1,119.00	\$769.50
145	Good Shepherd - Clayton	50/50	34/34	2024	\$195.00	\$585.00	\$153.90
146	Christ - Clinton	80/80	42/42	2024	\$231.00	\$693.00	\$222.30
147	Trinity - Coal Valley	116/116	62/62	2024	\$295.00	\$885.00	\$228.00
148	Zion - Danvers	25/26	14/14	2021	\$139.00	\$417.00	\$74.10
149	Immanuel - Danville	426/430	87/88	2023	\$556.33	\$1,669.00	\$1,305.30
150	Trinity - Danville	393/393	111/111	2024	\$577.67	\$1,733.00	\$1,034.55
151	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	Average	Last Year		3-yesr	2023 Synod	
158	Congregation	Membership	Attendance	Reported	Annual	Total	Conv. Assmt.
159	Grace - Dieterich	84/84	12/12	2024	\$173.67	\$521.00	\$265.05
160	St. John - Dieterich	150/150	77/77	2024	\$347.67	\$1,043.00	\$407.55
161	Cristo Rey - East Moline	18/18	18/18	2024	\$141.67	\$425.00	\$48.45
162	St. John - East Moline	424/424	123/123	2024	\$622.33	\$1,867.00	\$1,510.50
163	Zion - East Moline	130/139	50/54	2017	\$294.33	\$883.00	\$396.15
164	Saint Peters - East Peoria	187/187	75/75	2024	\$368.33	\$1,105.00	\$575.70
165	Trinity - Edinburg	132/132	25/25	2024	\$231.67	\$695.00	\$513.00
166	St. John - Effingham	785/785	399/399	2024	\$1,415.00	\$4,245.00	\$2,254.35
167	Trinity - El Paso	199/199	110/110	2024	\$446.33	\$1,339.00	\$513.00
168	Our Redeemer - Eureka	125/129	55/57	2021	\$293.67	\$881.00	\$356.25
169	Mt. Calvary - Galesburg	164/164	108/108	2024	\$419.00	\$1,257.00	\$450.30
170	Concordia - Geneseo	308/308	121/121	2024	\$541.00	\$1,623.00	\$880.65
171	St. John - Geneseo	167/167	47/47	2024	\$299.00	\$897.00	\$532.95
172	Holy Cross - Golden	79/79	50/50	2024	\$246.33	\$739.00	\$293.55
173	St. John - Green Valley	915/915	113/113	2024	\$929.67	\$2,789.00	\$2,641.95
174	St. Paul - Havana	558/575	100/103	2021	\$683.00	\$2,049.00	\$1,587.45
175	Good Shepherd - Hoopeston	25/25	15/15	2023	\$140.33	\$421.00	\$111.15
176	Christ - Jacksonville	24/24	15/15	2023	\$139.67	\$419.00	\$71.25
177	Our Redeemer - Jacksonville	147/147	74/74	2024	\$339.67	\$1,019.00	\$416.10
178	Salem - Jacksonville	663/663	132/132	2024	\$799.67	\$2,399.00	\$1,886.70
179	Faith - Kewanee	109/109	21/21	2024	\$208.33	\$625.00	\$290.70
180	St. Paul - Kewanee	72/74	35/36	2021	\$215.00	\$645.00	\$133.95
181	Our Savior - Lawrenceville	42/42	19/19	2024	\$159.67	\$479.00	\$48.45
182	St. Paul - Lexington	208/208	54/54	2024	\$340.33	\$1,021.00	\$609.90
183	Faith - Lincoln	326/326	70/70	2024	\$451.00	\$1,353.00	\$934.80
184	Zion - Lincoln	303/303	174/174	2024	\$643.67	\$1,931.00	\$1,268.25
185	Immanuel - Loda	75/75	24/24	2024	\$191.67	\$575.00	\$233.70

186	St. John - Louisville	243/243	132/132	2024	\$519.67	\$1,559.00	\$695.40
187	Immanuel - Macomb	72/73	50/51	2023	\$244.33	\$733.00	\$202.35
188	St. Paul - Manito	138/138	50/50	2024	\$285.67	\$857.00	\$416.10
189	Trinity - Manito	107/107	35/35	2024	\$235.00	\$705.00	\$336.30
190	Christ - Mason City	194/194	67/67	2024	\$357.00	\$1,071.00	\$558.60
191	St. John's - Mattoon	713/713	213/213	2024	\$995.00	\$2,985.00	\$2,408.25
192	St. Paul - Mattoon	109/109	68/68	2024	\$302.33	\$907.00	\$726.75
193	Confirmed	Average	Last Year		3-yesr	2023 Synod	
194	Congregation	Membership	Attendance	Reported	Annual	Total	Conv. Assmt.
195	St. Matthew - Milan	583/583	162/162	2024	\$806.33	\$2,419.00	\$1,618.80
196	Our Savior - Milford	176/176	77/77	2024	\$365.00	\$1,095.00	\$627.00
197	Good Shepherd - Miner	45/45	24/24	2023	\$171.67	\$515.00	\$145.35
198	Holy Cross - Moline	185/185	80/80	2024	\$377.00	\$1,131.00	\$900.60
199	Faith - Monticello	57/57	60/60	2024	\$251.67	\$755.00	\$293.55
200	Bethel - Morton	1498/1498	683/683	2024	\$2,458.33	\$7,375.00	\$3,819.00
201	Zion - Mt Pulaski	289/289	69/69	2024	\$424.33	\$1,273.00	\$880.65
202	First - Mt. Sterling	55/60	25/27	2015	\$187.67	\$563.00	\$85.50
203	Mount Zion - Mt. Zion	55/56	18/18	2023	\$167.00	\$501.00	\$142.50
204	St. John - New Berlin	144/144	66/66	2024	\$321.67	\$965.00	\$407.55
205	Zion - New Holland	71/72	29/29	2023	\$199.67	\$599.00	\$114.00
206	Good Shepherd - Newton	36/36	12/12	2024	\$141.67	\$425.00	\$125.40
207	Christ - Normal	534/534	195/195	2024	\$839.67	\$2,519.00	\$1,282.50
208	St. John - Onarga	188/188	62/62	2024	\$343.00	\$1,029.00	\$521.55
209	Immanuel - Osman	100/100	43/43	2024	\$246.33	\$739.00	\$342.00
210	St. Paul - Pana	214/220	35/36	2021	\$312.33	\$937.00	\$607.05
211	Grace - Paris	215/215	105/105	2024	\$447.00	\$1,341.00	\$598.50
212	St. John - Pekin	527/527	110/110	2024	\$665.00	\$1,995.00	\$1,698.60
213	Trinity - Pekin	261/261	66/66	2024	\$399.67	\$1,199.00	\$803.70
214	Christ - Peoria	438/438	126/126	2024	\$637.67	\$1,913.00	\$1,299.60
215	Mt. Calvary - Peoria	308/308	84/84	2024	\$467.00	\$1,401.00	\$906.30
216	Redeemer - Peoria	901/901	410/410	2024	\$1,514.33	\$4,543.00	\$3,705.00
217	Trinity - Peoria	509/509	326/326	2024	\$1,085.00	\$3,255.00	\$2,462.40
218	Bethlehem - Petersburg	399/399	60/60	2024	\$479.67	\$1,439.00	\$826.50
219	St. Paul - Pittsfield	29/30	16/16	2022	\$145.67	\$437.00	\$116.85

220	Zion - Pleasant Plains	152/152	36/36	2024	\$267.00	\$801.00	\$458.85
221	LC of St. John - Quincy	547/547	197/197	2024	\$852.33	\$2,557.00	\$1,775.55
222	Our Redeemer - Quincy	474/479	142/143	2023	\$699.00	\$2,097.00	\$1,308.15
223	St. James - Quincy	444/444	160/160	2024	\$709.67	\$2,129.00	\$1,778.40
224	Immanuel - Riverton	40/40	20/20	2023	\$160.33	\$481.00	\$99.75
225	Trinity - Roanoke	68/68	42/42	2024	\$223.00	\$669.00	\$299.25
226	Our Redeemer - Robinson	36/36	22/22	2024	\$161.67	\$485.00	\$88.35
227	Good Shepherd - Rochester	125/134	43/46	2017	\$275.00	\$825.00	\$356.25
228	Immanuel - Rock Island	228/228	60/60	2024	\$365.67	\$1,097.00	\$698.25
229	Confirmed	Average	Last Year		3-yesr	2023 Synod	
230	Congregation	Membership	Attendance	Reported	Annual	Total	Conv. Assmt.
231	St. John - Rushville	118/129	49/54	2015	\$287.67	\$863.00	\$165.30
232	St. Paul - Sadorus	300/303	82/83	2023	\$461.67	\$1,385.00	\$769.50
233	Salem - Salem	399/399	212/212	2024	\$783.67	\$2,351.00	\$1,271.10
234	St. Luke - San Jose	136/137	35/35	2023	\$255.00	\$765.00	\$384.75
235	St. John - Secor	232/232	21/21	2024	\$290.33	\$871.00	\$695.40
236	Holy Cross - Shelbyville	289/289	100/100	2024	\$486.33	\$1,459.00	\$866.40
237	Good Shepherd - Sherman	451/451	97/97	2024	\$588.33	\$1,765.00	\$1,539.00
238	St. Paul - Shobonier	130/133	32/33	2022	\$248.33	\$745.00	\$242.25
239	Faith - Shumway	219/235	115/123	2017	\$496.33	\$1,489.00	\$572.85
240	St. Paul - Sigel	112/112	23/23	2024	\$214.33	\$643.00	\$339.15
241	Concordia - Springfield	151/151	50/50	2024	\$294.33	\$883.00	\$715.35
242	Holy Trinity - Springfield	7/7	7/7	2023	\$112.33	\$337.00	\$57.00
243	Immanuel - Springfield	133/133	76/76	2024	\$334.33	\$1,003.00	\$353.40
244	Our Savior's - Springfield	1283/1283	386/386	2024	\$1,721.00	\$5,163.00	\$4,143.90
245	Trinity - Springfield	1391/1521	438/479	2015	\$2,065.67	\$6,197.00	\$3,964.35
246	St. Peter - St. Peter	493/498	121/122	2023	\$669.67	\$2,009.00	\$1,416.45
247	Trinity - Stewardson	401/401	136/136	2024	\$633.00	\$1,899.00	\$1,097.25
248	Grace - Strasburg	96/96	54/54	2024	\$265.67	\$797.00	\$285.00
249	St. Paul - Strasburg	377/392	150/156	2020	\$667.00	\$2,001.00	\$1,026.00
250	Faith - Sullivan	169/169	74/74	2024	\$354.33	\$1,063.00	\$256.50
251	Zion - Taylor Ridge	212/212	67/67	2024	\$369.00	\$1,107.00	\$749.55
252	Trinity - Taylorville	420/424	72/73	2023	\$522.33	\$1,567.00	\$1,268.25
253	St. Peter - Thawville	96/104	22/24	2016	\$211.00	\$633.00	\$267.90



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

270 **Resolution 25-2-05**

271 **To Commemorate the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicæa**

272 (Passed by voice vote)

273 *President's Report*

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

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

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

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

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289 **Resolution 25-2-06**

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

291 (Passed by voice vote)

292 *Mission Commission Report*

293  
294 WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod Gospel outreach to the deaf and hard of-hearing community in Jacksonville,  
295 Illinois began in 1901, six years before Illinois was divided into three districts, and

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

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

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

302 *Resolved*, That congregations be encouraged to observe the 125th anniversary of deaf ministry in Central Illinois on Sunday, August  
303 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-  
304 20, and be it finally

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

308 **Resolution 25-1-07**

309 **To Encourage Sabbaticals for Church Workers**

310 (Passed by voice vote)

311 *Human Care and Church Worker Support and Wellness Report*

312  
313 Whereas, There is a growing attrition rate of called church workers in the Synod who have suffered from burn-out in the ministry;  
314 and

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

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

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

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

321 therefore, be it

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

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

328 **Resolution 25-1-09**

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

330 (Passed by voice vote)

331 *Overture 25-01*

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

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

337 WHEREAS, “[T]he powers of the church and civil government must not be mixed. The power of the church possesses its own  
338 command to preach the gospel and administer the sacraments. It should not usurp the other’s duty, transfer earthly kingdoms, abrogate  
339 the laws of magistrates, abolish lawful obedience, interfere with judgment concerning any civil ordinances or contracts, (AC XXVIII,  
340 12 [Latin text]); and

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

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

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

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

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

353 *Resolved*, That CID memorialize Synod to direct organizations affiliated with The Synod to exercise extreme caution when  
354 advocating (lobbying) for positions in the Kingdom of the Left in which Christians of good conscience may differ.  
355

356 **Resolution 25-1-10**

357 **To Decline Overture 25-03**

358 (Passed 101-47)

359 *Overture 25-03*

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

362 *Resolved*, That Overture 25-03 be declined.  
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**Resolution 25-2-07**

**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.

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

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

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

therefore be it

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

## **Resolution 25-2-02B**

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

(Passed by voice vote)

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

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

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

## **CID Convention Essay Springfield IL July 13-15**

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

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

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

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

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 1700<sup>th</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Holy 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:

“<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not 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.

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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?

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



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

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

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

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

We confess it and it is a great witnessing tool.

**Who is God the Father?**

One God  
Almighty God  
Maker of heaven and earth. We do not worship CREATION, the Father who is  
CREATOR.

### **Who is God the Son?**

God and man  
Savior for all of human kind.  
Died and Rose  
Reigns  
Will return in judgement.

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

One God proceeding from the other persons.  
Giver of life in Christ  
Provider of God's Word  
Bring the Church together and sustains her until the end.

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

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

Let's look at parts of the Small Catechism:

### **Small groups**

#### **What is the Office of the keys ?**

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

*What is the witness?*

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

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

Why does the world need this witness?

### **The Book of Concord as our witness**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When the Concordians were confessing the Truth of Scripture they desired to provide a comforted conscience in Christ. It’s like a window in your home looking out to your backyard that is fogged over and you can’t see what is on other side. You are never quite sure what is out there. However, when it is clean you can clearly see your trees, birds 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 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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).*

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

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

**Matthew 16:14-18**<sup>14</sup> And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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 Muhlberg 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 Moritz 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.<sup>[1]</sup> 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**,<sup>[1]</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.”

- V) **Synergism** (to work with)
- a. 1555-1560
  - b. What is my role in salvation?
  - c. "I have accepted Jesus into my heart"
  - d. Where is my assurance? Emotions or the outward means of grace.

### **The Formation of the Formula of Concord**

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

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

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

Two prominent people:

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Formula of Concord: Epitome** written by Andreae as a summary of the Torgau Book, formulated June of 1576.

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

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

Back to your voting:

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

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

#8-We are corrupt with nothing healthy or uncorrupt.

(p.475)

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

### **II. Free Will**

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

#3-We are enemies of God.

(p.477)

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

### **III. Righteousness of Faith**

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

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

074  
075 **IV. Good works**

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

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

078  
079 **V. Law & Gospel**

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

081 #5-Gospel is that Christ paid it all and made satisfaction for my sins (p.484)

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

083 Truth of Scripture is hidden.

084  
085 **VI. The Third Use of God's Law (p.486-487)**

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

088  
089 *Reject-#8-The Law is not needed to be applied to believers.*

090  
091 **VII. The Holy Supper of Christ (p.488-489)**

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

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

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

097  
098 Affirm-#5-The divine and human natures in Christ are personally united. One in  
099 the same, Son of God and the Son of Man.

100  
101 **\*\*Affirmed in the Athanasian Creed.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*#17*-God is unwilling to save all.

Possible Good Shepherd, Alexandria story



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

*I Corinthians 3:6-<sup>5</sup> What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup> So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup> He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. <sup>9</sup> 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*www.thebookofconcord.org*

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

It states:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Nuts and bolts

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

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

In what ways are you planted in your community?

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

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

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

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

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

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

What "successes" have you seen?

What lack of success have you seen?

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

What you confess matters—salvation is at stake!

5. Ballot for District President (Multiple Choice)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Jason Braaten	7.65%	14
Mark Eddy	7.10%	13
Michael Mohr	85.25%	156
Totals	100%	183

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

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Jason Braaten	27.89%	41
Michael Burdick	48.30%	71
Michael Schuermann	23.81%	35
Totals	100%	147

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

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Jason Braaten	30.52%	47
Michael Burdick	69.48%	107
Totals	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
<b>100%</b>	<b>157</b>

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

Daniel Bishop

Mark Eddy

**Totals**

Responses	
Percent	Count
38.18%	63
61.82%	102
<b>100%</b>	<b>165</b>

**10. Ballot for First Vice President (Multiple Choice)**

Michael Burdick

Mark Eddy

**Totals**

Responses	
Percent	Count
51.18%	87
48.82%	83
<b>100%</b>	<b>170</b>



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

Yes, remove it  
No, keep it  
**Totals**

Responses	
Percent	Count
25.99%	46
74.01%	131
<b>100%</b>	<b>177</b>

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

Yes  
No  
**Totals**

Responses	
Percent	Count
55.80%	101
44.20%	80
<b>100%</b>	<b>181</b>

**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
<b>100%</b>	<b>177</b>

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

Responses	
Percent	Count
20.83%	35
14.88%	25
4.76%	8
25.60%	43
17.26%	29
16.67%	28
<b>100%</b>	<b>168</b>

Timothy Fitzner

Ryan Meyer

Steve Sommerer

Kent Tibben

Aaron Uphoff

Kevin Wendorff

**Totals**

**15. Ballot for Board of Directors,Clergy 2nd vote (4 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Responses	
Percent	Count
13.71%	24
14.29%	25
28.00%	49
22.29%	39
21.71%	38
<b>100%</b>	<b>175</b>

Timothy Fitzner

Ryan Meyer

Kent Tibben

Aaron Uphoff

Kevin Wendorff

**Totals**

**16. Ballot for Board of Directors,Clergy 3rd vote (4 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Responses	
Percent	Count
51.15%	89
25.86%	45
22.99%	40
<b>100%</b>	<b>174</b>

Kent Tibben

Aaron Uphoff

Kevin Wendorff

**Totals**

**17. Ballot for Board of Directors,Clergy 2nd vote (3 more will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Timothy Fitzner  
 Ryan Meyer  
 Steve Sommerer  
 Aaron Uphoff  
 Kevin Wendorff  
**Totals**

Responses	
Percent	Count
18.99%	34
12.85%	23
8.94%	16
31.28%	56
27.93%	50
<b>100%</b>	<b>179</b>

**18. Ballot for Board of Directors,Clergy 2nd vote (3 more will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Timothy Fitzner  
 Aaron Uphoff  
 Kevin Wendorff  
**Totals**

Responses	
Percent	Count
16.85%	30
47.75%	85
35.39%	63
<b>100%</b>	<b>178</b>

**19. Ballot for Board of Directors,Clergy 2nd vote (3 more will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Aaron Uphoff  
 Kevin Wendorff  
**Totals**

Responses	
Percent	Count
60.56%	109
39.44%	71
<b>100%</b>	<b>180</b>

**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
<b>100%</b>	<b>180</b>

**21. Ballot for Board of Directors,Clergy 4th vote (1 more will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Timothy Fitzner  
 Ryan Meyer  
 Steve Sommerer  
**Totals**

Timothy Fitzner

Responses	
Percent	Count
56.59%	73
27.13%	35
16.28%	21
<b>100%</b>	<b>129</b>

**22. Resolution 25-1-01 (Multiple Choice)**

Yes  
 No  
**Totals**

Responses	
Percent	Count
90.60%	106
9.40%	11
<b>100%</b>	<b>117</b>

**23. Resolution 25-1-04 (Multiple Choice)**

Responses	
Percent	Count
96.70%	176
3.30%	6
<b>100%</b>	<b>182</b>

Yes

No

**Totals**

**24. Resolution 25-1-05A, as Amended (Multiple Choice)**

Responses	
Percent	Count
94.54%	173
5.46%	10
<b>100%</b>	<b>183</b>

Yes

No

**Totals**

**25. Ballot for Board of Directors,Commissioned 1st vote (2 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Responses	
Percent	Count
24.22%	39
18.63%	30
18.63%	30
38.51%	62
<b>100%</b>	<b>161</b>

Robinette Flach

Rebecca Heppe

Jordan Hopman

Steve Parry

**Totals**

**26. Ballot for Board of Directors,Commissioned 1st vote (2 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Responses	
Percent	Count
35.54%	59
64.46%	107
<b>100%</b>	<b>166</b>

Robinette Flach

Steve Parry

**Totals**

**27. Ballot for Board of Directors,Commissioned 2nd vote (1 more will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Responses	
Percent	Count
48.50%	81
21.56%	36
29.94%	50
<b>100%</b>	<b>167</b>

Robinette Flach

Rebecca Heppe

Jordan Hopman

**Totals**

**28. Ballot for Board of Directors,Commissioned 2nd vote (1 more will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Responses	
Percent	Count
67.47%	112
32.53%	54
<b>100%</b>	<b>166</b>

Robinette Flach

Jordan Hopman

**Totals**

**29. Ballot for 2028 District Convention Nominations Committee –  
Clergy 1st Vote (2 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Responses	
Percent	Count
54.86%	96
22.86%	40
22.29%	39
<b>100%</b>	<b>175</b>

Jason Braaten

David Dunlop

Keith Kettner

**Totals**

**30. Ballot for 2028 District Convention Nominations Committee –  
Clergy 2nd Vote (1 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Responses	
Percent	Count
46.29%	81
53.71%	94
<b>100%</b>	<b>175</b>

David Dunlop

Keith Kettner

**Totals**

**31. Ballot for 2028 District Convention Nominations Committee –  
Commissioned 1st Vote (2 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Responses	
Percent	Count
27.61%	45
51.53%	84
20.86%	34
<b>100%</b>	<b>163</b>

Gayle Dietsch

Rebecca Heppe

Sandy Spitz

**Totals**

**32. Ballot for 2028 District Convention Nominations Committee –  
Commissioned 2nd Vote (1 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Gayle Dietsch  
Sandy Spitz  
**Totals**

Responses	
Percent	Count
56.71%	93
43.29%	71
<b>100%</b>	<b>164</b>

**33. Ballot for 2028 District Convention Nominations Committee –  
Lay 1st 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
<b>100%</b>	<b>174</b>

**34. Ballot for 2028 District Convention Nominations Committee –  
Lay 1st Vote (2 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Deloris Blessman  
David Harshaw  
Brandon West  
**Totals**

Responses	
Percent	Count
43.60%	75
19.77%	34
36.63%	63
<b>100%</b>	<b>172</b>



**35. Ballot for 2028 District Convention Nominations Committee –  
Lay 1st Vote (2 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

Deloris Blessman

Brandon West

**Totals**

Responses	
Percent	Count
55.17%	96
44.83%	78
<b>100%</b>	<b>174</b>

**36. Ballot for 2028 District Convention Nominations Committee –  
Lay 2nd Vote (1 will be elected) (Multiple Choice)**

David Harshaw

Don James

Brandon West

**Totals**

Responses	
Percent	Count
22.35%	38
15.88%	27
61.76%	105
<b>100%</b>	<b>170</b>

**37. Shall the Slate of Circuit Visitors (p. C-5) be ratified? (Multiple Choice)**

Yes

No

**Totals**

Responses	
Percent	Count
92.74%	166
7.26%	13
<b>100%</b>	<b>179</b>

**Session Name**

Current Session

**Date Created**

7/14/2025 3:57:25 PM

**Average Score**

0.00%

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**Results by Question****1. Amendment to Substitute Resolution 25-2-02 A Dollar for Missions  
(Multiple Choice)****Active  
Participants**

186

**Questions**

4

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Responses	
Percent	Count
70.52%	122
29.48%	51
<b>100%</b>	<b>173</b>

Yes

No

**Totals**

## 2. Resolution 25-2-04 (Multiple Choice)

Yes

No

**Totals**

Responses		Count
Percent		
80.84%	135	
19.16%	32	
100%	167	

## 3. Laity (Multiple Choice - Multiple Response)

Original sin

Free will or human powers

    The righteousness of faithbefore 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		Count
Percent		
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 faithbefore God

Good Works

		Responses		Count
		Percent		
How do we know more God		13.15%	28	
	The Law and Gospel	11.74%	25	
	The third use of the Law	10.33%	22	
	The holy supper of Christ	5.16%	11	
	The person of Christ	7.04%	15	
	Church practices	11.27%	24	
	God's eternal foreknowledge and election	10.80%	23	
	Totals	17.84%	38	
		6.57%	14	
		6.10%	13	
		100%	213	

348