2025
61st Regular Convention
Central Illinois District
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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

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Theme: "Witnessing Christ to the People"
Acts 13:30-31
Central Illinois District LCMS 61st Regular Convention
Schedule
July 13-15, 2025

Sunday, July 13, 2025

2:00 PM	Exhibitor Set-Up
3:00 PM	Registration at the Crowne Plaza
3:00 PM	Exhibits Open
7:00 PM	Opening Communion Service

Monday, July 14, 2025

7:00 AM	Registration at the Crowne Plaza
7:00 AM	Exhibits Open
8:00 AM	Call to Order, Opening Devotion
8:15 AM	Report of Credentials Committee
	Ratify Agenda
	Adopting Standing Rules
	Introductions
8:25 AM	Floor Committee 1 - Convention Resolutions
	Approval of Congregational Constitutions
	Welcome New Workers
8:35 AM	Voting Device Orientation
	District Secretary: Nominations for CID President
	Election of CID President
	Nominating Ballot for Vice-Presidents
9:05 AM	President's Address
9:20 AM	Convention Essay Part 1
10:05 AM	Elections Committee: Vice Presidents
	Nominations: All Other Offices
10:15 AM	Floor Committee 2 - Mission Funding and Recognitions
10:50 AM	Synod Representative
11:55 AM	Welcome from Guests
12:05 PM	Mealtime Prayer
12:10 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM	Caucus for Advisory Delegates
2:00 PM	Church Extension Fund Convention
2:50 PM	Convening Prayer
2:55 PM	Elections Committee: Secretary, Asst. Secy, Treasurer, Financial Secretary
3:05 PM	Floor Committee 1 - Convention Resolutions

3:40 PM	Elections Committee: BOD Clergy, BOD Teachers
3:50 PM	Synod Rep. Q&A
4:20 PM	Elections Committee: BOD Teachers, BOD Lay, Circuit Visitors
4:30 PM	Floor Committee 2 - Mission Funding and Recognitions
5:00 PM	Convention Essay Part 2
5:40 PM	Elections Committee: CCDHC, District Nominations Committee
5:55 PM	Welcome from Guests
6:05 PM	Closing Prayer
	Adjournment for the Day
6:10 PM	CID Endowment Fund Convention
12:00 AM	Dinner on your own

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

7:00 AM	Registration at the Crowne Plaza
8:00 AM	Opening Devotion/Memorial Service
8:30 AM	Floor Committee 1 - Convention Resolutions
9:10 AM	Welcome from Guests
9:25 AM	Convention Essay Part 3
10:05 AM	LCMS Video Report
10:40 AM	Floor Committee 2 - Mission Funding and Recognitions
11:30 AM	Credentials Committee Final Report
11:40 AM	Closing Devotion and Installation of Officers
12:00 PM	Adjournment
12:00 PM	BOD Organizational Meeting

Following adjournment, the newly elected and reelected CID Board of Directors members will have a short meeting at the rostrum.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2022-2025 "TRIENNIUM"

President	Rev. Michael Mohr (1st)
First Vice-President	Rev. Mark Eddy (2nd)
Second Vice-President	Rev. Michael Burdick (1st)
Secretary	Rev. Kent Umbarger (1st)
Assistant Secretary	Rev. Marcus Manley (1st)
Financial Secretary	Mr. James Frazee (2nd)
Treasurer	Mr. Joel Oschwald (1st)
Pastors:	Rev. Jeffrey Caithamer (1st)
	Rev. Peter Glock (2nd)/Rev. Aaron Uphoff (0th)
	Rev. Bruce Scarbeary (1st)
	Rev. Kevin Wendorf (1st)
Teachers:	Mr. Brian Carr (1st)
	Mr. John Jacob (1st)
Laymen:	Mr. J. Thomas Blessman (2nd)
	Mr. Robert Dalton (1st)
	Mr. Roger Garlisch (2nd)
	Mr. Larry Wachtel (2nd)

CID Gift Planning Counselor:
Rev. Charles Olander

Administrative Assistants to the President:
Mr. Lewis "Trip" Rodgers, Education & Congregational Life
Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb, Missions/Evangelism/Human Care & Stewardship

Support Staff:
Mrs. Amy Holmes
Mr. Hugh Shown

Circuit	Circuit Counselor	Circuit Lay Delegate
Altamont	Rev. Ryan Meyer	Garrett Ziegler
Bloomington North	Rev. Jon Boehne	
Bloomington South	Rev. Chad Lueck/Rev. Andrew Smith	Tim Wolcoxen Blm North/South
Champaign	Rev. Michael Schuermann/Rev. Michael Stoerger	Mark Hamm
Decatur	Rev. David Bueltmann	John Casebeer
Effingham	Rev. Stephen Rutherford/Rev. Steven Becker	Stanley Joergens
Iroquois	Rev. H. Douglas Minton	Larry Abbe
Jacksonville	Rev. Brian Lesemann	Carl Wicklander
Lincoln	Rev. David Dunlop	Ken Trampe
Mattoon	Rev. Dan Ulrich	George Griffin
Peoria	Rev. Karl Eckhoff	Randy Crouch Peoria/Tazewell
Quincy	Rev. Michael Grieve/Rev. Matthew Riley	Zachary Clark
Rock Island	Rev. Kent Umbarger/Rev. Tim Nerud	James Homan
Shelby	Rev. Nathan Woolery	John Shambo
Springfield East	Rev. James Hennig/Rev. Matthew Schneider	Michael Dannewitz
Springfield West	Rev. Martin Kaufmann	Dennis Boesdorfer
Tazewell	Rev. Jeffrey Anderson	

2022-2025
Boards, Commissions, Committees

* Chair
** CID Staff

Commissions

Mission Services Commission
Rev. Bruce Scarbeary*
Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb **
Rev. Mark Eddy
Mr. Roger Garlisch
Ms. Cheryl Long
Mr. Aaron Schroeder

Evangelism Services Commission
Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb**
Rev. Michael Burdick*
Dr. Bill Denham
Ms. Berit Ericson/Vacant
Mr. Danny Magelitz/Vacant
Rev. Kevin Wendorf

Congregational Life Commission
Mr. Trip Rodgers **
Rev. Kent Umbarger*
Mr. Larry Wachtel
Mr. Brian Carr
Rev. Brandon Harrell/Vacant

Education Services Commission
Mr. Trip Rodgers **
Rev. Jonathan Buescher*
Rev. Marcus Manley
Mr. John Jacob

Stewardship Services Commission
Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb **
Mr. Thomas Blessman
Rev. Jeff Caithamer
Rev. David Dunlop
Rev. Peter Glock/Rev. Aaron Uphoff
Mr. James Frazee*

Finance & Management Commission
Rev. Michael Mohr**
Rev. Michael Schuermann*
Mr. Robert Dalton
Mr. Matt Putnam
Mr. James Frazee, CID Financial Secretary
Mr. Joel Oschwald, CID Treasurer

Committees (by Election):

Congregational Constitution & District Handbook Committee
Rev. Kent Tibben
Rev. Dan Bishop
Mr. J. Greg Townsend

2025 District Nominations Committee
Rev. Michael Schuermann*
Mr. Eldon Garlisch
Mr. Ray Stuckemeyer
Mrs. Lisa Dippel
Mrs. Robinette Flach, Secretary
Mr. Thomas Blessman
Rev. Joshua Theilen
Rev. Michael Koschmann*, Advisory, 2018 Comm.*
Mr. Daniel Yagow*, Advisory, 2018 Comm.*

Committees (Appointed by the Board of Directors):

Communication Services Committee
Rev. Robert Bruer
Mr. Trip Rodgers, Editor
Rev. Michael Mohr**

Social Ministries / Human Care Committee
Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb**
Rev. Michael Koschmann*
Mrs. Sharol Bolton
Rev. Rodney Blomquist
Dcs. Elizabeth Froh
Mrs. Kim Meyer
Mrs. Kim Janssen/Vacant

Auditing Committee
Not Appointed: Audit is done by Estes, Bridgewater, and Ogden.

Archivist Committee
Rev. David Bueltmann
Mr. Stuart Fliege
Rev. Michael Koschmann
Rev. Mark Miller
Rev. Michael Mohr**
Mr. Harold Olsen
Mrs. Charlotte Ostermeier
Mr. Ed Janssen
Mr. Martin Gallas
Mrs. Cindy Woehrmann
Mr. Ralph Woehrmann, Archivist*

CID Disaster Response Team
Mr. Stephen Born, District Coordinator

Committee (Appointed by the President):

Ministerial Health Committee
Rev. Michael Mohr **
Mr. Trip Rodgers **

Committees established by Commissions and approved by the Board:

Developmentally Disabled Committee
(Mission Services Commission)
Rev. Ken Schurb **

Youth Committee
(Congregational Life Commission)
Mr. Trip Rodgers **
Rev. Matthew Riley
Rev. Bill Grueninger
Mr. Jonathan Guse
Mrs. Donna Moldenhauer

Parish Education Committee
(Education Services Commission)
Mr. Trip Rodgers **
Mr. Shawn Hoffmann
Mrs. Jill Gerberding
Mrs. Kay Durkee
Mrs. Carol Reese

Student Aid Committee
Rev. Michael Mohr **
Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb**
Mr. Hugh Shown
Mr. Jim Frazee, Stewardship Rep.
Mrs. Laura Strattman/Ms. Cheryl Long, LWML
Mr. Cheryl Neal, Endowment
Mr. Trip Rodgers**

2022 CONVENTION FLOOR COMMITTEES

Ch-Chairman, P-Pastor, T-Teacher/Commissioned, L-Laymen, A-Staff Advisor

Floor Committee 1 – Convention Resolutions

Ch. Rev. Andrew Herzberg
P: Rev. Matthew Berndt
L: Mr. Jerry Lindsey
L: Mr. John Casebeer
T: Mr. Larry Wooster
T: Mr. Jeff Shoumaker
A: Mr. Trip Rodgers
A: Rev. Michael Mohr

Floor Committee 2 – Mission Funding and Recognitions

Ch. Rev. Michael Burdick
P: Rev. Bruce Scarbeary
L: Mr. Robert Dalton
L: Mr. Larry Abbe
T: Mrs. Sandy Spitz
T: Mr. Bryce Becker
A: Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb
A: Rev. Michael Mohr

Nominations Committee

Ch. Rev. Michael Schuermann*
P: Rev. Joshua Theilen
L: Mr. Eldon Garlisch
L: Mr. Ray Stuckemeyer
L: Mr. Thomas Blessman
T: Mrs. Lisa Dippel
T: Mrs. Robinette Flach, Secretary

Elections

Ch: Rev. Tim Nerud
P: TBD
T: TBD
L: TBD
L: TBD
L: TBD

Registration and Credentials

Ch: Rev. Brian Johnston
P: TBD
T: TBD
L: TBD
A: Rev. Kent Umbarger, Secretary
Staff: Hugh Shown
Amy Holmes

PROPOSED STANDING RULES

1. The chair shall see that the agenda is followed as closely as possible, although the right is reserved by the chair to make adjustments as necessary.

2. Resolutions of the floor committee shall be presented normally in the numerical sequence published; however, the floor committee can present resolutions in the order it chooses.

3. Each delegate to the convention, when recognized, unless identified by the chair shall state his/her name and the name of the congregation, board, or committee he/she is representing.

4. The 2-minute rule shall apply for all that speak from the floor.

5. While any voting delegate may call the question at any time, after 30 minutes of debate on any one motion, there shall be an automatic call of the question by the chair. You will not be allowed to speak on an issue and then call a question.

6. If a substitute motion is offered, the convention shall first decide by majority vote whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is adopted, the original motion fails; if the substitute motion does not receive a favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again before the house. (This is the so-called "Behnken rule" for dealing with substitute motions.)

7. In the closing session of the convention the President shall have the privilege of calling up for action resolutions, which in his judgment must be acted upon by the convention before adjournment.

8. Resolutions prepared by the floor committees, which are not acted upon by the convention before adjournment, die. The subject matter may be reintroduced at the next convention.

9. The preface, preamble, and whereas sections shall be considered an integral part of the resolution or overture, and as such, subject to the same serious consideration and adoption in all its parts as the main motion itself.

10. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, Roberts Rules of Order shall govern parliamentary procedure. Above all, the rule of Christian love and behavior shall always apply.

11. Except in the elections of President and Vice-Presidents, when a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot.

12. No new overtures/resolutions which have not been previously submitted to and approved by the floor committee can be presented during the final day of the convention.

The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District
61st Regular Convention
July 13-15, 2025

Registered Voting Members of the District
(as of April 23)

Parish	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate	Lay Alternate
Altamont – Bethlehem & Altamont – Zion	Rev. Marcus Manley	Addam Dahnke	Dean Manuel
Altamont – Immanuel	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Arenzville – Trinity & Chapin – St. Paul	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Athens – Immanuel	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Auburn – Trinity	Rev. Martin Kaufmann	Mike Heren	Martin Kopatz
Bath – St. John & Chandlerville – Salem	Rev. Brian A Lesemann	Rob Force	Jim Winkelman
Beardstown – St. John	Rev. Keith Kettner	Tim Clark	John Myers, Jr.
Bloomington – Good Shepherd	Rev. Chad Lueck	Paul Gerike	None Registered
Bloomington – Our Redeemer	Rev. Andrew Smith	Kimberly Smith	None Registered
Bloomington – Trinity	Rev. David McBurney	Casey Lartz	None Registered
Blue Point – St. Paul	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Bluffs – Trinity & Winchester – Christ	Vacant	David Vortman	None Registered
Bowen – St. Paul & Warsaw – Concordia	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Brimfield – St. Paul	Rev. Michael Wagnitz	Steve Schultz	Jeff Johnson
Broadlands – Immanuel	Rev. John Sharp	Collin Rohl	None Registered
Buckley – St. John	Rev. J. Kevin Wyckoff	Larry Abbe	Eugene Forster
Buffalo – Risen Savior	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Casey – Trinity & Robinson – Our Redeemer	Rev. Adrian Piazza	Helen Tucker	None Registered
Champaign – Friendship	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Champaign – St. John	Rev. Jeff Caithamer	Andy Mihm	None Registered

Parish	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate	Lay Alternate
Champaign – University	Rev. Michael Schuermann	Corey Nack	Jacob Leicht
Charleston – Immanuel	Vacant	Howard Smith	None Registered
Chatham – St. John	Rev. Kevin Wendorf	Dan Reeves	John Gehrke
Chenoa – St. Paul & Lexington – St. Paul	Rev. Kyle Ronchetto	Michael Erdman	None Registered
Chestnut – Zion Clinton – Christ	Rev. David Dunlop	Chris White	None Registered
Cissna Park – Trinity & Onarga – St. John	Rev. Dale Fjordbotten	Ken McMillen	None Registered
Clayton – Good Shepherd	Rev. Kirk Cunningham	Stephen Moore	None Registered
Coal Valley – Trinity	Rev. David Anderson	Susanne Anderson	None Registered
Danvers – Zion & Minier – Good Shepherd	Rev. Frank Zimmerman	Stan Kaeb	John Lieder
Danville – Immanuel	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Danville – Trinity	Rev. Kent Tibben	Jeff Parish	None Registered
Decatur – Concordia	Rev. David Bueltmann	Robert Doddek	Roger Meridith
Decatur – Mt. Calvary	Rev. Brett Hinrichs	John Graff	None Registered
Decatur – St. John	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Decatur – St. Paul	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Decatur – Trinity	Rev. Matthew Versemann	John Casebeer	None Registered
Delavan – Christ & San Jose – St. Luke	Vacant	Roger Garlisch	William Wiemer
Dieterich – Grace	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Dieterich – St. John & Wheeler – St. Paul	Rev. Dean Herberts	Scott Wohltman	Kevin Miller
East Moline – Christ the King	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
East Moline – St. John	Rev. Kent Umbarger	James Homann	Rod Hopkin
East Moline – Zion	Rev. Gary Wright	None Registered	None Registered
East Peoria – St. Peter's	Rev. Brian Pape	Bernard Piercy	None Registered
Edinburg – Trinity	Rev. Gaylord Spilker	Bob Lael	Bill Stender
Effingham – St. John	Rev. Michael Burdick	Jerry Lindsey	Jeff Weis
El Paso – Trinity	Rev. Jonathan Boehne	Tami Murrell	Jerry Faulk

Parish	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate	Lay Alternate
Eureka – Our Redeemer	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Galesburg – Mt. Calvary	Rev. Steven Sommerer	Randy Noe	None Registered
Geneseo – Concordia	Rev. Stephen Mueller	Derek Drockelman	Richard McMullen
Geneseo – St. John	Rev. Timothy Nerud	Michael Kolb	None Registered
Golden – Holy Cross	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Green Valley – St. John	Rev. James Sansom	Troy Thomas	None Registered
Havana – St. Paul	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Hoopeston – Good Shepherd & Idaville – Immanuel	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Jacksonville – Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Jacksonville – Our Redeemer	Vacant	Carl Wicklander	None Registered
Jacksonville – Salem	Rev. Jonah Schultz	Danny Magelitz	None Registered
Kewanee – Faith	Rev. Paul Weber	Gary Hahn	Ted Sturtevant
Kewanee – St. Paul	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Lawrenceville – Our Savior's	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Lincoln – Faith	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Lincoln – Zion	Rev. Mark Thompson	Rodney Meyer	Thomas Bright
Loda – Immanuel	Vacant	Edward Ronna	Diane Ronna
Louisville – St. John	Rev. Emmett Bartens	Stanley Joergens	Kevin Hastings
Macomb – Immanuel	Rev. Chris Hull	Miriam Satern	Doug LaFountain
Manito – St. Paul & Manito – Trinity	Rev. Matthew Berndt	Gene Singley	None Registered
Mason City – Christ & New Holland – Zion	Rev. Brandon Sullivan	David Coers	None Registered
Mattoon – St. John	Rev. Andrew Herzberg	Larry Maxedon	Jared Hammerschmidt
Mattoon – St. Paul	Rev. Daniel Ulrich	Ed Homann	Dan Horn
Milan – St. Matthew	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Milford – Our Savior	Rev. H. Doug Minton	Renee Minton	None Registered
Moline – Holy Cross	Vacant	William Serre	Richard Kraft
Monticello – Faith	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered

Parish	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate	Lay Alternate
Morton – Bethel	Rev. Jeff Anderson	John Lovell	None Registered
Mt. Pulaski – Zion	Rev. Jonathan Buescher	Todd Grathwohl	Tom Cross
Mt. Sterling – First & Rushville – St. John	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Mt. Zion – Mt. Zion	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
New Berlin – St. John	Rev. Jacob Moore	Robert Dalton	Chad Lauderback
Newton – Good Shepherd	Vacant	Jim Miller	Mike Blievernicht
Normal – Christ	Rev. Dr. Timothy Fitzner	Henry Scheltens	None Registered
Osman – Immanuel	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Pana – St. Paul	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Paris – Grace	Rev. Daniel Smith	Frank Tyler	None Registered
Pekin – St. John	Rev. Daniel Bishop	David Drockelman	None Registered
Pekin – Trinity	Rev. Mark Drews	None Registered	None Registered
Peoria – Christ	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Peoria – Mt. Calvary	Rev. Barry Long	David Heien	Douglas Auer
Peoria – Redeemer	Rev. Chip Winter	Ken Stoppenhagen	None Registered
Peoria – Trinity	Rev. Matthew Synnott	Ken Erdman	None Registered
Petersburg – Bethlehem	Rev. Jeffrey Gross	Mike Fricke	None Registered
Pittsfield – St. Paul	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Pleasant Plains – Zion	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Quincy – Lutheran Church of St. John	Rev. Steven Hayden	Thom Hurley	None Registered
Quincy – Our Redeemer	Rev. Martin Eden	Mike Herschler	None Registered
Quincy – St. James	Rev. Matt Riley	Keith Klusmeyer	Steve Long
Riverton – Immanuel	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Roanoke – Trinity	Rev. Bruce Scarbeary	Emily Schirer	Ron Groth
Rochester – Good Shepherd & Springfield – Concordia	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Rock Island – Immanuel	Rev. Leonard Astrowski	Mel Vogel	None Registered
Sadorus – St. Paul	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Salem – Salem	Rev. Mike Feldmann	Keith Sheeler	None Registered

Parish	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate	Lay Alternate
Secor – St. John	Rev. Michael Peters	Robert Attig	None Registered
Shelbyville – Holy Cross	Rev. Nathan Woolery	Gary Fisher	None Registered
Sherman – Good Shepherd	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Shobonier – Immanuel	Rev. Timothy Landskroener	Kathryn Landskroener	None Registered
Shobonier – St. Paul	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Shumway – Faith	Rev. Jordan Peiser	Tim Frey	None Registered
Sigel – St. Paul	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Springfield – Holy Trinity	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Springfield – Immanuel	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Springfield – Our Savior's	Rev. Joshua Traxel	Mark DePue	None Registered
Springfield – Trinity	Rev. Aaron Mueller	Steve Rossman	Ted Haberman
St. Peter – St. Peter	Rev. Ryan Meyer	Nathan Murphree	None Registered
Stewardson – Trinity	Rev. David Weaver	Derrick Krile	Joel Schultz
Strasburg – Grace & Strasburg – St. Paul	Rev. Kene Whybrew	Susan Hanfland	None Registered
Sullivan – Faith	Rev. Justin Cullen	JC Hagen	None Registered
Taylor Ridge – Zion	Rev. Mark Eddy	Doug Anson	William Wilkens
Taylorville – Trinity	Rev. Brian Johnston	Nick Snover	Eric Christians
Thawville – St. Peter	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Thomasboro – Peace	Rev. Michael Stoerger	Scott Eisenhauer	None Registered
Tuscola – Immanuel	Rev. Jason Braaten	Stephen Hilgendorf	Les Sluder
Urbana – Trinity	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Vandalia – Holy Cross	Rev. Brett Cornelius	Max Reuscher	None Registered
Varna – St. Paul & Washburn – St. John & Wenona – Zion	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Washington – Our Savior	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Watseka – Calvary	Rev. Aaron Uphoff	Russell Rudd	Murray Schaumburg
Waverly – Christ	Rev. Keith Pereira	Glen Rascher	Robert Kreige
Woodworth – St. Paul	Rev. Michael Ruhlig	None Registered	None Registered

<u>Theme</u>: "Witnessing Christ to the People"
Acts 13:30-31
<u>Central Illinois District LCMS 61st Regular Convention</u>
Revised Schedule
July 13-15, 2025

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3:00 PM	Exhibits Open
7:00 PM	Opening Communion Service
	Our Savior Lutheran Church
	2645 Old Jacksonville Road, Springfield

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2025 CONVENTION FLOOR COMMITTEES

Ch-Chairman, P-Pastor, T-Teacher/Commissioned, L-Laymen, A-Staff Advisor

Floor Committee 1 – Convention Resolutions

Ch. Rev. Andrew Herzberg
P: Rev. Matthew Berndt
L: Mr. Jerry Lindsey
L: Mr. John Casebeer
T: Mr. Larry Wooster
T: Mr. Jeff Shoumaker
A: Mr. Trip Rodgers
A: Rev. Michael Mohr

Floor Committee 2 – Mission Funding and Recognitions

Ch. Rev. Michael Burdick
P: Rev. Bruce Scarbeary
L: Mr. Robert Dalton
L: Mr. Larry Abbe
T: Mrs. Sandy Spitz
T: Mr. Bryce Becker
A: Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb
A: Rev. Michael Mohr

Nominations Committee

Ch. Rev. Michael Schuermann*
P: Rev. Joshua Theilen
L: Mr. Eldon Garlisch
L: Mr. Ray Stuckemeyer
L: Mr. Thomas Blessman
T: Mrs. Lisa Dippel
T: Mrs. Robinette Flach, Secretary

Elections

Ch: Rev. Tim Nerud
T: Berit Erickson
L: James Homann
L: Stanley Joergens

Registration and Credentials

Ch: Rev. Brian Johnston
P: Rev. Terry Strom
L: Steve Rossman
A: Rev. Kent Umbarger, Secretary
Staff: Hugh Shown
Amy Holmes

The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District
61st Regular Convention
July 13-15, 2025

Registered Voting Members of the District
(as of June 15)

Parish	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate	Lay Alternate
Altamont – Bethlehem & Altamont – Zion	Rev. Marcus Manley	Addam Dahnke	Dean Manuel
Altamont – Immanuel	Scott Niermann	Michael Bowman	None Registered
Altamont–St. Paul (Blue Point)	David Speers	Michael Kirchhoff	Garrett Ziegler
Arenzville – Trinity & Chapin – St. Paul	Andrew Dierks	Brian Kleinschmidt	None Registered
Athens – Immanuel	Rev. Richard Becker	Teresa Becker	None Registered
Auburn – Trinity	Rev. Martin Kaufmann	Mike Heren	Martin Kopatz
Bath – St. John & Chandlerville – Salem	Rev. Brian A Lesemann	Rob Force	Jim Winkelman
Beardstown – St. John	Rev. Keith Kettner	Tim Clark	John Myers, Jr.
Bloomington – Good Shepherd	Rev. Chad Lueck	Paul Gerike	None Registered
Bloomington – Our Redeemer	Rev. Andrew Smith	Kimberly Smith	None Registered
Bloomington – Trinity	Rev. David McBurney	Casey Lartz	None Registered
Bluffs – Trinity & Winchester – Christ	Vacant	David Vortman	None Registered
Bowen – St. Paul & Warsaw – Concordia	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Brimfield – St. Paul	Rev. Michael Wagnitz	Steve Schultz	Jeff Johnson
Broadlands – Immanuel	Rev. John Sharp	Collin Rohl	None Registered
Buckley – St. John	Rev. J. Kevin Wyckoff	Larry Abbe	Eugene Forster
Buffalo – Risen Savior	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Casey – Trinity & Robinson – Our Redeemer	Rev. Adrian Piazza	Helen Tucker	None Registered
Champaign – Friendship	Rev. Glen Triplet	None Registered	None Registered
Champaign – St. John	Rev. Jeff Caithamer	Andy Mihm	None Registered

Parish	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate	Lay Alternate
Champaign – University	Rev. Michael Schuermann	Corey Nack	Jacob Leicht
Charleston – Immanuel	Rev. Samuel Smith	Howard Smith	None Registered
Chatham – St. John	Rev. Kevin Wendorf	Dan Reeves	John Gehrke
Chenoa – St. Paul & Lexington – St. Paul	Rev. Kyle Ronchetto	Michael Erdman	None Registered
Chestnut – Zion Clinton – Christ	Rev. David Dunlop	Chris White	None Registered
Cissna Park – Trinity & Onarga – St. John	Rev. Dale Fjordbotten	Ken McMillen	None Registered
Clayton – Good Shepherd	Rev. Kirk Cunningham	Stephen Moore	None Registered
Coal Valley – Trinity	Rev. David Anderson	Susanne Anderson	None Registered
Danvers – Zion & Minier – Good Shepherd	Rev. Frank Zimmerman	Stan Kaeb	John Lieder
Danville – Immanuel	Rev. James Yonkers	None Registered	None Registered
Danville – Trinity	Rev. Kent Tibben	Jeff Parish	None Registered
Decatur – Concordia	Rev. David Bueltmann	Robert Doddek	Roger Meridith
Decatur – Mt. Calvary	Rev. Brett Hinrichs	John Graff	None Registered
Decatur – St. John	Rev. Aaron Bird	John Hubert	None Registered
Decatur – St. Paul	Mark Gearig	Bob Watters	None Registered
Decatur – Trinity	Rev. Matthew Versemann	John Casebeer	None Registered
Delavan – Christ & San Jose – St. Luke	Vacant	Roger Garlisch	William Wiemer
Dieterich – Grace	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Dieterich – St. John & Wheeler – St. Paul	Rev. Dean Herberts	Scott Wohltman	Kevin Miller
East Moline – Christ the King	Rev. Pablo Dominguez	None Registered	None Registered
East Moline – St. John	Rev. Kent Umbarger	James Homann	Rod Hopkin
East Moline – Zion	Rev. Gary Wright	None Registered	None Registered
East Peoria – St. Peter's	Rev. Brian Pape	Bernard Piercy	None Registered
Edinburg – Trinity	Rev. Gaylord Spilker	Bob Lael	Bill Stender
Effingham – St. John	Rev. Michael Burdick	Jerry Lindsey	Jeff Weis
El Paso – Trinity	Rev. Jonathan Boehne	Tami Murrell	Jerry Faulk

Parish	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate	Lay Alternate
Eureka – Our Redeemer	Vacant	Scott Willi	John Strauch
Galesburg – Mt. Calvary	Rev. Steven Sommerer	Randy Noe	None Registered
Geneseo – Concordia	Rev. Stephen Mueller	Derek Drockelman	Richard McMullen
Geneseo – St. John	Rev. Timothy Nerud	Michael Kolb	None Registered
Golden – Holy Cross	Vacant	Paul Bruns	None Registered
Green Valley – St. John	Rev. James Sansom	Troy Thomas	None Registered
Havana – St. Paul	Rev. Ian Heinze	John Clark	None Registered
Hoopeston – Good Shepherd & Idaville – Immanuel	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Jacksonville – Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf	Vacant	Tim Kearney	Sean Schroder
Jacksonville – Our Redeemer	Vacant	Carl Wicklander	None Registered
Jacksonville – Salem	Rev. Jonah Schultz	Danny Magelitz	None Registered
Kewanee – Faith	Rev. Paul Weber	Gary Hahn	Ted Sturtevant
Kewanee – St. Paul	Rev. Winston Grieser	None Registered	None Registered
Lawrenceville – Our Savior's	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Lincoln – Faith	Rev. Noah Kerstein	Jeff Jones	Joe Jones
Lincoln – Zion	Rev. Mark Thompson	Rodney Meyer	Thomas Bright
Loda – Immanuel	Vacant	Edward Ronna	Diane Ronna
Louisville – St. John	Rev. Emmett Bartens	Stanley Joergens	Kevin Hastings
Macomb – Immanuel	Rev. Chris Hull	Miriam Satern	Doug LaFountain
Manito – St. Paul & Manito – Trinity	Rev. Matthew Berndt	Gene Singley	None Registered
Mason City – Christ & New Holland – Zion	Rev. Brandon Sullivan	David Coers	None Registered
Mattoon – St. John	Rev. Andrew Herzberg	Larry Maxedon	Jared Hammerschmidt
Mattoon – St. Paul	Rev. Daniel Ulrich	Ed Homann	Dan Horn
Milan – St. Matthew	Kurt Larson	Alexander Barrows	None Registered
Milford – Our Savior	Rev. H. Doug Minton	Renee Minton	None Registered
Moline – Holy Cross	Vacant	William Serre	Richard Kraft
Monticello – Faith	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered

Parish	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate	Lay Alternate
Morton – Bethel	Rev. Jeff Anderson	John Lovell	None Registered
Mt. Pulaski – Zion	Rev. Jonathan Buescher	Todd Grathwohl	Tom Cross
Mt. Sterling – First & Rushville – St. John	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Mt. Zion – Mt. Zion	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
New Berlin – St. John	Rev. Jacob Moore	Robert Dalton	Chad Lauderback
Newton – Good Shepherd	Vacant	Jim Miller	Mike Blievernicht
Normal – Christ	Rev. Dr. Timothy Fitzner	Henry Scheltens	None Registered
Osman – Immanuel	Vacant	Brenda Hendricks	None Registered
Pana – St. Paul	None Registered	None Registered	None Registered
Paris – Grace	Rev. Daniel Smith	Frank Tyler	None Registered
Pekin – St. John	Rev. Daniel Bishop	David Drockelman	None Registered
Pekin – Trinity	Rev. Mark Drews	Matthew Deverman	None Registered
Peoria – Christ	Karl Eckhoff	Matt VandeVoorde	Mike Lelm
Peoria – Mt. Calvary	Rev. Barry Long	David Heien	Douglas Auer
Peoria – Redeemer	Rev. Chip Winter	Ken Stoppenhagen	None Registered
Peoria – Trinity	Rev. Matthew Synnott	Ken Erdman	None Registered
Petersburg – Bethlehem	Rev. Jeffrey Gross	Mike Fricke	None Registered
Pittsfield – St. Paul	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Pleasant Plains – Zion	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Quincy – Lutheran Church of St. John	Rev. Steven Hayden	Thom Hurley	None Registered
Quincy – Our Redeemer	Rev. Martin Eden	Mike Herschler	None Registered
Quincy – St. James	Rev. Matt Riley	Keith Klusmeyer	Steve Long
Riverton – Immanuel	Rev. Michael Koschmann	None Registered	None Registered
Roanoke – Trinity	Rev. Bruce Scarbeary	Emily Schirer	Ron Groth
Rochester – Good Shepherd & Springfield – Concordia	Vacant	Frank Hughes	None Registered
Rock Island – Immanuel	Rev. Leonard Astrowski	Mel Vogel	None Registered
Sadorus – St. Paul	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Salem – Salem	Rev. Mike Feldmann	Keith Sheeler	None Registered

Parish	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate	Lay Alternate
Secor – St. John	Rev. Michael Peters	Robert Attig	None Registered
Shelbyville – Holy Cross	Rev. Nathan Woolery	Gary Fisher	None Registered
Sherman – Good Shepherd	Rev. Matthew Schneider	Kevin Schultz	None Registered
Shobonier – Immanuel	Rev. Timothy Landskroener	Kathryn Landskroener	None Registered
Shobonier – St. Paul	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Shumway – Faith	Rev. Jordan Peiser	Tim Frey	None Registered
Sigel – St. Paul	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Springfield – Holy Trinity	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Springfield – Immanuel	Rev. Adam Rouse	Curt Poe	None Registered
Springfield – Our Savior's	Rev. Joshua Traxel	Mark DePue	None Registered
Springfield – Trinity	Rev. Aaron Mueller	Steve Rossman	Ted Haberman
St. Peter – St. Peter	Rev. Ryan Meyer	Nathan Murphree	None Registered
Stewardson – Trinity	Rev. David Weaver	Derrick Krile	Joel Schultz
Strasburg – Grace & Strasburg – St. Paul	Rev. Kene Whybrew	Susan Hanfland	None Registered
Sullivan – Faith	Rev. Justin Cullen	JC Hagen	None Registered
Taylor Ridge – Zion	Rev. Mark Eddy	Doug Anson	William Wilkens
Taylorville – Trinity	Rev. Brian Johnston	Nick Snover	Eric Christians
Thawville – St. Peter	Vacant	None Registered	None Registered
Thomasboro – Peace	Rev. Michael Stoerger	Scott Eisenhauer	None Registered
Tuscola – Immanuel	Rev. Jason Braaten	Stephen Hilgendorf	Les Sluder
Urbana – Trinity	Vacant	David Nation	None Registered
Vandalia – Holy Cross	Rev. Brett Cornelius	Max Reuscher	None Registered
Varna – St. Paul & Washburn – St. John & Wenona – Zion	Rev. Mark Gruden	None Registered	None Registered
Washington – Our Savior	Vacant	Steven Stuff	None Registered
Watseka – Calvary	Rev. Aaron Uphoff	Russell Rudd	Murray Schaumburg
Waverly – Christ	Rev. Keith Pereira	Glen Rascher	Robert Kreige
Woodworth – St. Paul	Rev. Michael Ruhlig	None Registered	None Registered

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PASTORS & GRADUATES ENTERING THE DISTRICT
(ORDINATION/INSTALLATION DATES: MAY 2022-APRIL 2025)

Bartens, Emmett (NID) Installed at St. John-Louisville on 1/26/25 by Rev. Michael Burdick.

Cornelius, Brett (OH) Installed at Holy Cross-Vandalia on 6/18/23 by Rev. Michael Mohr

Dille, Trey (STL) Ordained at Immanuel-St. Charles, MO on 6/1/24 by Rev. Scott Schmieding, installed as Associate Pastor at St. John-Effingham on 6/16/24 by Rev. Michael Burdick.

Dobberstein, Paul (NID) Candidate Transfer into district. 6/13/24

Duey, William (SED) Emeritus Transfer into district. 11/1/22

Fjordbotten, Dale (NJ) Installed as Sole Pastor of Trinity-Cissna Park/St. John's-Onarga on 5/7/23 by Rev. Michael Mohr

Gallager, Frank (MO) Emeritus Transfer into district, then installed as Intentional Interim Pastor at Our Savior-Washington on 8/7/22 by Rev. Mark Miller.

Grieser, Winston (NOW) Installed as Sole Pastor at St. Paul's-Kewanee on 12/22/24 by Rev. Michael Mohr.

Heinze, Ian (STL) Ordained at St. James-Quincy on 6/26/22 by Rev. Marlin Rempfer, installed as Sole Pastor of St. Paul-Havana on 7/3/22 by Rev. Mark Miller.

Hull, Christopher (TX) installed as Sole Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church-Macomb on 12/10/23 by Rev. Michael Mohr.

Johnston, Brian (MNS) installed as Sole Pastor at Trinity-Taylorville on 12/18/22 by Rev. Michael Mohr.

Kerstein, Noah (FTW) Ordained at Immanuel-Pensacola, FL on 6/9/24 by Rev. Michael Mohr, installed as Sole Pastor at Faith-Lincoln on 7/21/24 by Rev. Michael Mohr

Kettner, Keith (FTW) Ordained and installed as Sole Pastor at St. John-Beardstown on 6/19/2022 by Rev. Mark Miller.

Moore, Jacob (STL) Ordained and Installed as Sole Pastor at St. John-New Berlin on 6/11/23 by Rev. Michael Mohr.

Mueller, Aaron (SID) installed as Senior Pastor at Trinity-Springfield on 1/12/25 by Rev. Michael Mohr.

Peiser, Jordan (NJ) installed as Sole Pastor at Faith-Shumway on 3/16/25 by Rev. Michael Mohr

Piazza, Adrian (IN) Emeritus Transfer into district then installed as Sole Pastor at Trinity-Casey/Our Redeemer-Robinson on 4/16/23 by Rev. Michael Mohr.

Rikli, Richard (KS) Emeritus Transfer into district. 5/1/23

Riley, Mattew (STL) Ordained and installed as Sole Pastor at St. James-Quincy on 6/25/23 by Rev. Michael Mohr.

Rouse, Adam (STL) Ordained and Installed as Sole Pastor at Immanuel-Springfield on 6/23/24 by Rev. Michael Mohr.

Sharp, Jonathan (STL) Ordained and Installed as Associate Pastor at Trinity-Springfield on 7/9/23 by Rev. Michael Mohr.

Smith, Andrew (SED) Installed as Sole Pastor at Our Redeemer-Bloomington on 5/5/24 by Rev. Michael Mohr.

Salcido, Richard (IDW) Emeritus Transfer into district. 8/16/23

Sullivan, Brandon (FTW) Ordained and installed as Sole Pastor at Christ-Mason City/Zion-New Holland on 6/23/24 by Rev. Mark Eddy.

Ulrich, Daniel (MDS) installed as Sole Pastor at St. Paul-Dorans (Mattoon) on 7/10/22 by Rev. Mark Miller.

CHANGES OF PASTORS WITHIN THE DISTRICT

Batchelor, Thomas Active to Emeritus Status 11/7/23

Bahr, Michael Active to Candidate Status 7/1/22

Berndt, Matthew installed as Sole Pastor of Trinity and St. Paul's-Manito on 11/5/23 by Rev. Michael Mohr.

Boylan, Shawn Active to Emeritus Status 6/1/24

Bueltmann, Keith installed as Sole Pastor of St. Paul-Pana on 10/29/23 by Rev. Dr. David Bueltmann.

Drews, Mark Candidate to Active Status, installed at Trinity-Pekin on 10/20/24 by Rev. Mark Eddy.

Eckardt, Burnell Active to Emeritus Status 6/9/24

Glock, Peter Active to Emeritus Status 1/1/24

Gruden, Mark Installed as Sole Pastor of St. Paul-Varna/St. John-Washburn/Zion-Wenona on 6/29/24 by Rev. Michael Mohr.

Hoehler, David Active to Emeritus Status 5/1/24

Hoover, Kenneth Active to Emeritus Status 7/1/24

Laux, John Active to Emeritus Status 11/20/23

Miller. Mark Active to Emeritus Status 5/8/24

Mohr, Michael Installed as District President on 7/19/22 by Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison

O'Brien, Terrence Active to Emeritus Status 10/1/22

Ronchetto, Kyle Installed as Sole Pastor of St. Paul-Chenoa/St. Paul-Lexington on 6/2/24 by Rev. Michael Mohr.

Rogers, Clarence Active to Emeritus Status 9/1/23

Schroeder, Andrew Active to Candidate Status 4/15/22

Springer, Joel Ordained and Installed as Specific Ministry Pastor at Our Savior-Springfield on 7/7/24 by Rev. Michael Mohr.

Strom, Terry Active to Emeritus Status 7/17/23

Stuenkel, James Active to Emeritus Status 6/23/24

Wagnitz, Michael Candidate to Active Status, installed as Sole Pastor of St. Paul-Brimfield on 5/19/24 by Rev. Michael Mohr.

PASTORS TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DISTRICTS

Balfour, Edward to NED 6/12/24

Bahr, Michael to IN 7/1/22

Batchelor, James to IDE 12/16/22

Callahan, Phillip to EA 7/15/22

Goetz, Lawrence to FLGA 7/30/24

Grieve, Michael to ND 6/5/23

Harrell, Brandon to CNH 9/16/24

Hemenway, Paul to OK 7/22/24

Hennig, James to SID 7/21/22

Heren, Thomas to IDE 8/11/22

Hickey, Aaron to EN 3/10/25

Hoehler, David to MO 5/23/24

Holmes, Jonathan to MDS 8/25/22

Huehn, Jonathan to SW 10/7/24

Karsten, Wilfred to IDE 7/1/24

Latzke, Jeremy to NID 8/8/22

Laux, John to SW 8/28/24

Liese, Michael to IN 8/21/23

Montgomery, Matthew to IN 11/13/23

Newell, William to SD 7/27/23

Phillips, Thomas to MI 11/4/24

Raddatz, Simeon to NID 9/25/23

Rogers, Clarence to FLGA 1/31/24

Rutherford, Stephen to MO 2/13/23

Schroeder, Andrew to FLGA 4/15/22

Wright, James to MI 6/24/24

PASTORS RESIGNED, OR REMOVED

Oschwald, Joel resigned 11/23/22

PASTORS CALLED TO GLORY

Bagwell, Jerry 5/2/23

Holtz, Alan 11/25/24

Matzke, Marvin 7/10/22

Riemer, Frederick 1/8/25

Southward, Stephen 7/4/23

Trickey, Gary 2/10/23

CONGREGATIONS DISBANDED OR REMOVED FROM THE DISTRICT

Redeemer-Peru disbanded 5/21/23

Trinity-LaRose merged with St. Paul's-Varna 11/5/23

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS & GRADUATES ENTERING THE DISTRICT (COMMISSIONING/INSTALLATION DATES: MAY 2022-APRIL 2025)

NEW GRADUATE/COLLOQUY PLACEMENTS

Pummill, Marriah (CUC) was commissioned and installed as a teacher (Concordia Lutheran School, Peoria) by Rev Mark Nelson on 7/28/2024

Sharp, Bridgette (STL) was commissioned and installed as a Deaconess (Trinity Lutheran Church, Springfield) by Rev Jonathan Sharp on 7/28/2024

Becker, Bryce (CUW) was commissioned and installed as a teacher at St. John's, Mattoon (8/14/2022) . Installed by Rev. Andrew Herzberg

Cullen, Kimberly (CSP – Colloquy) was commissioned and installed as a teacher at St. John's Lutheran School, Mattoon. Installed by Rev. Andrew Herzberg on 8/14/2022

Hoech, Kayla (CUI) was installed and commissioned as a teacher (Concordia Lutheran School, Peoria) by Rev. Barry Long on January 26, 2025

TRANSFERRED IN – OTHER DISTRICTS

Jesgarz, Anne (SWD) Teacher to Lutheran School Association, Decatur

Reitsma, Joy (FLGA) Candidate as Principal at Salem, Jacksonville

Wudtke, Curtis (NID) as Principal at St. John's, Mattoon (8/14/2022)

Kester, Olivia (NWD) as teacher at Our Savior's, Springfield (8/14/2022)

Harrell, Katie (MO) as a teacher at Our Savior's, Springfield (8/14/2022)

Brondos, Marilyn (RMD) Emeritus (8/18/2022)

Kernstock, Patricia (Parish Assistant, NED) at Lutheran School Association (12/3/2023)

Profilet, Janet (Emeritus – MO) Urbana, IL (6/18/2024)

Rush, Angela (FLGA) was installed as a teacher (Bethel, Morton), by Jeff Anderson on 8/11/2024

Hahn, Amanda (Candidate- Deaconess) Deaconess Holy Cross, Moline Il by Gary Wright

TRANSFERRED OUT ACCEPTED CALLS FROM THE DISTRICT

Ennis, Jacob (LuHi –Springfield) to Michigan District (June 2022)

Torreson, Taylor (LSA- Decatur) to Ohio District (August 2022)

Zander, Tyler (LuHi- Springfield) to South Wisconsin (June 2022)

Gruenwald, Matthew (Candidate) to Missouri District (July 2022)

Rollins, Glenn (Lutheran High- Springfield) to South Wisconsin (July 2022)

Thompson, Paul (Concordia -Peoria) to North Wisconsin (July 2023)

Witt, Joel (LSA- Decatur) to Nebraska (July 2023)

Newell, Kristen (Trinity- Bloomington) to South Dakota District (Oct. 2023)

Standerfer, Malinda (DCE-St. John's- Decatur) to Rocky Mountain District (July 2024)

Nauth, Jackie (Teacher- Good Shepherd- Pekin) Called NM (July 2024)

Hennig, Denise (Teacher- Lutheran High -Springfield) Called to Southern Illinois District (July 2024)

Monkemeyer, Andrew (Principal – Concordia -Peoria) Called to Pacific Southwest July 1 2025.

TRANSFER OUT (CANDIDATES/EMERITUS)

Timm, Lowell (Emeritus-Indiana District) 3/2023

Timm, Katherine (Emeritus - Indiana District) 3/2023

Rohlfing, Terry (Emeritus -Kansas District) 3/2023

Obermann, Donna (Emeritus -Pacific Southwest) 3/2023

Labeck, Sandra (Emeritus -South Wisconsin) 3/2023

Przybylski, Sonja (Candidate) to Northern Illinois Aug 12, 2024

Raddatz, Lauren (Candidate) to Northern Illinois August 9, 2024

CHANGES WITHIN DISTRICT

CALLS:

Teske, Ralph –Teacher at Good Shepherd, Pekin to Concordia, Peoria (8/7/2022)

Becky Heppe – reinstated on the Roster as a Commissioned Teacher

Newell, Kristen - Candidate to a teacher at Trinity, Bloomington. Installed by Rev. William Newell on 8/14/2022

ACTIVE TO EMERITUS:

Fuiten, Pamela (Teacher – Zion- Lincoln) 7/17/2024

Yagow, Daniel (Teacher- Trinity- Danville) 7/1/2024

Quigg, Juliann (Teacher- Lutheran High- Springfield) 7/1/2024

Fuemmeler, Nancy (Director of Music- Trinity-Bloomington) 8/23/2024

Stuemke, April (teacher- Altamont) 9/18/2024

Meyer, Kim (Parish Nurse- Our Savior's-Springfield) 8/9/2024

Mikesell, Donna (Teacher- Trinity – Bloomington) 8/9/2024

Active to Candidate

Ericson, Berit (Teacher-Lutheran High Springfield) to Candidate 8/20/2024

Rodgers, Lauren (Teacher- Bethel, Morton) to Candidate 8/12/2024

Manahan, Renee (Teacher – Concordia, Peoria) to Candidate 7/30/2024

Lash, Betsy (DCE- Good Shepherd – Sherman) to Candidate 9/13/2024)

Agard, Jennifer (Teacher- Our Savior's- Springfield) to Candidate 8/8/2024

Boehme, Melissa (Teacher) Trinity, Springfield to Candidate (5/31/2022)

Przybylski, Sonja (Teacher) Trinity, Stewardson to Candidate (3/18/2022)

Cullen, Kimberly (Teacher) ST. John's Mattoon to Candidate (2//2025)

CHANGE IN STATUS

CALLED TO GLORY

Burch, Burch (Emeritus) Teacher at Lutheran High, Springfield – May 13, 2022

Luedtke, Todd (Emeritus) Teacher International Schools – March 15, 2025

Tagge, Bruce (Emeritus) Teacher at Concordia Peoria – March 8, 2025

REINSTATEMENT TO ROSTER

Heppe, Rebecca – teacher at Our Savior's, Springfield

RESIGNED VOLUNTARILY

Fauser, Sara (Teacher) 7-30-2024

Peterson, Kristen (Teacher) 7-17-2024

Wudtke, Curtis (Teacher) 9-19-2024

Kamin, Jonathan (Teacher) 3-2023

SCHOOL CLOSING

Immanuel Lutheran Preschool – Springfield 8/2024

Shining Light Preschool – Christ Lutheran Normal (suspended operation 2019) permanently closed 8/2024

2025 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rev. Michael Mohr

Our Lord speaks, and we respond. That is our joy as His people. "Saying back to [H]im what [H]e has said to us, we repeat what is most true and sure," Rev. Dr. Nagel wrote in the Introduction to *Lutheran Worship*. We say this back as we speak our Lord's Word to Him verbatim, as we do in our liturgies. We say this back as we paraphrase and summarize His Word, as we do in the symbols, confessions, and hymnody of the Church. In this Year of our Lord 2025, we remember 1700 years since one such symbol, the Nicene Creed, was first confessed. This foundational confession of faith, one of three ancient creeds included within our *Book of Concord*, shapes our worship and our witness to the world, helping us keep right the message that we share in our witness to the world.

And that witness to the world is the joy of the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. One week following the close of our convention, the Church observes the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, the first to behold the risen Christ, the first to be charged with sharing the good news of His resurrection. Each of our congregations, each and every member shares in this glorious witness – our Lord speaks, and we respond. We respond in the hearing of our fellow saints that we may be the instruments of God in building up the Body of Christ. We respond in the hearing of our disbelieving and unbelieving family, friends, and neighbors that through our witness, God the Holy Spirit would work faith in their hearts, minds, and spirits. Through this faith alive and active in us by the Holy Word of God, the apostolic testimony, we too are Christ's witnesses to the people.

In serving as Christ's witnesses to the people, the congregations of the Central Illinois District, and the members therein, are served by various members of the district staff. Pastors and people are strengthened and encouraged even as resources, training, and study are afforded to them in various areas, such as evangelism and stewardship. Congregations are helped in their work of stewarding the gifts of God in their local congregation and school as guidance, training, and networking opportunities are provided for teachers and administrators of our schools and officers of our congregations. Coordination between congregations of the district help facilitate district-wide youth events, such as the Bible Bowl and Jr. High event (formerly a lock-in, but now a single, all day event), as well as synod-wide events like the National Youth Gathering. I am looking forward to traveling to New Orleans and walking with our high-school aged youth through the adventuresome week that is a National Youth Gathering. (For more details on these services to congregations and schools, see the District Staff reports in the *Convention Workbook*.)

Our Central Illinois District not only serves her constituent congregations by providing services ***to*** them, the district serves congregations in their witnessing task by carrying out tasks ***for*** them that they could not otherwise expediently execute on their own. Four campus ministries, two Hispanic ministries, a district-wide parish for the deaf and hard of hearing community, and a new parish start on the campus of the district office constitute the traditional mission work of the district, plus $5000/year subsidies paid to congregations that lend their pastors one day per week to work in local prisons or jails constitute our current mission efforts conducted ***for*** the congregations of the CID. (See the Mission Commission Report for more details regarding these ministries.)

Yet even as we conduct this work to the 148 congregations of the CID and for the 148 congregations of the CID, we face growing financial concern. According to the Congregational Statistical Reports (CSRs) submitted by the congregations of the district, the total offerings

received by all the congregations combined increased from $31.5M in 2000 to $38.8M in 2023 (the most recent data available). While a 23%increase in amount, this does represent a 26% decrease in buying power due to inflation. During this same timespan of increased offerings in congregational offering plates, the amount forwarded by congregations to District/Synod for work to congregations and for congregations has decreased by 31% in amount (from $2.3M in 2000 to $1.6M in 2023) or 59% in buying power. In the midst of this dark news, there is a glimmer of light. While we do not have complete data for 2024 from the CSRs, internal numbers show a 2.7% rise in congregational remittances to district/synod, almost keeping pace with the 3.4% general inflation rate. We hope and pray that this marks a new trend of increasing contributions from congregations for general operating costs.

Even with this glimmer of hope with the most recent increase in operational funds for the district, we face the additional expenses of nearly $1.5M in deferred maintenance needed on district owned properties (the mission sites plus the district office) over the next ten years. It is our hope, through a one-time, sacrificial giving campaign on the part of individuals and congregations, as well as additional grants requested, not only to provide for those immediate needs of the next decade, but to fund endowments that will provide for the perpetual care of these facilities so that all of the regular offerings of God's people may be directed to the continued provision of quality, top-notch workers and materials for the mission endeavors conducted by the district ***for*** the congregations of the district as well as ***to*** the congregations of the district.

We know that congregations have been feeling the pinch of austerity, and your Central Illinois District has been implementing that austerity right along with you. Twenty five years ago, seven full time employees were dedicated to work directed ***to*** the congregations of the district and nine employees working eight full time equivalents (FTEs) at four subsidized congregational plants, two subsidized special ministries, four campus ministries, and four correctional facilities ***for*** the congregations of the district. When Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb enters modified service on September 1 of this year, the district will be staffing seven employees working 3.8 FTEs in work ***to*** congregations and seven employees (two of which were included in the previous 7) working 5.2 FTEs on three campuses, two prisons, and two Hispanic ministries.

We continue to look for ways to provide quality mission outreach on behalf of the congregations of the Central Illinois District at a maximum efficiency. Though financial considerations are challenging us to be more creative in this endeavor, we joyfully heed our Lord's call as we prayerfully serve as instruments in His hands in bringing His means of grace to these underserved populations. But even as we look at these creative structures within the district, many of our congregations face that challenge, as well. Much time has been spent over the last triennium, with presentations at a pastors conference and our join CID/SID Small Church Summit, discussing various models of partnerships for congregations. These partnerships can be as simple as the traditional dual- (or tri-) parish agreement or as creative as wheel-and-spoke, cathedral model, or circuit rider arrangements to assist in covering a broader number of congregations. In addition to these various parish configurations, larger congregations in need of some additional pastoral staffing can call the pastor of a neighboring (perhaps financially struggling) congregation in an assisting capacity without the formation of a joint parish of some kind. We would do well for all of our congregations, not just those currently struggling, to explore these options of how we can walk together in continuing to bring the Gospel of our Lord throughout the 53 Illinois counties that comprise our district.

There is no way that I could face the gargantuan task of administering oversight and leadership of the Central Illinois District without the able assistance of our staff. Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb has ably served our congregations in his leadership in the areas of Missions, Evangelism, Stewardship, and Human Care. As he enters into modified (i.e. part-time) service this fall, scaling back his portfolio to focus only on evangelism efforts in the district, his daily presence in the office will be sorely missed. Teacher Trip Rodgers has been an invaluable asset in providing additional care and oversight to our commissioned workers and our schools, as well as supervising the work of our Congregational Life Commission and our Communication and Youth Committees. The indefatigable Hugh Shown has continued to serve quite ably as "the face" of our Central Illinois District Office, greeting those who visit in person or on the phone, all the while facilitating the business affairs/bookkeeping duties of the district. This has been a particular challenge of late as we transition from an antiquated software program no longer supported by the manufacturer to a cutting edge, fund-accounting software. In addition to these "upstairs personnel," we are joined in our district office by Mrs. Christine Anderson, Executive Director of our Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, and Mrs. Susan Short, the CID-CEF Assistant to the Executive Director. Their work with our congregations throughout the district, as well as the aid provided by the CEF Board in providing grants for projects assisting the ministry of our CID congregations, has been invaluable. Their grants supported church musicians attending the Institute on Liturgy, Preaching, and Church Music, aided our church work students with additional funding for life's little expenses while away at college, and even provided for the electronic voting devices at our convention this year to greatly expedite the balloting process. I would be remiss, as I thank our staff, if I did not include the work of our part-time deployed staff worker, Mrs. Amy Holmes, as she assists with communication tasks, including the management of our social media accounts, as well as other administrative tasks given to her.

As I recount my thanksgivings, I cannot underscore enough the wise and valuable counsel provided by my predecessors, Rev. Dr. David Bueltmann and Rev. Mark Miller. Their continued service to our Central Illinois District, both in service to congregations individually as well as the assistance provided to their successors, is truly noteworthy. Thank you, good and faithful servants.

Speaking of predecessors, as I draft this report, we have received the news of yet another predecessor in office, Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn, being called to glory. President 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). 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. Upon the death of Rev. Dr. A.L. Barry in March of 2001, he became the 11th President of the LCMS. 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. We give thanks to our God for the life and work of His servant, Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn.

My own work in this office pales in comparison to that of my predecessors, but as one called upon by our Lord to give an account for those entrusted to my care, please find the following digest of my activities conducted on your behalf and in service to you, dear congregations of the CID and

their members. I have been a guest preacher 57 times at regular or special services in addition to the 44 services I served as I continue in my call in an assisting capacity at Holy Cross – Vandalia. In addition to these preaching engagements, I have visited another 60 congregations across 80 informal visits for Sunday or midweek divine services or prayer offices. I have conducted eight ordinations and fifteen installations of CID pastors, and I have deputized my vice presidents to conduct an additional ordination and two installations. I have conducted rites to form two dual parishes, to merge two congregations in to a single congregation, and to bring one congregation to a blessed end of her service in our Lord's kingdom. In the 929 days since assuming the presidency (as of the writing of this report), I have participated in 320 meetings on behalf of the district in addition to the 128 days spent working in my capacity as an officer of the Synod. Please join me in continuing to pray that I may utilize and steward the time our Lord has given to efficiently and capably serve you, our Central Illinois District, our beloved Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and, most importantly, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

First Vice President Report

As the CID's first vice-president I regularly pray for God's blessing, guidance, and protection for Michael Mohr, our District President. I also have represented him, the District, and Synod, at times when President Mohr could not be like Jesus "at once in many places." In his place I had the privilege of ordaining and installing one pastor in the western regions of the CID and installing another. I also represented the District President at 6 LWML fall rallies in September 2024, at a circuit forum in February 2025, and at the LWML CID convention in April 2025.

Immediately after the July 2022 CID convention, the Board of Directors elected me as its chairman. As a result I have chaired most of the Board of Directors' five meetings annually. As I requested, I was appointed to serve on the CID mission commission, where I served as secretary.

Second vice president Michael Burdick and I met with President Mohr (usually via Zoom or phone) to set the agenda for each Board of Directors meeting, and to discuss whatever issues any of us brought up.

I pray that God would use all of these efforts to root the work of our District in His Word, especially properly applying His law and the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Mark Eddy

Second Vice President Report

I have been pleased to serve as Second Vice-President in this triennium, representing the Eastern region of our District. In that time, I have served as chaplain to the Board of Directors, with themed devotions before each meeting. In year one, our devotions focused upon First Peter, year two upon personal evangelism, and in year three upon The Psalms. President Mohr meets with the two vice presidents prior to each Board of Directors meeting to form the agenda for the upcoming meeting and to discuss various matters for the spiritual and temporal care of the District. I've been glad to represent President Mohr a handful of times over the past triennium for various functions, such as LWML rallies, installations, and circuit forums. He has needed me to represent him very few times, for he's been personally present at the vast majority of those events through the CID. I also serve on the Evangelism Commission of the CID.

By God's grace, this has been a steady and faithful triennium for the Eastern region of our district, and, along with you, I pray that the coming triennium will continue this trend for the glory of God, the good of His Church, and the love of our neighbor.

"We are called to stand together
With the saints of ages past,
With the patriarchs and prophets
In the faith they once held fast;
Promises and hopes they treasured
Now we find fulfilled at last!" (LSB 828)

Pastor Michael Burdick

Missions, Evangelism, Stewardship, and Human Care Executive Report

"I'm not retiring," I told a friend pretty firmly.

"Well, I have never known you to be very shy regarding your work," my friend responded. "But you are scaling back after September 1, aren't you?"

"That's right," I answered.

With a *gotcha* smile my friend replied, "So the rumors I have been hearing are true."

"Not exactly," I was trying to clarify. "As of September 1, I will be retired as far as Social Security is concerned. And I will start drawing my pension, so I will be retired as far as Concordia Plans is concerned. But as far as the Central Illinois District is concerned . . ."

At this point, my colleague Trip Rodgers has been known to interject: "Ken will be full-time." That's a laugh line, though – I hope.

Let's not leave it there. Here is the real story:

As far as CID and I are both concerned, I will remain a called worker, albeit on modified service. Similarly, professors at our Synod's colleges and seminaries for years have been eligible at a certain age to continue teaching with a lighter load. Modified service amounts to less work for less pay – and the District needs to save money on pay! I will concentrate on Evangelism, while responsibilities for Missions, Stewardship, and Human Care will be placed into the hands of others.

But I am *not* retiring! It will continue to be my duty and delight, D.v., to serve the Lord in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Central Illinois District.

In the present report, I offer no detail on my work this triennium for three CID commissions and one committee. My conviction has been that my staff role lies subordinate to them. They set direction. My job has been to make recommendations to them and implement their instructions. I am sure that at times I have gotten out in front of them, for which I am sorry. For the respective commissions and committee are our District's true leaders in Missions, Evangelism, Stewardship, and Human Care. They are responsible to the Board of Directors for these respective areas. They have all submitted reports to the District convention. I cannot urge you strongly enough to consult their reports elsewhere in the *Convention Workbook*.

What I should do here is to express gratitude to some folks who have given considerable volunteer support.

- Mission Commission chairman Pastor Bruce Scarbeary has pitched in especially of late, setting up CID's contact with an agency for the District's proposed funding campaign. At the same time, he has done important behind-the-scenes work toward covering the District's pastoral vacancy in deaf ministry.
- Evangelism Commission Secretary Dr. William Denham lent a hand by writing a grant application. He also drafted the Commission's convention report. Not-so-incidentally, every year I have been in CID he has also studied price indices and made recommendations to help Stewardship Commission settle on a figure to recommend to the Board of Directors for the District's annual recommended church worker base salary. Over the years, he has contributed in numerous other ways to CID's compensation guidelines.
- Stewardship Commission member Pastor Aaron Uphoff undertook important drafting work for a subcommittee.
- Human Care Committee member Pastor Rodney Blomquist has served for several years as our Prison Ministry Coordinator. He is far more qualified in this field than I – or, for that matter, almost any pastor in the District. See the Mission Commission report.
- Mr. David Ward, who also serves on the central Illinois CEF board, has been CID's Life Coordinator this past triennium. See the Human Care report.

- Mr. Stephen Born has been CID's LERT Coordinator since I arrived in 2017. The work that he did, for example, in Taylorville after a tornado there in 2018 was nothing short of amazing to me.
- Mission Commission member Miss Cheryl Long has assembled mailings at the District office, including the semiannual *Keeping Christ on Campus* newsletter for campus ministry endowment donors. Recently, she also put almost all the Witnessing Helps posters into tubes for distribution to congregations. (See Evangelism Commission report.) By the way, Cheryl is central Illinois LWML's President. Such high-class assistance for the District office!
- My wife Läna has designed displays for conferences and conventions, and has prepared food for every CID campus ministry retreat since 2019. In addition, she has served as a sounding board for me, including sometimes just letting me "vent," and in countless ways has freed up my time to concentrate on what I have been doing for the District and the broader Synod.

There is a danger in beginning to thank people. Someone might be left out. When we give thanks to our heavenly Father, though, we know that He leaves no one out. His Son shed His lifeblood for us and for all, then rose again to be Lord of all. He wants all to hear this great Good News.

Because of Him, we do too.

Ken Schurb

Mission Commission Report
The Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb

Personnel

For 2022-2025, Mission Commission membership has consisted of Pastor Bruce Scarbeary (chairman), Pastor Mark Eddy (secretary), Mr. Roger Garlisch, and Miss Cheryl Long. Mr. Aaron Schroeder regretfully stepped down from the Commission early in 2024 due to schedule conflicts.

Dr. Ken Schurb is "field representative," providing staff services for the Commission. Supplementing his work, Rev. Rodney Blomquist serves as Prison Ministry Coordinator.

Guidelines

At its first meeting of the present triennium, the District Board of Directors (BOD) approved a document that Mission Commission had adopted some weeks earlier, "Guidelines and Resources for Ministries Receiving CID Mission Funding." This 31-page document updates a previous set of similar guidelines. For example, it introduces more precise nomenclature so the District does not limit itself to a sweeping – and maybe misleading – single category for funding recipients, all termed "subsidized congregations."

Mission Commission resolved to make this document available to anyone who wishes to see CID mission policies in detail. Find it online at
https://www.cidlcms.org/resources/missions/GUIDELINES.Congs.Getting.Mission.Funds.pdf
By putting some of these policies firmly in place, CID finds itself in a position to "declutter" a section of the District Bylaws pertaining to Mission Commission by omitting the section giving "Instructions to Subsidized Congregations" – as is being recommended to the 2025 convention.

Church Planting

In 2024 the Synod's Office of National Mission (ONM) unveiled "Church Planting Simplified," a process to lead churches and others step-by-step in starting a new congregation. Beyond a "roadmap," though, active help is offered: statistical data to guide church planting county-by county throughout the U.S., advisory teams to consult with new church starts, and financial grants from the national Synod. Even church "re-starts" can qualify for such grants.

Helped by a generous grant from central Illinois Church Extension Fund, CID's present and immediate past Mission Executives, Rev. Ken Schurb and Rev. Joel Cluver, visited every Circuit Pastors' Conference ("Winkel") in the District to encourage church planting. This process began shortly before the last CID convention in 2022, and continued into 2023.

As in 2022, however, today Immanuel Lutheran Church, Springfield remains the only CID church actively involved in launching a daughter congregation: Immanuel Lutheran Chapel. Seminary candidate Adam Rouse was called to serve what at present is one congregation operating out of two locations. Soon after being ordained and installed in the summer of 2024, Pastor Rouse got a detailed introduction to Church Planting Simplified in a face-to-face consultation with Dr. Mark Wood and Mr. Kendall Cortright of ONM. Since then, Immanuel has been building a planting team, and CID has appointed an advisory team. The District provides no money directly to Immanuel, but it welcomes the chapel to conduct services and Bible classes in the "red building" at the District office site at no cost. On average, about 13 attend the chapel's services every Sunday afternoon.

As 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. Circuit Forums ought to discuss it, as that resolution directed. Circuits might consider establishing Circuit Mission Councils to facilitate it. Congregations can ask themselves: has the Lord given us an open door through which to step and start at least a preaching station that might eventually become an LCMS church? See the print and video resources at https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-church-planting.html

Questions? Contact the CID office.

Finances and Impacts

After about two decades of declining remissions of funds from congregations to CID, Dr. Schurb reported to the District's 2018 convention that "without a substantial increase in income, reconfiguration seems unavoidable. . . . Since missions comprise so much of District activity, missions will end up curtailed." In 2022, Mission Commission noted for the District convention various efforts that CID missions made to cut expenses or, in some cases, to enhance income with which the District supports missions. The note of urgency from 2018 did not seem necessary again in 2022 because remittances received by the District from its member churches had more or less plateaued in 2020 and 2021, even 2022. But during 2023, this income dropped substantially from the previous year. By the end of 2023, the need for serious action was becoming acute.

> *See the early 2024* GatePost *report "Working Together for Christ," available at https://www.cidlcms.org/resources/stewardship/WorkingTogetherForChrist.pdf as well as the short video with Pastor Aaron Uphoff which can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMB5ekFQIJo*

One such action will occur when Dr. Schurb's modified service begins on September 1, 2025. The total staff time investment for Missions, Evangelism, Stewardship, and Human Care will be reduced by 20%. Going forward, Mission Commission will enjoy assistance from a field representative two days per week, not three.

Otherwise, CID has implemented a new model for funding Prison Ministry in which it offers "thank you" gifts to congregations when their pastors visit nearby prisons, instead of paying at least partial salary and benefits for District-called prison chaplains. Currently our CID Prison Ministry Coordinator serves on a volunteer basis. The District's Deaf Ministry is undergoing reconfiguration to share the services of a pastor for the deaf with a hearing congregation or other entity. Mission work continues, even if financial resources are diminished.

It should also be noted that CID owns several mission properties: campus churches in Champaign, Macomb, and Normal, plus Cristo Rey Lutheran Church in East Moline. The total cost of predictable repairs and upgrades on the above-referenced facilities over the next 10 years is estimated to come to $936,400. (See below for Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Jacksonville.) Not only Mission Commission but also Stewardship Commission therefore started suggesting that CID consider a financial campaign at its 2025 convention. For more on these matters, see below and elsewhere in the *Convention Workbook*.

Under God's blessing, the CID Mission Commission will keep striving, on behalf of the District and its members, to provide for the best mission efforts possible. Help from member congregations is essential, to support both church planting and other CID missions, as follows:

Ministry in Spanish

At Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline

SEE VIDEO AT https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-spanish.html

This Spanish-speaking congregation began as a CID mission in 2003. Its motto remains: "Planting the Gospel's Seed in the QC," especially for some 11,000 Spanish-speakers there.

The seed may have seemed small. At first, Pastor Pablo Dominguez and his family members were the only people attending church services. Since then, many other families came to church faithfully for months, even years. Currently Cristo Rey has 28 baptized souls and 18 communicants, with an average weekly church attendance of 18 in 2024. Attendance dropped considerably during the COVID pandemic. At the time, Cristo Rey started daily devotions on Facebook, subsequently cutting back to twice a week, Mondays and Fridays at 4:00 p.m.

At Cristo Rey, planting seed involves broadcasting. Every Saturday morning, Cristo Rey's one-hour Gospel radio broadcast in Spanish is heard by 4,000-5,000 listeners to KALA-FM, Davenport. (Thank you, CEF, for a grant to pay for the airtime!) This program forms a portal to the church. Also, since 2023 Cristo Rey has participated East Moline's parades for USA Independence Day (July 4th) and Mexican Independence Day (September 15th), distributing to adults and children along the route various Christian materials – including information about Cristo Rey.

The congregation has been blessed financially. Support for Cristo Rey has come not only from CID but also from congregations and individuals in the Rock Island Circuit and elsewhere in the District. As these words are written, Cristo Rey is looking into establishing an endowment fund with Lutheran Legacy Foundation. It should not be overlooked that since 2019 Cristo Rey has generously supported the District, sending $10,000 a year over and above its regular congregational commitment, as its contribution toward making financial ends meet for CID.

The Rock Island Circuit Hispanic Council, consisting of individuals from Circuit congregations, has stood ready to help ever since the mission started. It is a model Mission Council.

At St. John Lutheran Church, Beardstown

With an eye toward a growing population of Latino people in its area, St. John, Beardstown hosted a succession of Spanish-speaking vicars during the 2010s. Thereafter the congregation was

served briefly by a newly graduated pastor, Rev. Brian Homann, who died after only a few months in office. At about the time of CID's last convention, in 2022, Pastor Keith Kettner was called from the seminary. His presence has stabilized aspects of the ministry in Beardstown, but he is not fluent in Spanish. Therefore St. John's has formed a consistent relationship with Pastor Pablo Dominguez from Cristo Rey, who travels from East Moline at CID expense two Saturdays a month, alternating worship and Bible study.

Some 4-10 people attend services in Spanish, including two families with children who attend when their schedules permit. The most recent baptism of a child was in October, 2024.

While in Beardstown, Pastor Dominguez also visits Maria Guijosa and her disabled husband, Juan. Maria was CID's part-time community liaison for Hispanic Ministry there until Juan suffered a major stroke in 2024. A former Roman Catholic, Maria became a Lutheran upon instruction by former St. John Pastor Doug Evenson and several of the vicars.

The Jacksonville Circuit Mission Council has been supporting both the Spanish work at Beardstown and CID Deaf Ministry in Jacksonville. (More on Deaf Ministry below.) It is the second of only two Circuit Mission Councils in the District.

Some 1850 people who live within a 5-mile radius of Beardstown primarily speak Spanish at home. Long term, the children of most of the immigrants, members of a "transitional" generation, will become fluent in English. Meanwhile, outreach in Spanish continues.

Campus Ministry

SEE VIDEOS AT: https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-campus.html

At University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (total enrollment: 59,238)

Since COVID, work in outreach, evangelism, and Christian care has thrived at University Lutheran (UniLu). Attendance at Sunday services and Bible classes is up, even from pre-COVID levels, both on the part of LCMS students and non-Lutheran Christians. Average attendance as of January, 2025 is 62 per Sunday, about 85% students. Over the last three years, there have been several baptisms, confirmations or affirmation of faith involving over 20 young adults, and opportunities to share the Gospel with hundreds of students.

Since UniLu lies one block off the Main Quad (the heart of campus), thousands pass its doors daily. It is one of the few traditional, whole-Bible believing and teaching campus ministries serving the U of I and Parkland Community College. Students who love the Scriptures can hear them in their fullness and enjoy a rich sacramental theology and practice.

Pastor Michael Schuermann offers Sunday and midweek Bible studies, confirmation classes, and theology discussion groups, as well as serving as Beta Sigma Psi fraternity's pastoral advisor. He hopes to add a weekly class for those who lack familiarity with "Bible Basics."

Living Alternatives Pregnancy Center will soon offer counseling at the UniLu building.

UniLu has now hosted two annual conferences where young Lutherans, ages 18-30, can be taught about being men and women in Christ and have opportunity to meet one another for friendship or marriage. It plans to continue hosting this conference each spring, and to add another annual conference in the fall specifically for college students from the region, i.e., within a 3 to 4 hour drive of Champaign. The latter conference will take the place of annual CID campus ministry retreats. (See below on retreats.)

In late 2024, Pastor Schuermann was appointed to fill out a term on the LCMS Board for National Mission.

At Illinois State University (total enrollment: 21,546)

For ISU, the pandemic seems to lie in the distant past, and the campus is enjoying its liberty. Few mention COVID, even as an excuse. At CID's Wittenberg Lutheran Student Center, all measurable matrices (averages of weekly worship attendance, students involved per week, encounters per week, encounters per students) peaked during 2023. Student attendance dropped from that mark in fall, 2024, yet even so there were some 27 "regulars" who were attending services, if not all at once.

Referrals of students from their home churches seem to be coming in greater numbers. Moreover, enrollment is up at ISU, with seemingly more church-going students attending. With that, new and sometimes competing campus ministries spring up and dilute attendance at the mainstream ministries. Student involvement has remained steady at Wittenberg, which serves not only ISU but also Heartland Community College and Lincoln College in Normal. The student organization registered with ISU has four officers, and eight students work as custodians, publicist, bookkeeper, and on the altar guild.

Some students have left other denominations, many increasingly liberal, for the Lutheran church. One young man from Belleville with a non-denominational background was baptized in fall, 2024, and is on track to be confirmed in March, 2025. Another young man from Wheaton with a Roman Catholic background is also on track for confirmation at the same time.

Pastor Bill Jensen, CID's most experienced campus minister with almost 15 years under his belt, also serves as Vice-President of the board for International Student Ministry, a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. What he learns about work being done among international students at many campus ministries informs his ministry at Wittenberg.

On September 1, 2025, Pastor Jensen will begin doing work that Dr. Schurb has been doing for CID in Stewardship, in addition to campus ministry.

At Eastern Illinois University (total enrollment: 8,505)

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Charleston is located right across the street from EIU. It conducts campus ministry there with support from CID.

By far, most of the legwork for this ministry is done by student leaders. For the 2024-2025 academic year a team of five students was appointed to work with the pastor. They are supported by adult volunteers from Immanuel and other CID congregations.

Pastor Kenneth Hoover retired from ministry at Immanuel in the summer of 2024. Since then, vacancy pastor Rev. Daniel Ulrich has taught a Monday night Bible study for Immanuel Lutheran Campus Ministry (ILCM), but his contact specifically with the campus ministry has been more or less limited to this class.

Unsurprisingly, ILCM's 2024-2025 student leaders have been quite busy. For the most part, they stepped into their leadership roles only during the previous academic year. Taking stock of matters, they observed their tendency to become so enmeshed in putting on events that they would lose focus on the reason for these events. They determined to render ILCM's events more Christ-centered and intentional by praying as a group beforehand and making event themes more intentionally biblical. These student leaders are convinced that the future of ILCM – in the words of one of them – "lies within the *purpose* to build a 'home away from home': a community that shares a love for Christ and wants to share that love which was given to us with the rest of the community."

Recognizing the need to provide training beyond what one generation of ILCM student leaders can pass on to the next, CID Mission Executive Ken Schurb conducted Saturday workshops in Charleston in September, 2022 and September, 2023. CID also provided money from EIU campus ministry endowment earnings for ILCM attendees to attend a Lutheran student event at

Indiana Dunes in 2023. In November, 2024, CID sent Immanuel $3,518.75 – the rest of the EIU endowment earnings that CID was stewarding at the time – to help reimburse Immanuel $6,000 for scholarships that it provides to its campus ministry student leaders.

At Western Illinois University (total enrollment: 6,332)

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Macomb, conducts the WIU campus ministry with support from CID. During a pastoral vacancy at Immanuel from 2019-2023, Rev. Dr. Thomas Baker from St. Louis preached every Sunday at the Chapel of St. Timothy the Learner in the Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, one block away from campus. Mr. Glenn Busse taught Bible class there for students on Wednesday evenings, after a meal cooked by Immanuel families for students and others. In September, 2022 Mission Executive Ken Schurb taught a Saturday workshop on the Lutheran Confessions.

On December 10, 2023 Pastor Christopher Hull was installed at Immanuel. He basically divides his time between "town" (Immanuel Lutheran Church) and "gown" (WIU campus ministry).

During 2024 the number of students attending Sunday services and studies throughout the week doubled, from about five to twelve. Pastor Hull is reaching out further, beginning three "coffee hours" each week that will offer free coffee and snacks to anyone at the University. He has begun to go to campus bearing gift cards to local fast-food establishments, asking students Bible questions and inviting them to Bible study at the student center as well as other opportunities for worship and fellowship. He reports that students with vague Christian ties have become Lutheran during the time since he started his work at WIU.

Immanuel also hosted a conversation/debate on abortion at the student center. Pastor Hull talked with WIU religion professor Amy Carr, who took a very different position. Many people from the community attended the event, which was reported in the local newspapers. The best part, says Pastor Hull, came after the program formally ended, as attendees were invited to stay and talk with those who think differently than themselves. All the students stayed and questioned Professor Carr about her view of abortion and Scripture.

Retreats

Since 2019, CID has hosted annual retreats for the above campus ministries at Camp CILCA. Recent retreats have had an evangelistic emphasis: Evangelism in the Book of Acts (2023) and a working retreat canvassing for Immanuel Lutheran Chapel, Springfield (2024). Sidebar topics have been presented by CID President Pastor Michael Mohr and District Life Coordinator Mr. David Ward. As noted above, an annual LCMS U regional conference at UniLu, Champaign can replace these District retreats in the future.

Endowments

In 2020, Lutheran Legacy Foundation of Paris, Illinois proactively started endowment funds to support ministry to students, faculty, and staff on the above campuses. It contributed substantially to each of these funds as they were getting underway, and it continues to provide a 20% match. For every $5 contributed to one or more of the funds, Lutheran Legacy puts in yet another dollar.

Annual earnings from the four funds go to the District for support of the respective campus ministries. The endowment earnings figures from 2023 were as follows – WIU: $1,833; EIU: $1,547; U of I: $1,129; ISU: $632. Figures from 2024 – U of I: $2,591; ISU: $2,578; WIU: $2,056; EIU: $2,019.

CID uses these earnings in ways that may seem mundane. It spends the money, for example, to help pay salaries for campus pastors, to help maintain and insure campus centers, or to provide training for student leaders. All "cake," one might say, no "icing."

What good is icing, though, if the cake is gone? Moving forward, these endowments will almost certainly bulk larger and larger in importance as the challenges of funding the basics of responsible campus ministry keep growing. May the Lord grow the endowments through all of us, to help meet such funding challenges!

Prison Ministry

Getting back into making visits in local jails and state prison facilities after COVID proved to be a slow process. But many ministries in operation before the pandemic are back in place.

During this triennium:

- The Lord received into the Kingdom of Glory Chaplain Rev. Steve Southward, who had served for years at the Pittsfield and Greene County Work Camps as well as Western Illinois Correctional Center, Mt. Sterling and sometimes at the Jacksonville Correctional Center.
- Chaplain Rev. Charles Olander retired from Prison Ministry after years of serving Lincoln and Logan Correctional Centers in Lincoln.
- Pastor David Dunlop of Chestnut and Clinton began serving Logan Correctional Center, and is awaiting a workable invitation to begin making visits at Lincoln Correctional Center.
- Prison Ministry Coordinator Rev. Rodney Blomquist made presentations on CID Prison/Jail Ministry to rallies of all 12 LWML zones in the District. Chaplain Rev. Paul Weber of East Moline Correctional Center covered one rally.
- Over $3,000 of central Illinois LWML grant funds were used to reimburse, up to $400, those who purchased Bibles, catechisms, devotional materials, and Bible studies to give to nearby prisons and county jails. Almost $4,000 remains in the "materials" portion of this grant. Thanks to LWML for permission to continue using it!
- A little over $400 from the "training" portion of the same grant covered registration fees and travel costs for prison ministry conferences, such as one held in St. Louis, as well as other training at semiannual meetings conducted by Southern Illinois District Prison Ministry. More than $2,500 remains to fund future training opportunities for prison ministry workers!
- The CID website's Prison/Jail Ministry page has been updated to include a brief outline on how to assimilate into the worshipping community a person who has been incarcerated. See https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-prison.html

CID encourages congregations to "lend" their pastors for visits to nearby prisons or county jails one day a week throughout the year, and not necessarily for an entire day. Dollar for Missions funds are available so the District can thank such congregations with a $5,000 gift each year. For example, Pastor Pablo Dominguez of Cristo Rey (see "Ministry in Spanish" above) teaches a Spanish Bible study every week for 15 to 20 inmates at East Moline Correctional Center. See the video "Prison MinisTRY: Will You TRY?" at https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-prison.html

Watch for the CID website also to carry videos of a recent Concordia Seminary Prison Ministry conference. Also, a new LCMS prison ministry initiative called "Reaching In" is coming to CID. This mentoring program will provide an opportunity for contact with inmates through letter writing. It will enable people to be involved in prison ministry without entering a prison.

Mission Commission wishes to acknowledge Prison Ministry Coordinator Rev. Rodney Blomquist. His expertise in this field, together with his patient volunteer service in this capacity – as well as for decades with inmates at Taylorville Correctional Center – is much appreciated.

It is difficult to measure the results of prison and jail ministry. The number of men and women reached by the Gospel cannot be fully counted, and the impact of God's grace in Christ on the lives of incarcerated people and their families is both incalculable and priceless.

Deaf Ministry

2026 is the 125th anniversary year of our Synod's outreach to the deaf in central Illinois!

The history has been eventful. In 1901, Rev. H. Hallerberg traveled from St. Louis once a month to the Illinois School for the Deaf in Jacksonville. Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf was organized in 1948. Its building, a literal stone's throw from the deaf school, was dedicated five years later. By the 1950s and '60s, the school's enrollment at times topped 700, and deaf student attendance at Christ Lutheran totaled over 100 at peak. By the early years of the 21st century, though, deaf school enrollment fell to about 300. Only 15-20 students were involved then in the church's after-school "Good News Club." For several years now, no students have come to the church.

Pastor Tom Phillips noticed this trend, having served in CID deaf ministry in Jacksonville since 2003 – at first half-time, his time then being shared with Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, and full-time since 2005. The membership at Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf has basically averaged 10-15 throughout the church's history, but in 2015 this congregation thought more expansively and began a District-wide Deaf parish. Pastor Phillips travelled at times to places like Peoria, Quincy, and Springfield to involve deaf members of other CID churches, but most recently the parish has been operating from two sites: the church building in Jacksonville and, less frequently, Wittenberg Lutheran Center (CID's campus ministry) in Normal. In 2024, the parish began an endowment fund with Lutheran Legacy Foundation.

In late 2024, after almost 20 years in CID Deaf Ministry, Pastor Phillips accepted a call to a dual parish in Michigan. With his departure, our Deaf Ministry stands poised at a turning point. Missionary to the Deaf Rev. Dr. John Reinke is vacancy pastor at Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf and serves the deaf parish. He travels from the St. Louis area to conduct the deaf parish's accustomed monthly workshops at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sherman, a single fairly central location. Signing for the deaf continues to be offered weekly by interpreters for services at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Jacksonville and Trinity Lutheran Church, Bloomington. Dr. Reinke also communicates every week via Zoom with leaders of the deaf parish, especially with two women from the parish who are interested in further study. One of them, Melissa Kearney, will be entering Deaconess training through EIIT at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in the fall of 2025.

As this report is written (February, 2025), Mission Commission is considering prospects for the long-term future of CID Deaf Ministry. It is thinking that the District likely cannot afford a full-time pastor to the deaf at this point.

In any case, the January, 2025 meeting of CID's Board of Directors arrived at some important decisions for deaf ministry's future. It declared its intention to call the two beginning deaconess students upon the successful completion of their programs of study. For the ongoing development of a District-wide parish, an increased number of church workers in various locations can only be helpful.

The Board of Directors also made determinations with respect to the Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf building in Jacksonville. It resolved to sell this building, since a location near

the state deaf school no longer presents the advantages that it once did. However, sale of the building does not close either the deaf parish or Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf. In a way, it will enable deaf work to go where needed.

The board further determined to put all proceeds from the sale of the church into the deaf parish's endowment fund with Lutheran Legacy. This investment will go far toward starting strong with this endowment, so earnings it generates can quickly begin providing significant financial support for CID deaf ministry. Of course, the more the endowment is built, the more it can do!

Where from Here?

Fifty years ago, facing a set of formidable challenges, the LCMS Board for Missions concluded its report to the Synod in convention with words worth recalling here. That board wrote, in part:

> What about the future? What can we expect? Where will we go from here in missions? As people of God, who love our Lord and are committed to His mission, these questions are not out of place. . . .
>
> The early Christians had questions, doubts, and problems. But as it is recorded in the Book of Acts, whenever and wherever they told or witnessed to the Good News of Jesus Christ, their testimonies bore fruit through the power of God's Holy Spirit. . . .
>
> Assured of these facts, we too can move forward in mission with every confidence that God will bless our work and use our efforts to the salvation of many souls.
>
> What about the future? "So those who received his Word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. . . . So the Word of the Lord grew and prevailed mightily" (Acts 2:41; 19:20). *That* is the future.

Mission Commission
Pastor Bruce Scarbeary, Chairman

Addendum A: Various District-Supported Mission Entities

Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Jacksonville and Central Illinois Lutheran Deaf Outreach

Some members have not been to church since COVID. Since Pastor Thomas Phillips accepted a call to Michigan in late 2024, six members of Christ Lutheran Church have transferred to the other CID churches in Jacksonville. Another is now with the Lord.

The District-wide parish includes those who have transferred from Christ Deaf to other CID congregations. It numbers some 30 baptized, seven of whom are from Bloomington-Normal. Attendance at the most recent monthly parish workshops has numbered about 10.

From the $9,900 budget, $1,800 is sent to District and Synod.

Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline

The congregation has 28 baptized members, which includes 18 active communicants. Average Sunday attendance is 18. During the 2022-2025 triennium thus far, the congregation has gained 4 members and lost 3. The congregation received $9,464 in weekly offerings during 2024. Its 2025 commitment to Synod and District is $1,100, in addition to the $10,000 it has been contributing

annually for the past several years with the help of sister Rock Island Circuit congregations. See section on Cristo Rey above.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Charleston
The congregation does campus ministry, with CID support. Financial support since 2019 has been limited to money earned from the Lutheran Legacy endowment for EIU campus ministry. In 2024, CID sent the congregation $3,518.75, which amounted to all the endowment earnings for that year, and earlier. In 2024, Immanuel's remittances to CID totaled $2,200.

Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, a ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Macomb
The congregation does campus ministry, with CID support. During 2024, some 12 WIU students have been attending Sunday services and studies. CID is sending a total of $56,250 a year to the church, to help pay the pastor (half of whose time is devoted to campus ministry) and for other campus ministry support. The congregation's 2025 commitment to the District is $25,000.

St. John Lutheran Church, Beardstown
The congregation sponsors ministry in Spanish, with CID support. In 2025, the District has budgeted $3,000 to reimburse Pastor Pablo Dominguez for his travels twice a month from East Moline to Beardstown. In 2024 it did likewise, and contributed an additional $2,100 to help St. John pay honoraria for him. Spanish services that Pastor Dominguez conducts in Beardstown are attended by 4 to 10 people. St. John's 2025 commitment to CID is $12,000.

University Lutheran Church, Champaign
As of February, 2025, the congregation has an average weekly attendance of 62, consisting of approximately 85% students. It has 29 total members (28 communicants and 1 baptized). During the 2022-2025 triennium thus far, there have been: 9 transfers out, 4 transfers in, 10 confirmations, 4 baptisms, and 3 affirmations of faith following instruction. There are currently 5 students at various points of instruction leading to reception into communicant membership. The congregation has adopted a draft budget of $36,000/year which is being trialed in 2025. (The congregation has been fully supporting itself, except for the 100% salary and benefits for the pastor, building insurance payments, and maintenance money provided by the District.) The church budget contains a 10% mission contribution to the District based on budgeted income ($300/month). The congregation has committed to maintaining a cash reserve equal to the approximate amount of one year's budget plus $5,000, and has achieved this goal. Starting in 2025, any gifts received by the congregation which exceed the actual annual expenses plus maintaining the reserve will be contributed to the CID on an annual basis. For example: annual expenses of $36,000 with total contributions received of $46,000, leads to an extra contribution from the congregation to the CID of $10,000. The congregation plans to maintain this strategy going forward. Any different use of surplus gifts received in a year will be determined through consultation with District leadership and the Board of Directors.

Wittenberg Lutheran Center, Normal
Weekly church attendance is roughly 15. Of late, offerings have been averaging about $300/week for the nine-month academic year. Wittenberg is a District preaching station, not a chartered congregation, so all its assets belong to CID. In addition to its checking account, it has a savings account with $4,900 and has certificates of deposit with Church Extension Fund totaling $16,400.

Addendum B: Central Illinois District Investment in missions – dollars actually spent by CID, excepting Dollars for Missions funds and capital expenditures:

Mission Station/Congregation	2022	2023	2024
Beardstown, Latino Outreach	$10,696.47	$15,460.06	$3,846.40
East Moline, Cristo Rey	$119,517.01	$121,043.44	$134,787.03
Champaign, U. of I.	$112,478.12	$115,241.41	$125,685.34
Charleston, E.I.U.	$113.65	$984.60	$3,518.75
Macomb, W.I.U.	$46,223.62	$50,518.32	$74,200.23
Normal, I.S.U.	$143,475.13	$146,289.75	$154,736.43
Deaf Ministry	$127,312.19	$128,425.76	$133,827.91
Prison Ministry	$19,192.02	$11,536.18	$5,932.32

Addendum C: Projected Repairs and Upgrades Needed at CID Mission Sites, 2025-2035

Abbreviations:
CR = Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline
Imm = Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb
UniLu = University Lutheran Church, Champaign
Wit = Wittenberg Lutheran Center, Normal
NOTE: Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Jacksonville is NOT included in this list

2025-2026
$50,000 Top coating, parking lot, Imm (about 25 years old in 2021)
$49,500 Roof, Imm (about 25 years old in 2021 – in good shape in 2021)
$20,000 Updating both sets of lower bathrooms, Imm
$11,000 Replacing original kitchen equipment in sexton's apartment, Imm
$6,000 Refurbish seating in library and game room and technology in game room Imm
A 2025 DFM PROJECT
$2,600 Update parking lot access and egress closure devices Imm A 2025 DFM PROJECT

$75,000 Fire alarm, UniLu (equipment & installation will cost $20K; wiring labor-intensive, but $ could be saved if less expensive labor is found; possible to delay this)
$5,000 Boiler circulation pump replacements UniLu
$10,000 Replace office area drop-ceiling UniLu (possible to delay this)
$25,000 Masonry/tuckpointing Phase 1, UniLu A 2025 DFM PROJECT
$25,000 Window repairs and sealing (sanctuary, student center) UniLu
$5,000 Structural cover for east-side window wells UniLu

$10,000 Replace insulation in Chancel ceiling, Wit

2027-2031
$10,000 Roof, CR (2016: a few parts fixed. Roof is probably original with 1984 building)
$45,000 Flooring (Vinyl/carpet), CR (last addressed 2008)

$8,400 Tree removal, Imm
$50,000 Organ, Imm (electronics were 30 to 50 years old in 2021)

$5,400 Replacing tables and chairs in fellowship hall, Imm
$12,000 New counter and drawers in office, Imm

$100,000 Electrical system modernization and updating UniLu
$50,000 Masonry/tuckpointing phase 2, UniLu
$40,000 Student center Roof replacement, UniLu
$25,000 Second floor ductless AC, UniLu

2032-2035
$40,000 HVAC CR

$75,000 Boiler system replacement, UniLu (includes asbestos removal; boiler dates to c. 1953)
$10,000 Sanctuary gutter replacement UniLu (possible to delay this)
$50,000 Basement ductless AC UniLu
$50,000 Masonry/tuckpointing final phase UniLu
$50,000 Further electrical modernization, if necessary UniLu

$8,000 HVAC-3 for basement, Wit (installed 2001)
$12,000.00 HVAC for office/lounge Wit (manufactured 2014)
$1,500.00 Sewage ejector Wit (unknown)
$1,000.00 Sump pump Wit (replaced 2019)

GRAND TOTAL FOR ALL: $937,400

For each location over the period 2025-2035:

CR	$95,000
Imm	$214,900
UniLu	$595,000
Wit	$32,500

EVANGELISM COMMISSION REPORT

. . . and you will be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8)

Personnel and Meetings

Members of the Commission are Pastor Michael Burdick, William Denham (secretary), Danny Magelitz, and Pastor Kevin Wendorf (chair). Teacher Berit Ericson began the triennium chairing the Commission but regretfully stepped down due to the press of other duties. Dr. Ken Schurb provides staff services.

The Commission meets five times a year, usually prior to the Board of Directors' meetings. Zoom is available.

Witnessing Helps

In consultation with Rev. Martin Herzberg of Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ (OAFC) and Rev. Nathan Meador (Evangelism Executive for the South Wisconsin District), the Commission determined to proceed with two new separate but interrelated initiatives.

The first, as yet more amorphous, effort can best be termed for now "OAFC for Adults" or "Laborers for Christ in Evangelism." The notion is to recruit and train adults to spend several days at a congregation engaged in evangelism, perhaps helping the church conduct a canvas of the surrounding neighborhoods; an evangelism clinic for congregation members (utilizing in part the four witnessing helps, see below); and/or beginning outreach to (a) local nursing home(s). Much more conceptual work needs to be done here, which the Commission intends to pursue.

Completed is the production of four witnessing helps. Pursuant to the 2023 Synod Resolution 1-01A ("To Stimulate Training for Witness"), each help provides three suggestions for: beginning an evangelistic conversation, listening discerningly to non-churched people, making a simple statement of the Gospel, and defending the resurrection. Each of these helps, with an accompanying promotional video, appears at http://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-witness-ministry.html

In addition, taking a cue from the years-previous Concordia Theological Seminary posters of each of the chief parts of the Catechism, similar full-sized posters on each witnessing help have been produced and distributed to every congregation in the District. A generous $3,265 grant from the CID Church Extension Fund covered the cost of printing two hundred copies of each of the four posters, plus packing tubes, and labels. It is the Commission's prayer that each congregation will display these posters in a prominent location, perhaps alternating the posters in one space if there is not much room for displays. With these witnessing helps in hand, the Commission also encourages congregations to make it a priority to provide opportunities for their members to practice these witnessing skills, even within already busy parish schedules. Securing a future "OAFC for Adults" team (see above) might help in this regard.

C-WOWs

The Commission's leading means of sending news and encouragement for evangelism out into the District is a corps of "C-WOWs": Circuit Witness and Outreach Workers. At its 2018 convention, CID endorsed this informal position as a liaison between the Evangelism Commission and executive on one hand, and the Circuits within the District on the other (R-2018-01-12).

About two-thirds of CID's Circuits currently enjoy the services of C-WOWs. These are:

- Altamont

- Bloomington North/South
- Decatur
- Jacksonville
- Peoria/Tazewell
- Rock Island
- Shelby/Effingham
- Springfield East/West

Most of the C-WOWs are pastors. One is a DCE. To ensure that every CID Circuit can have a C-WOW, in 2022 the District affirmed (Resolution R2022-07) that laypeople could serve as C-WOWs. To date, no layperson has assumed this role.

The Evangelism Commission and executive maintain contact with C-WOWs in two basic ways. First, an annual meeting and briefing usually takes place on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Zoom is utilized for these sessions.

Second, nine or ten times a year (more often if necessary), Dr. Schurb releases a short monthly newsletter entitled **See? WOW!** It contains devotional thoughts, news of upcoming events and opportunities, and "Worth Considering" items that encourage reflection on and preparedness for Evangelism. All the newsletter's back issues are archived at http://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-cwow.html.

Having a C-WOW in a Circuit helps ensure that someone will be making an ongoing effort there to stimulate telling the Good News about Jesus. It also gives reassurance that a Circuit's questions and needs in this connection will be relayed to the Evangelism Commission and executive.

Does your Circuit have a C-WOW?

Summer Evangelism Interns

In 2019, central Illinois LWML granted the District and, over the years, extended a generous $17,000 gift to fund a pilot project for summer internships devoted to Evangelism in CID. Although these internships were originally designed specifically for DCE and Deaconess students at Concordia University Chicago, recruitment was expanded more widely among LCMS church work students, including students at the two seminaries in both the M.Div. and Deaconess programs.

Unhappily, our first internship took place during the COVID-troubled summer of 2020. Joshua Teggatz, a pre-seminary student from Concordia University Chicago, ended up creatively doing his internship remotely from his home in Rock Island for Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Petersburg and Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Springfield.

Due to COVID disruptions, CID had no interns in summer, 2021.

In 2022 there were two interns. Mikayla Kennaugh (Director of Church Ministries student, Concordia University Wisconsin), served for four weeks at Concordia Lutheran Church, Springfield and for four at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Sherman. Rebekah Whitmore (Deaconess student, Concordia University Chicago), served four weeks at Trinity Lutheran Church and four at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, both in Springfield.

Again, in 2023, there were two interns. One was Caleb Gustavson (pre-Sem graduate, Concordia University Chicago), serving for four weeks at Our Savior's, Springfield and for four at Trinity, Auburn. The other was Skyler Moyer (pre-Sem senior, Concordia University Wisconsin), serving four weeks at Trinity, Springfield and four at Good Shepherd, Sherman.

The above internships, including costs of campus trips to recruit students for internships, were all funded with the initial LWML grant. The Church Extension Fund generously made money available to fund internships in 2024 or 2025, but there were no applicants for either of these years.

In 2024 the Commission applied for an LCMS National Development Grant to fund the recruitment of future Evangelism interns and their expenses while serving in CID. LCMS found merit in the proposal, but their funds could not be stretched to cover this as well as other meritorious applications received.

Since no one applied for internships for two summers in a row, 2024 or 2025, and since the modified service arrangement between Dr. Schurb and the CID requires a restructuring of his Evangelism workload, the Commission decided to suspend the pilot summer Evangelism internship program. Unexpended grant monies have been returned to district LWML.

Nevertheless, the need for future church worker training and practical experience in Evangelism remains a priority. These internships benefit not only the congregations where interns serve and the interns themselves, but they also benefit the congregations where these students will serve for the rest of their careers. Wherever the Lord sends them as professional church workers, they will be better equipped with the heart and skills for telling the Good News about Jesus. As the number of LCMS pastors declines over the near future, a DCE, Deaconess, or Director of Church Ministries could be teamed up with a pastor to serve a multiple of churches, some of them perhaps in rural areas. In such situations, servants will need to be versatile. The greater the range of skills that our future church workers have, the better!

If all goes well, the Evangelism Commission may revive the internship program in the future.

Every One His Witness (E1HW)

E1HW is Synod's basic approach to personal witnessing. Several years ago, most E1HW training was done at workshops led by trainers or facilitators. However, now the core E1HW module is available to congregations in a "kit" from Concordia Publishing House. This kit enables churches to offer basic E1HW training to their members without an outside facilitator, and in a variety of time configurations. Moreover, the Synod's youth department has adapted E1HW for youth. The adaptation, called "Motivated by Love," is available at: http://www.youthesource.com////motivated-by-love/.

District staff are still happy to visit interested congregations and conduct the basic E1HW core module workshop, if desired. Also, please note that those congregations that complete the core module are granted free online access to a growing number of "context modules" that inform witnessing in situations such as: witnessing one's unchurched adult children, witnessing to Muslims, witnessing to military veterans, and many more.

In 2024, Evangelism Commission members sent handwritten notes to called pastors of CID congregations urging them to consider utilizing E1HW. They wrote pastors in ten of the 17 CID circuits prior to Lent, others later in the year.

re:Vitality

Several of the congregational revitalization modules offered free by the Synod's Office of National Mission (ONM) have to do with evangelism.

- *Connect to Disciple* (CTD) is an outreach module. It is available not only as a free self-directed study, but also in CID as a facilitator-led workshop to be held on a Friday night and the following Saturday morning. Thanks to a generous grant from central Illinois LWML, each

CID congregation can have this workshop at a minimal cost. In 2023, a CTD workshop was conducted at the Lutheran Church of St. John, Quincy.

- *Beyond the Classroom* (BTC) is a new and specific application of CTD for congregations with Lutheran schools. Central Illinois LWML awarded CID a multi-year grant to implement BTC among our congregations with schools. Several BTC informational workshops were conducted on Saturdays throughout 2022 and 2023. All congregations with schools located within specific CID geographical regions were invited to central locations for these introductory sessions:
  November 2022 – St. John's, Buckley
  February 2023 – Our Savior's, Springfield and St. Jame's, Quincy
  March 2023 – Mt. Calvary, Decatur
  April 2023 – St. John, Effingham and Bethel, Morton
  May 2023 – St. John, Champaign

  In all, 77 individuals from 21 different schools and pre-schools participated. After the completed version of the BTC materials were finalized and made available in 2024, BTC "working" workshops have been conducted. Individuals from Zion, Lincoln and Zion, Mt. Pulaski attended the first one. Trinity, Springfield had one late in 2024 and St. James, Quincy early in 2025. This session is for all CID churches with schools. If yours has not yet scheduled one, contact Ken Schurb or Education Executive Trip Rodgers!
- *Shepherding our Strays* (SOS) is the *re:Vitality* module concerned with a congregation's inactive members, offering help to reach out to them. St. John, Effingham has used it on a self-directed basis.
- *Members of One Body* (M1B) is the newest module, on incorporating new members into a congregation. This module helps a congregation to prevent member inactivity.

The Evangelism Commission encourages congregations to consider and use these resources.

Church Planting and Evangelism

Starting new churches forms an excellent way to reach the unchurched with the Gospel, from the standpoint of the church. A church just getting underway is quite attuned to bringing in new people. Such a church "puts its best foot forward": it highlights the saving Gospel of Christ and energetically tells the Good News about Jesus.

Starting new churches is also a promising way to reach the unchurched, from the standpoint of the unchurched. Where newcomers might be more likely to feel out of place: in a group of people where everyone is new or in a well-established group?

See the Mission Commission report for more about church planting. The Evangelism Commission stands ready to provide support, however it can, in the cause of church planting.

The Commission's own Continuing Education

The Commission continues to discuss recent relevant literature and studies. In October 2023, Commission members considered a two-part article by (or inspired by) the late Dr. Tim Keller on the need for churches to have a "front porch" ("Lemonade on the Front Porch: The Gospel in a Post-Christendom Society," Parts 1 & 2). A concept analogous to, and seeming to incorporate, all three pre-Word and Sacrament Ministry CTD stages of interaction between a congregation and the nonchurched people in its community (Build Awareness, Create Connections and Nurture Relationships).

In addition, the Commission has considered these extant reports on annual surveys by LCMS lay demographer Lyman Stone and their implications for the church in general and Evangelism in particular:

- What is Our Life Together: Report on the Results of the Lutheran Religious Life Survey
- Giving a Reason for Hope: Report on the Results of the 2022 Lutheran Religious Life Survey
- Those Who Are Being Saved: Report on the Results of the 2023 Lutheran Religious Life
- Survey.

Overtures

The Commission forwarded two overtures to this Convention. One encourages each congregation to "adopt" a local nursing home as a fertile evangelism opportunity. The other encourages the use of the Witnessing Helps.

Evangelism Commission
Pastor Kevin Wendorf, Chairman

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION REPORT

Introduction and Overview

Christian Stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. Our Synod has used this quite biblical working definition of Stewardship for some years now.

It is no slight to say that Stewardship concerns ordinary things. In His great love and mercy, the Lord has given us ordinary things to manage in ordinary ways – all consecrated by His Word and prayer.

In addition to ordinary things, the extraordinary also arises. Stewardship Commission has been dealing recently with major matters that are extraordinary – at the very least, in the sense of being unfamiliar. One is A Dollar for Missions, and the other is the prospect of a major District funding campaign. They call also upon our District's congregations and their members for out-of-the ordinary responses.

Yet the basic practice of Stewardship remains ordinary. Our congregations should still prayerfully consider their "regular" remittances to the Synod and District. For its part, Stewardship Commission strives not to lose sight of its charge to: "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" (CID Bylaw 10.02.a).

Dollar for Missions (DFM)

Stewardship Commission, in tandem with Mission Commission, began the triennium with a new and large assignment: implementation of "A Dollar for Missions," which the District authorized at its last convention in Resolution R2022-03. Mission Commission has worked on the *doling out* of funds received from DFM, processing applications for such DFM funds and making recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Our Stewardship Commission has concentrated on the *gathering* of DFM funds. After a few months, a pattern of activity emerged. It has continued since with few exceptions:

- All the DFM projects approved for a calendar year are listed on CID website.

- As each new project on the list begins to be funded, a description of it is posted on the DFM Current Project page, https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-current-project.html
- Also posted on the same page are links to 3 or 4 short videos that describe the project. Often, these videos are shot where the funds are to be used.
- Every Monday, the CID office sends all District congregations a suggested DFM "bulletin blurb" for the following Sunday. Three or four blurbs per project are rotated week by week, one at a time. Each blurb contains a URL that takes readers directly to one of the videos.
- Additionally, a longer video encompassing all the shorter ones is usually posted to the Current Project page.

Through these tools, Sunday churchgoers all over our District are able to know about the working DFM project – that is, what is to be supported by the dollars that they contribute that day. They can also consult the website at any time to see which of the year's DFM projects have been successfully funded, and which remain to be addressed.

Here, in chronological order, are the projects that DFM has funded in CID since its inception:

- $17,000 for purchase and licensing of a van for University Lutheran Church, Champaign
- $20,000 to begin new prison ministries in CID (See Mission Commission report.)
- $1,800 for weekly mileage for Pastor David Dunlop from Chestnut to make prison visits in Lincoln
- $300 for new Spanish-language hymnals for St. John, Beardstown
- $2,100 to pay honoraria for Pastor Pablo Dominguez to conduct two Spanish language services per month at St. John, Beardstown during half of 2024
- $10,000 to continue new prison ministries begun in 2024 or to start ministry in prisons not currently being so served
- $11,572 for furnace replacement at Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb
- $5,000 for a new water heater and toilets at University Lutheran Church
- $1,000 for a new water heater at Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline

As this report is written, the current DFM project is the first one for 2025: $25,000 for masonry/tuckpointing at University Lutheran Church. It may take a quite a while to reach this total. Only 25 of the District's 148 congregations have made DFM contributions, and $25,000 amounts to about 70% of all the DFM contributions in each of the years 2023 and 2024.

Most of the above-listed projects were to assist existing CID missions. This is an appropriate use of DFM funds. Still, under the District's 2022 resolution, the top priority use for money received by DFM is new church starts. It should be noted, then, that for the years 2023, 2024, and 2025 no one applied for DFM money to support a new church start. In fact, no one at all submitted applications for DFM funding in 2025.

Stewardship Commission is submitting an overture to the 2025 District convention that calls for CID to suspend DFM if the convention approves a District-wide funding campaign.

Funding Campaign

Late in 2024, Stewardship Commission recommended that CID's Board of Directors take initial steps to prepare for the 2025 District convention a proposal for a funding campaign, as referenced just above. It did so primarily with an eye on repairs and upgrades needed at District-owned facilities: campus ministry centers in Champaign, Macomb, and Normal; Cristo Rey

Lutheran Church in East Moline; and Christ Lutheran Church in Jacksonville. Another District-owned facility is the District office in Springfield.

Prior to the 2022 CID convention, Mission Commission started keeping tabs on the probable costs of repairs and upgrades needed at the District-owned mission facilities over the next 10 years or so. The most recent update of the list, completed in fall, 2024, projected a total of just over a million dollars to be spent on the mission sites during the years 2025-2035. Even if the million-dollar total were approached at the rate of one tenth per year, CID's budget would not be able to underwrite $100,000 of repairs and upgrades annually – over and above routine maintenance and the other costs of the various missions! Furthermore, DFM has not been generating even half this much money in a year. Another option seemed necessary, so Stewardship Commission as well as Mission Commission recommended a funding campaign.

It should be noted that in January, 2025 CID's Board of Directors resolved to sell the deaf church building in Jacksonville. (See Mission Commission report.) Deducting the anticipated cost of repair and upgrades to that facility from the million-dollar total leaves $934,400 still to be somehow funded if the District is to continue taking care of the remaining mission facilities for the next 10 years, to say nothing of the District office. A campaign seems warranted.

Congregational Remittances to Synod and District

Not to be overlooked amid any discussions of a possible campaign is the ongoing story of declining giving by churches to the Synod and District. In the year 2000, CID received $2.3 million from its member congregations, which amounted to about 7.3% of the offerings that these churches received that year. By 2023, the District received $1.58 million, which was only 4.1% of offerings received. During 2024 remittances to the District increased, but only somewhat.

Stewardship Commission and others have been spreading the word. The CID *GatePost* issue 2024:1, published February 13, 2024, opened with a front-page article by President Michael Mohr that outlined long-term giving patterns. Immediately following was a four-page special report entitled, "Working Together for Christ: Congregational Giving to Synod and District," which places CID's year-to-year financial challenges within the broad setting of Synod and District work for the Lord. At their spring, 2024 conference, CID's pastors received copies of this feature to take back to their churches. It remains available as the third item down the page at https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-stewardship.html More recently, a summary of the contents of the four-page *GatePost* feature has been made available as a shorter piece that a pastor might adapt for a church newsletter column, found in the "Mission Education Toolkit" at the URL found just above. The "Toolkit" also offers a short video interview with Stewardship Commission member Pastor Aaron Uphoff, who lived in CID's student center in Macomb while he attended college at Western Illinois.

As individual Christians have stewardship responsibilities, so do congregations. After congregations have received the offerings their members have thankfully given to the Lord, these churches themselves become givers. They allocate funds to various purposes. One of these purposes is the Lord's work beyond a congregation's own bounds, as is done through the Synod and District.

A summary of the work of the Lord in the Central Illinois District is available in *Partnership in the Gospel*, a brochure first prepared in 2017 and updated annually ever since. You can find a copy at https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-brochure.html

Every year CID meets with challenges of declining remittances from its churches, at a time when inflation erodes the buying power of every dollar. These circumstances will likely remain whether or not a funding campaign comes to be.

Support for Congregations related to Stewardship

Congregations face similar challenges too. Recognizing the need to teach and practice Stewardship in the congregation, from 2019 to 2022 CID offered its congregations a Stewardship and Mission education initiative entitled, "Bring Giving Home." The great gift of salvation hits home with us. Christ the Giver brings giving home to us. Giving, once brought home, does not remain "at home."

CID remains ready to assist congregations in the field of Stewardship. If your church would like a refresher on basics covered in "Bring Giving Home," contact the District office.

Stewardship Commission has looked into a whole-life Stewardship emphasis pioneered in Michigan called "Stewards by God's Design." SBGD links a congregation and its pastor(s) with a District-appointed coach/mentor in a process heavily informed by biblical study. The Commission has explored with the Southern Illinois District the prospect of our two Districts working together to offer SBGD. If you are interested, again, please contact the District office.

CID's Stewardship web page and the national Synod's Stewardship web page offer an array of resources, all at no cost. See, respectively, https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-stewardship.html and https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/national/stewardship-ministry For specific application of Stewardship teaching to particular churches, District staff is available to consult with congregational Stewardship committees and other leaders.

Every year, Stewardship Commission proposes to CID's Board of Directors a set of church worker compensation guidelines. New features of the guidelines during the past triennium have included salary suggestions for lay church administrators and guidelines for church worker sabbaticals.

Personnel

Stewardship Commission started the 2022-2025 triennium with these members: Mr. James Frazee (chairman), Pastor David Dunlop (secretary), Mr. Tom Blessman, Pastor Jeffrey Caithamer, and Pastor Peter Glock. Pastor Glock left the Commission and the District upon his retirement and relocation at the end of 2023. Pastor Aaron Uphoff subsequently took his place on the CID Board of Directors and on Stewardship Commission.

Throughout the triennium Dr. Ken Schurb has been the Commission's "field representative." As such, he has provided staff services with regard to Stewardship.

The Commission looks forward to September 1, when Pastor William Jensen joins in this work. At that time he will become the Commission's field representative, providing staff services. Pastor Jensen will continue his long-time service at Wittenberg Lutheran Center, CID's campus ministry at Illinois State, as he takes on new duties in Stewardship part-time.

Conclusion

When we bring our plans to the Lord in prayer, Martin Luther remarked, we should ask Him to grant our requests not because we are so wonderful or even because our ideas are so valuable, but rather because He is our kind and loving Father on account of Jesus Christ. As the prophet Daniel prayed, "we do not present our pleas before You because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act" (Daniel 9:18-19).

Whatever lies in view – whether extraordinary District-wide funding campaigns or congregational initiatives to build new school buildings, or the quite ordinary daily consecrated management of God's gifts by Christian men and women or a local church's ongoing wise

allocation of various gifts it has received – may we continue to rest all of it on and in the mercy of our Lord! Let us take as our own the psalmist's words:

I have trusted in Your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord,
because He has dealt bountifully with me [Psalm 13:5-6].

Stewardship Commission
James Frazee, Chairman

REPORT OF COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN CARE AND CHURCH WORKER SUPPORT AND WELLNESS

For some years, the Committee has been charged with advising and educating with respect to human care; promoting the Synod's human care activities within the District; and assisting the Mission Commission, upon request, with institutional ministries. CID's last convention added church worker wellness to the Committee's set of assignments.

The Committee has enjoyed very little budget allocation from the District. Therefore it has devoted itself to serving as a "think tank" to suggest and refine ideas.

Personnel

The Committee started 2022-2025 with Pastor Michael Koschmann (chairman), Mrs. Kim Janssen (secretary), Rev. Rodney Blomquist, Mrs. Sharol Bolton, and Parish Nurse Kim Meyer. The two Kims, Janssen and Meyer, stepped down from the Commission during 2023. Deaconess Elizabeth Froh was appointed in 2024. Dr. Ken Schurb provided limited staff services.

Life

After having seen the Committee's report to the 2022 CID convention, which mentioned the District's need for a new Life Coordinator, Mr. David Ward volunteered for the position. He began work in the latter half of 2022. Since then, he has established contact with his counterparts in other LCMS Districts, especially in Illinois. At Mr. Ward's impetus, CID produced a wallet-sized card containing a prayer he wrote, "A Prayer for Wednesday's Child," which implores the Lord to protect unborn babies and their mothers. He guided the formulation of the "Quick Life Issues Collection" of resources found at https://www.cidlcms.org/life.html Otherwise, he has:

- Visited 10 pregnancy resource centers, mostly in southern and eastern parts of CID, and also visited University Lutheran Church in Champaign to discuss their plans to collaborate with the local center to support U of I students
- Hosted two break-out sessions on life ministry at central Illinois LWML and LLL district conventions
- Joined the board of Illinois Lutherans for Life
- Authored two articles for the CID *GatePost*
- Attended two national Lutherans for Life conferences, one Synod Life Coordinator meeting, one March for Life in DC and two Illinois Marches for Life in Springfield

A bit more on that last point: in 2023 and 2024 the Illinois March for Life was held not in Chicago, as in previous years, but instead in Springfield. Trinity Lutheran Church downtown, across the street from the state capitol, hosted Matins services prior to these marches. CID coordinated Subway lunches for worshippers, suggesting a nominal donation to defray costs.

Worshippers were then able to participate in the March for Life rally and actual marching, followed by opportunities to meet with their state legislators. As this report is written (February, 2025), we are looking forward to a similar event, the Illinois Right to Life March, on March 25. Thanks to Trinity, Springfield and helpful volunteers who have assisted with these events in many ways, and thanks to the national Synod for grant money to aid CID's participation!

Christian Citizenship

Late last triennium, a "Living as Christian Citizens in the Here and Now" page was added to the CID website. This page is periodically updated with information on issues, mostly life-related, pending before the Illinois state legislature.

To date, 12 updates have been filed, all of which are archived on the page. At least one more update is anticipated by the time of the 2025 CID convention. From these updates, members of our churches and other Illinois citizens can learn about issues concerning which they may wish to contact their state legislators. In fact, one of the Synod's other Illinois districts provides such information to its congregations by offering them a link to this page of CID's website.

Church Worker Wellness

Over the last few years, a heightened awareness of the need to care for our church workers has been growing across the LCMS. At its last convention, the Synod directed District Presidents and District Boards of Directors to establish "plans for the care of workers and their families" (2023 Res. 1-06A), utilizing resources that have been and are being developed by the Synod's Office of National Mission and Concordia Plans Services. Early on, President Michael Mohr asked our Committee to suggest ideas for possible inclusion in such plans.

Several meetings of the Synod's Ministerial Care Coalition have taken place since the Synod's 2023 convention. Dr. Schurb participated in several of these via zoom, and Pastor Michael Schuermann attended a "summit" meeting in person on behalf of the Committee.

As this report is written, tangible steps toward enhanced worker wellness in CID are beginning to come into view. The national Synod has recently granted CID $10,000 for such efforts, with the possibility of additional funds in the future. The Committee looks forward to what can be done with these resources, God willing, for the wellness of church workers in our District.

Sabbatical Guidelines

As one step in the "worker wellness" direction, President Mohr requested that our Committee and the Stewardship Commission consider preparing guidelines for church worker sabbaticals. Although this practice may be new to most CID congregations, its value has been demonstrated elsewhere.

In early 2025, a joint subcommittee developed guidelines on sabbaticals for possible inclusion in the District's annual set of Compensation Guidelines. See the Stewardship Commission's report.

Prison Ministry

Prison Ministry is the responsibility of CID's Mission Commission. (See the section on Prison Ministry in Mission Commission's report.) However, it can be noted here since that an (outgoing) member of our Committee, Rev. Rodney Blomquist, is CID's Prison Ministry Coordinator, our Committee has had opportunities to discuss prison ministry and offer suggestions to Dr. Schurb.

Disaster Response

Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT) have made it possible for our Synod to lend a Christian hand to neighbors in need in the wake of disaster. Of course, disasters are occasional and unpredictable. Unlike previous years, central Illinois LERT activity has not been needed very much this triennium. However, volunteers from our District have traveled to assist with disaster relief elsewhere.

During this time, there have been some LERT-related changes in CID. The District divested itself of LERT equipment that it owned (a disaster trailer, a Gator, and its trailer), some of which had been inactive for quite a while. St. Peter Lutheran Church, East Peoria, ended up with the disaster trailer – which was a delightful outcome all around. Also, Dr. Cynthia Steinwedel stepped down from her position as a LERT regional coordinator. Our thanks to her for her tireless efforts! CID's overall LERT Coordinator, Mr. Stephen Born, has engaged in a process of searching for someone else to take that "seat."

Additional LERT volunteers are always welcome, and needed. As Mr. Born has noted, an ever-fresh set of volunteers is important for robust disaster response capacity. The national Synod is now absorbing the costs of the criminal background checks required of LERT volunteers.

National LERT conferences are held pretty much annually, usually in or around St. Louis. Given the relatively close by location, LERT volunteers from CID sometimes avail themselves of the opportunity. Also an opportunity for national LERT leaders from St. Louis to familiarize CID's Circuit Visitors with LERT and its potential will likely be scheduled soon.

Preparing for Retirement

The Committee hosted a pair of identical "preparing for retirement" Saturday workshops with Mr. Paul Snyder of Concordia Plans early in 2020. A follow-up event scheduled for April of that year had to be cancelled due to COVID. The Committee has discussed hosting a repeat workshop by Concordia Plans during the 2025-2028 triennium.

Committee for Human Care and Church Worker Support and Wellness
Pastor Michael Koschmann, Chairman

Mr. Trip Rodgers
Administrative Assistant to the President-
Education and Congregational Life

Christian education remains a serious undertaking in the Central Illinois District. Indeed, most congregations operate various volunteer education programs, including Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, midweek school, confirmation instruction, Bible classes, etc. In addition to these, fifty-three congregations are involved in operating twenty-three elementary schools and five high schools (2 stand-alone high schools). Our District's congregations also operate twenty-four freestanding early childhood programs (preschool and childcare centers).

Statistics for the 2024-2025 school year

Schools	Early Childhood Centers (ECC)	24
	Elementary (Preschool-8th)	20
	Elementary and High School	3
	High School	2
	Total Educational Agencies	**49**
Enrollment		
	Elementary/High School	3591
	Early Childhood	933
	Total Children Served	**4524**

Gains and Losses

Changes in School Programs:

- **St. John's (Mattoon)**expanded its PK-Elementary School to include a High School program and added an additional building to its campus.
- **Concordia (Geneseo)** started a Lutheran Classical School in their preschool program.
- **Lutheran High School (Springfield)** had to relocate their school because of mine subsidence. They are currently looking at building a new campus on the south side of Springfield.

Schools/Congregations studying the possibility of expanding or starting new educational programs (Genesis Projects)

- **Immanuel (Charleston)** is studying to expand their preschool into an elementary school.
- **Altamont/Effingham** area is studying the possibility of providing a Lutheran High School in the Effingham/Altamont area.
- **St. James (Quincy)** is studying to expand their elementary school to provide a high school.
- **St. John (Beardstown)** is studying to restart their elementary school.

Schools Closing

- **Immanuel (Springfield)** closed their preschool summer 2024
- **Christ (Normal)** officially closed their preschool in 2024

Commissioned Ministers in the CID:

Total Active Commissioned workers 113

101 Teacher
6 Director of Christian Education
2 Teacher/DCE
1 Parish Nurse (DCM)
2 Director of Parish Music
1 Parish Assistant
100 Emeritus commissioned workers
33 Candidate commissioned workers

Outreach Within Our Schools

New members of the CID-LCMS Congregations through Lutheran School Enrollment during the 2024-2025 school year:

- ❖ Baptism- 48

Teacher Colloquy Program

Many educators in Synod's schools have become Synodically trained, professional church workers through the Lutheran Teacher Colloquy Program. The program, offered via CUEnet, offers colloquy classes provided online. It provides the theology component typically received by graduates of Concordia universities. Participants must have a BA degree, be a member of an LCMS congregation, and be currently teaching in an LCMS school. Our District provides some financial assistance to teachers enrolling in this colloquy program. Teachers who completed this program speak highly of the instruction they received and the benefits it brought to their classroom teaching.

One teacher has completed the colloquy program in the last three years and is now recognized as a Minister of Religion- Commissioned. We currently have four students in the Teacher Colloquy program.

National Lutheran School Accreditation

National Lutheran School Accreditation is an ongoing process of self-evaluation, improvement, and recognition based on national standards for childcare centers, early childhood centers, and elementary and secondary schools. This process of school improvement currently accredits eight schools in the CID. At one time, a larger number (16) of our District schools were accredited. We need to find ways to encourage our schools to re-enter the accreditation process.

- o Altamont Interparish- Altamont
- o St. John's - Mattoon
- o St. Paul's – Milford
- o Concordia - Peoria
- o Our Savior's - Springfield
- o Trinity - Springfield
- o Lutheran High School- Springfield
- o Zion - Lincoln

Lutheran Educator Conferences

In the fall of 2022, many of our schools attended the Lutheran Educators Association (LEA) Convocation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Over 3000 Lutheran educators from around the world attended this three-day convocation. The schools in our District have determined that this LEA convocation is the official teacher's conference; therefore, no District conference is scheduled during this school year.

In the fall of 2023, we combined with Southern Illinois District teachers for the annual CID/SID Teachers' Conference at Good Shepherd Lutheran School—Collinsville. In the fall of 2024, we again combined with the Southern Illinois District for our conference at Trinity Lutheran School—Bloomington. Over 400 Lutheran teachers gathered for both of these one-day conferences.

In the fall of 2025, many of our schools will attend the Lutheran Educators Association (LEA) Convocation in St. Louis, Missouri.

CID principals gather for one-day conferences two times a year. These conferences are scheduled at one of our schools.

Illinois School Administrators Conference

During this triennium, the three Illinois Districts restarted the summer Administrators' conference. This three-day conference moves between the three Districts. So far, NID and CID have hosted the conference, and SID will host it this summer. During these conferences, administrators covered employment law, artificial intelligence, possible changes in Illinois School Code/laws, strengthening faith formation, improving professional development, etc.

School Scholarship

State of Illinois: Invest in Kids Act

In 2018, the State of Illinois began a program permitting taxpayers to donate to Scholarship Organizations to help provide scholarships for private and parochial schools. Donations can be made to this state-approved Scholarship Organization. Taxpayers will receive a 75% tax credit based on their donation. Parents can apply for scholarships based on their family income. Scholarship organizations will review applications and determine the scholarship awards. Over the length of the program, students attending our District schools have received over 2 million dollars in scholarship money from Empower Illinois. Unfortunately, the State of Illinois could not pass any new legislation to continue the Invest of Kids program. Therefore, this program ended in December 2024. A few rumors exist of possible scholarship programs being considered in the state legislature.

Federal School Scholarship Program

As of the writing of this report, there has been federal legislation that would provide for a federal scholarship program. This would provide a federal tax credit for individuals donating to local scholarship-granting organizations, with this being a federal program- the State of Illinois would have limited control or oversight.

MinistrySafe

The Office of National Mission has entered a contract with an online company that provides training and background checks for our schools and congregations. The CID is currently covering the cost of these trainings and other resources provided through MinistrySafe. Schools and congregations can receive discount pricing on various levels of background checks for workers and volunteers. Please reach out to the CID office to receive the discount code. With the membership, there is also a discount on each background check for workers and volunteers.

Education Commission Report

During the past triennium, the Education Commission was composed of the following members: Rev. Jonathan Buescher, Rev. Marcus Manley, Mr. John Jacob, and Trip Rodgers, Administrative Assistant to the President in Education.

Some of the Education Commission's efforts during this triennium included:

- Review the purpose of the commission based on the District handbook.
- Approve forming an Early Childhood Education group to develop ways to support our stand-alone Early Childhood Centers better.
- Approve the development of a website for the educational leaders in our District.
- Approve documents to assist congregations in the Call process for teachers and principals.
- Review the new state law requiring Mandated Reporting and Sexual Harassment Prevention Training.
- Approve new members to serve on the CID- National Lutheran Schools Accreditation Commission.
- Receive reports on the Commissioned Workers within our District. (Calls accepted, Calls declined and change of worker status.)
- Receive reports on the reinstatement of Commissioned Workers within our District.
- Receive updates on the Colloquy candidates within our District.
- Review information regarding the *Invest in Kids Act* that provides for scholarships for students attending non-public schools in Illinois.
- Approve the District involvement with the FLAME training program. This program is a workshop that helps to identify and train possible school administrators within our Lutheran schools.
- Review and approve the annual District budget for Education.
- Approve the contract with the Lutheran Special Education Ministry. This agreement provides special educational support for the schools within the District.
- Work with the Congregational Life Commission to develop the "New Worker Grant Program." The grant program has ended due to a lack of monetary support.
- Develop an "Introduction to Lutheran Faith" for non-Lutheran teachers in our Preschools and Early Childhood Centers.
- Provide information regarding various bills that have been introduced into the state legislation.

Thanks to the members of the Education Commission and the Administrative Assistant for their efforts, guidance, and support of parochial education.

(Submitted on the commission's behalf by Trip Rodgers)

Small Church Summit

Starting in the summer of 2022, the Central and Southern Illinois Districts started Small Church Summits. The primary goal of these summits was to provide opportunities for small congregations in our two Districts to gather to discuss common issues of small congregations. We divide our locations between CID and SID congregations during the winter meetings. Followed by a joint gathering of both Districts in the summer.

Locations:

2022 – June - Zion (Farmerville) – SID

2023 – January - Zion (Farmersville) – SID
June - Concordia (Springfield) CID

2024 - January - Messiah (Carlyle) SID
February - Faith (Lincoln) CID
June - Zion – (Carlinville) SID

2025 - January - Faith (Mt. Vernon) SID
February - Trinity (Pekin) CID

YouthLead (Synodical Program)

We have area youth from the CID attend the YouthLead training in St. Louis. YouthLead equips teens to develop and use their leadership skills as they serve Christ within their congregations and communities. We offer resources and training to equip teens to lead and mentor each other.

The Youth Department at the National Office facilitates this annual leadership training event. We are looking for other youth in our District who would be willing to participate. The District office offers scholarships to cover some of the cost of attending YouthLead events. If you know of someone who is interested, don't hesitate to contact the District office.

Director of Christian Education (DCE)

At the present time, we have twelve DCEs serving in our congregations, along with several active volunteers. The DCEs serve in various ministry roles, including youth and family life ministry. Congregations are continuing to expand the scope of ministry provided by these church workers.

DCEs had monthly meetings during the school year. These meetings provide for professional and spiritual growth for these church workers. These meetings have been at a park (as weather permitted) or a local coffee shop in Lincoln.

All-Illinois Retreat

We are working on an All-Illinois retreat for our Commissioned workers who have roles outside of the school setting. Our first retreat is being planned for the fall of 2025. We plan to provide both an educational and a retreat setting for our Called workers in the roles of DCEs, Deaconesses, Parish music, etc.

Parish Education Committee

The Parish Education Committee of our District guides the congregational education ministries in such agencies as Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and midweek school. The Parish Education Committee also supports the CID Bible Bowl.

Youth Committee

Jr-High Lock-IN

The Youth Committee is a small group of individuals who enjoy working with the youth of our District. The Youth Committee is working on restarting our Jr-High fall event in 2025. We no longer plan Jr. High Lock-In but focus on a day event that supports the Christian growth of our youth. Members of the committee are:

DCE- Jonathan Guse- Bethel, Morton
Pastor Bill Grueninge - St. Paul's, Decatur
Pastor Matt Riley - St. James, Quincy
DCE- Donna Moldenhauer - Trinity, Auburn

LCMS- National Youth Gathering

- July 9-13, 2022, in Houston, TX
  - Theme: "In All Things"
  - All-Illinois District Event: Truck Farm
  - District Coordinator: DCE Jonathan Guse (Bethel, Morton)

- July 19-23, 2025, in New Orleans, LA
  - Theme: "Endure" based on Hebrews 12:1-3
  - All-Illinois District Event: Dinner and activities at the Superdome- We received a $25,000 grant for our CID- Church Extension Fund to lower the cost for the students to attend the District Event.
  - District Coordinator: DCE Jonathan Guse (Bethel, Morton) and DCE Christy Malinowski (Trinity, Bloomington)

The National Lutheran Youth Worker Conference was held to prepare District representatives for the 2025 National Lutheran Youth Gathering in New Orleans. CID NYG District Coordinators DCEs Jonathan Guse (Bethel, Morton) and Christy Malinowski (Trinity, Bloomington) attended this training. Several of our DCEs and youth will also participate in the conference in New Orleans.

Demographic Studies

The District office can provide demographic studies to congregations and schools based on local zip codes or a set radius around their addresses. MissionInsite, which the District is a member of, provides the data. If you want to receive your congregation's demographic data, please contact the District office. The District office provides this free service to congregations and schools within our District.

Central Illinois District New Worker Grant Program Policy

Newly Called Workers were eligible to receive up to $500.00 for each of their first three years of full-time church work. (Because of the grant's intent, Colloquy/SMP students would not qualify for the funding.)

This grant program provided $16,500 to eleven new workers in our District. The funding for this grant program has run out, but we would like to see if there would be additional ways to provide financial support for our newly placed workers.

Congregational Life Commission Report

During the past triennium, the Congregational Life Commission comprised the following members: Rev. Kent Umbarger, Larry Wachtel, Brian Carr, and Rev. Brendon Harrell. District staff for the Commission was Trip Rodgers, Administrative Assistant to the President in Congregational Life.

Some of the Congregational Life Commission's efforts during this triennium included:

- Review the purpose of the commission based on the District handbook.
- Review the new laws requiring Mandated Reporter Training and Sexual Harassment Prevention Training.
- Approve our District's members attending the Lutheran Youth Fellowship training in St. Louis.
- Discuss methods to promote the Higher Things conferences to our District congregations.
- Appoint DCEs Jonathan Guse (Bethel -Morton) and Christy Malinowski (Trinity-Bloomington) as our District National Youth Gathering Coordinators.
- Work with the Educational Commission to develop the "New Worker Grant Program."
- Receive reports on the Commissioned Workers within our District. (Calls accepted, Calls declined, change of worker status, DCE interns)
- Review information regarding the annual Youth Bible Bowl.
- Review and approve the annual District budget for Education.

Thanks to the Congregational Life Commission members and the Administrative Assistant for their efforts, guidance, and support of parochial education.

(Submitted on the commission's behalf by Trip Rodgers)

District Communication

CID Website. The CID website has been one of our primary ways of communicating with the members of the CID. We are working on maintaining an active and up-to-date website. (CIDLCMS.org) Individuals can sign up to electronically receive the GatePost and News You Can Use by visiting the CID website – then visit the "News Tab". (https://www.cidlcms.org/news-gatepost-newsletter.html).

GatePost:

We continue to use the five-times-a-year format of the GatePost. As we travel in the District, we provide signup sheets for individuals to receive the GatePost and the News You Can Use monthly electronic mailings.

Our current schedule of the GatePost is listed below:

a. February (Stewardship)
b. April (Education)
c. July (Missions)
d. September (Congregational Life)
e. December (Evangelism)

"News You Can Use" Publication:

We release this publication twice a month. This one-page publication is emailed to all the CID congregations and to those who have signed up for GatePost. The NYCU will include short devotions and reminders of various activities and news items.

Social Media

We use our Facebook account to repost useful information from Synod and others for appropriate posts. We also post information that draws attention to events or District information.

Finance and Management Commission Report

The Finance and Management Commission is charged by the District with the responsibility for management of all fiscal and financial affairs of the District. During the 2022–2025 triennium, members of the Commission were Rev. Michael Schuermann, chairman; Mr. Robert Dalton, commission secretary; Mr. Joel Oschwald, Treasurer; Mr. James Frazee, Financial Secretary; Mr. Matt Putnam; and District President Michael Mohr. We have attended to the following major tasks and projects, amongst others:

- Received requests, and then assembled and recommended annual budgets for approval by the CID Board of Directors.
- Studied, recommended, and oversaw the District's transition to new financial/bookkeeping software.
- Created and implemented a new CID Personnel Manual.
- Sought estimates, reviewed, and recommended Property/Liability insurance policies for the District.
- Reviewed and discussed for recommendation various special facilities needs at various CID properties.

The most significant aspect of the commission's work during this triennium has been ongoing discussion about the financial state of the District. The on-paper budget has for many years shown a sizable deficit of expenses compared to income. We've been able to operate under deficit budgets because the District cash reserve has been significantly greater than the budgeted deficit, along with the fact that the annual *actual* deficit is significantly less than the budgeted deficit (though it remains a deficit). Other factors that have allowed deficit budgeting to continue: the Paycheck Protection Program in 2020 helped to boost the District cash reserve at a time when it had grown dangerously small; various personnel vacancies and turnover from older to younger workers (and the consequent smaller salary according to the District Compensation Guidelines) have occurred over the past 5 years; and District leadership and staff have made cuts to administrative expenses and spending wherever possible.

However, ongoing deficit budgets are unsustainable without a significant reduction in the District's budgeted expenses, an increase in income, or the establishment of some other means of

funding the mission. It is likely that District cash reserves will dwindle to dangerous lows within 5–7 years if no changes are made, all current District staff positions (including the currently vacant Deaf Ministry Pastor position) are filled, and no major, unplanned/emergency expenses arise. To put it plainly: at this point budget cuts that will halt the dwindling of reserves will have to include eliminating District staff or mission areas, unless District income increases or other funding sources are put in place.

Admittedly, this is gloomy news to share. We include it for the sake of transparency to the District. We also seek to encourage thoughtful, creative, and prayerful work be done in finding a solution to the District's financial challenges so that we can maintain the services and missions that are currently in place and even be able to look to future expansion of our shared work. The Lord has blessed the Central Illinois District for many years, and we confidently expect Him to continue to provide for His mission here.

In Christ,
Rev. Michael Schuermann
Chairman, Finance and Management Commission

Circuit Visitor Reports

Altamont Circuit- Rev. Ryan Meyer, Circuit Visitor

The Altamont circuit has had a busy Triennium. The pastors of the circuit continue to meet regularly at Winkel on the second Tuesday of each month from September through May, except in October with the Fall Pastors Conference. Currently the pastors are working our way through Walther's Law and Gospel. In November and May, our circuit meets jointly with the Shelby and Effingham Circuits. We have had great tri-circuit meetings with guests like Rev Joel Brondos, who spoke to us about Lutheran Education, Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb who taught us about the St. Louis seminary walk out, and chaplain Rev. Doug Irmer who spoke about serving as a chaplain in the Nebraska Air National Guard. We started also meeting over the summer months in more of a "family style," encouraging wives and children to come as they are able, in order to build relationships among the pastors' families.

A group of pastors meet together weekly at the Altamont Library to study the upcoming pericope texts in Greek with lunch afterward at a local restaurant. Pastors have participated in Wednesday Lenten rotations most years. We continue to have a Circuit Tre-Ore service on Good Friday with a different congregation hosting each year. Each year we host a Reformation Rally in Altamont.

St. Peter's Lutheran School in St. Peter celebrated the school's 150th anniversary in 2022.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Altamont celebrated the congregation's 150th anniversary of in 2024.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Altamont (Blue Point) celebrated the congregation's 155th anniversary in 2024.

Rev. David Hoehler of St. Paul, Shobonier retired in 2024.

Rev. Michael Mohr of Holy Cross, Vandalia was elected CID President at the 2022 District Convention. Holy Cross extended a call to Rev. Brett Cornelius of the Ohio District, who accepted the call and was installed on Father's Day 2023.

Rev. James Wright of Immanuel, Altamont accepted a call the Michigan District in 2024. Immanuel extended a call to Rev. Scott Niermann of the South Wisconsin District, who accepted the call and will in installed in June.

Connie Matthis retired from Altamont Lutheran Interparish School in June of 2025.

We give thanks to God our Father through our Lord Jesus Christ for all the blessings of the past triennium and look forward to the future.

Bloomington- North Circuit, Rev. Jonathan Boehne, Circuit Visitor

Due to the small size of our circuit, we are a visitation circuit and join together with Bloomington South Circuit to form an electoral circuit. We also meet with the Bloomington South for all our winkels on the second Tuesday of each month from September to May. Our meetings consist of worship, study on the upcoming Gospel reading, study in the Confessions OR a topical study, and casuistry.

During the last three years we held multiple circuit meetings on partnerships (3/5/23; 6/11/23; 7/23/23; 9/28/23; 4/2/24). These meetings followed upon other meetings held in the previous triennium which were organized by Rev. Bruce Scarbeary and designed to start conversations for future partnerships.

These partnership meetings were especially initiated by Rev. Jeremy Latzke accepting a call and departing from St. Paul Lutheran in Chenoa in July 2022, and also in preparation for the retirements of Rev. Peter Glock (Wenona/Varna) at the end of 2023 and Rev. Joseph Burns (Eureka) at the end of 2024. This all resulted in many changes within our circuit as detailed in each congregation's section below. We give thanks to God for His continued grace in our area, for faithful pastors and laypeople, and for opportunities to partner together.

Chenoa, St. Paul – Rev. Jeremy Latzke accepted a call to St. John's Lutheran Church in Algonquin, IL and departed in July 2022. Rev. Kyle Ronchetto from Lexington served the vacancy by leading Sunday Divine Service and Rev. Michael Peters assisted with visitation during the vacancy. After multiple calls issued and declined to pastors in the field, St. Paul entered into discussion with St. Paul in Lexington regarding the formation of a dual parish. On June 2, 2024, President Mohr presided over a service for the formation of a dual parish between St. Paul Chenoa and St. Paul Lexington and Rev. Kyle Ronchetto was installed as pastor of the dual parish. As part of the agreement, Pastor Ronchetto relocated to the parsonage in Chenoa.

El Paso, Trinity – Rev. Jonathan Boehne continues to serve at Trinity. In 2022 they celebrated their 75th anniversary with a special service. In 2024 they dedicated a new Rodgers 351 organ in memory of their former music director, Donna Parkhouse.

Eureka, Our Redeemer – Rev. Joseph Burns retired at the end of 2024 after 19 years of faithful service. He agreed to serve the vacancy until the end of May 2025. As of this writing, Our Redeemer is submitting an application for a seminary graduate.

La Rose, Trinity – On November 5, 2023, the members of Trinity Lutheran in La Rose held a service with the Rite of Disposition of a church building with President Mohr presiding. They then proceeded to St. Paul Lutheran in Varna for a service with the Rite of Merger. Their cemetery in La Rose remains and is under the supervision of St. Paul Varna.

Roanoke, Trinity – Rev. Bruce Scarbeary continues to serve at Trinity. They suffered hail damage in a storm on March 31, 2023 and subsequently had extensive repairs to the roof and siding. They continue to operate Trinity Lutheran Preschool. In 2024 they held multiple meetings regarding dual and tri-parish partnerships in order to assist Eureka (see notes on St. John Secor below). However, they presently continue to operate faithfully as a sole parish.

Secor, St. John – Rev. Michael Peters continues to serve as pastor of St. John. As noted above, the congregations of Our Redeemer Eureka, Trinity Roanoke, and St. John Secor held multiple meetings in 2024 discussing the possibility of a tri-parish partnership to assist Eureka after the retirement of Pastor Burns. In the end, the current situation for all three wasn't found to be advantageous for a tri-parish and St. John continues to operate faithfully as a single parish.

Washburn, St. John / Wenona, Zion / Varna, St. Paul – A special service of thanksgiving was held on December 3, 2023 on the retirement of Rev. Peter Glock after serving the dual-parish of Varna and Wenona for 29 years. After his retirement, Rev. Mark Gruden took up vacancy duties at Varna and Rev. Jonathan Boehne filled the vacancy in Wenona. After many meetings and discussions in the first half of 2024, an agreement was made to form a tri-parish. On June 29, 2024, during the Divine Service, the Rite of the Formation of a Tri-Parish was held along with the Rite of Installation for Rev. Mark Gruden as pastor.

Bloomington-South Circuit, Rev. Andrew Smith, Circuit Visitor

Due to the small size of our circuit, we are a visitation circuit and join together with Bloomington North Circuit to form an electoral circuit. We also meet with the Bloomington North Circuit for all our circuit meetings on the second Tuesday of each month from September to May. Our meetings consist of worship, study on the upcoming Gospel reading, study in the Confessions or a topical study, and casuistry.

During the last three years we have held multiple circuit meetings on partnerships (3/5/23; 6/11/23; 7/23/23; 9/28/23; 4/2/24). These meetings followed upon other meetings held in the previous triennium which were organized by Rev. Bruce Scarbeary and designed to start conversations for future partnerships.

We give thanks to God for His continued grace in our area, for faithful pastors and laypeople, and for opportunities to partner together.

Rev. Jon Huehn, Christ Lutheran Church, Normal, Circuit Visitor, accepted a call to serve Redeemer, Manitowoc, WI, and departed October, 2024.

Rev. Andrew Smith was nominated by District President Michael Mohr in September, 2024, to fill the remainder of Pastor Huehn's term as Circuit Visitor.

Trinity, Bloomington – Rev. David McBurney was installed as senior pastor in November of 2023. Rev. Chuck Bahn continues to serve at Trinity.

Christ, Normal -- Rev. Jon Huehn accepted a call to serve Redeemer, Manitowoc, WI, and departed October, 2024. Rev. Timohty Fitzner continues to serve at Christ.

Our Redeemer, Bloomington -- After nearly two and half years of pastoral vacancy, Rev. Andrew Smith was extended a call to serve in March and was installed on May 5th, 2024.

Good Shepherd, Bloomington -- Rev. Chad Lueck continues to serve at Good Shepherd.

Zion, Danvers and Good Shepherd, Minier -- Rev. Frank Zimmerman continues to serve this dual parish.

St. Paul, Lexington and St. Paul, Chenoa -- Rev. Kyle Ranchetto was installed to serve the newly formed dual parish on June 2, 2024.

Champaign Circuit, Rev. Michael Stoerger, Circuit Visitor

The Champaign Circuit of the Central Illinois district has been busy like any other circuit within the LCMS. First of all, we meet monthly with the Iroquois Circuit in Winkel. During this triennium we have had many diverse exegetical and topical studies. During the 2022/23 year we

had various exegetical studies on upcoming texts from the lectionary. For a topical study we read George Henry Gerberding's book "The Lutheran Pastor." This led us in discussions of theology and practices, including but not limited to worship and visitation.

During the 2023/24 year we held exegetical studies on the book of Ephesians and a topical study on Walther's Church and Office. We specifically focused on the Office section for this study.

During the 2024/25 year we have been studying The Formula of Concord for our topical study and our exegetical study has focused on texts that are in both the 3-year and 1-year lectionary series.

We held a Circuit Forum during this triennium to elect delegates to the 2023 LCMS Synodical Convention in Milwaukee. Our pastoral delegate was Rev. Michael Schuermann from University Lutheran in Champaign and Mr. Mark Hamm from Trinity Lutheran in Danville served as our lay delegate.

During this triennium, Rev. Michael Schuermann served as our Circuit Visitor until January of 2025. He was asked to serve a vacancy on the Board for National Mission and had to step down from his Circuit Visitor position. At that time Rev. Mohr appointed Rev. Michael Stoerger to fill out the remainder of his term.

The following is an update provided by a few of the congregations in our circuit:

Peace Lutheran Church, Thomasboro, IL

- Peace Lutheran has been working a lot on Evangelism outreach to our community. We held what we called the "Good News Egg Hunt" that allowed us to invite families to the church to tell them about the Gospel of Jesus and the true meaning of Easter.
- We held three Summer outreach events with food, games, bounce houses, handouts, and the like to tell our community that we are here and that we want to tell them about the joy of having Christ in your life.
- We also have worked to make our facilities more energy efficient and more accessible for our elderly members. We had a small building project to install a lift type elevator so that our Fellowship Hall, where we hold Bible Class, meals, and meetings, would be accessible for people who could no longer walk up and down stairs.
- And, of course, we continue to hold worship, Bible Study, Sunday School, and other opportunities to hear to message of Jesus Christ and build and strengthen faith.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Danville, IL

- Trinity continues the Comfort Dog Ministry.
- We are reviving our work with the deaf.
- Since the last convention, 7 Trinity Lutheran School (TLS) students have traveled to the font to be born again of water and the Spirit. 4 grandparents of TLS students have been taught the Lord's words and have become communicant members of Trinity. 1 individual was received through affirmation of faith through our school and her husband is being instructed. 2 teenage men who attended, but never graduated from TLS, returned to complete their instruction and were confirmed early in 2025.

University Lutheran Church, Champaign, IL

During the 2022–2025 triennium, God's mission here at University Lutheran has been thriving. We've had several baptisms, confirmed or received by affirmation of faith over 20 young adults, and we've been sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with hundreds of American and international students. Midweek, Sunday, and Beta Sigma Psi Bible studies have seen significant attendance (approximately

40–50% of our Service attendees make use of at least one Bible study). We've hosted 2 conferences for Lutheran young adults to meet, pray, study, and get to know one another. We are preparing to begin hosting an annual LCMSU regional event. Several facilities upgrades have taken place over the past 3 years, including replacing our Sanctuary air conditioning and installing new air conditioning in some of our common use areas. This is much appreciated by all. Because this congregation is also a mission congregation of the District, there is a more significant report about us to be found in the Mission Commission report elsewhere in the Workbook.

St. John's, Champaign—St. John's is celebrating its 170th year, having opened its doors in 1855! Its Lutheran school has celebrated over 40 years of Lutheran education in the Champaign community. Rev. Jeff Caithamer continues to serve as pastor. Mrs. Cheryl Black currently serves as St. John's principal with many years of experience in local Christian schools. She has her Master's Degree in education administration from Concordia University, Chicago. She began at St. John's in August of 2023. St. John's former principal, Mr. Jonathan Kamin, resigned from his position in February 2023. St. John's is blessed to continue to be a solid Lutheran presence in the Champaign-Urbana area and continues to look for opportunities to share the Gospel with those who come in and out of this academic and farming community.

Decatur Circuit, Rev. David Bueltmann, Circuit Visitor

The Decatur Circuit has only two vacancies and these are part-time positions caring for the saints at Risen Savior at Buffalo and those worshiping at Mt. Zion in Mt. Zion since Pastor Robert Bruer retired again. The other congregations have their pastors in place. However, Mt. Calvary no longer has a vicar.

The circuit meets on the second Tuesday from ten to twelve noon from September to May. The pastors of the circuit take turns leading either a pericope study or a topical subject at these meetings. Mutual encouragement and edification is enjoyed and shared by all. We have also had discussions about how to reach out to more people in our area of God's kingdom.

Unity Christian School, which the Lutheran School Association has adopted for the school's name rather than LSA, continues to do well. There has been a shift in duties which has helped to stabilize the school. The five Decatur congregations support and maintain the school.

Effingham Circuit, Rev. Steven Becker, Circuit Visitor

The Lord has shown His steadfast love to the congregations of the Effingham Circuit.

The dual Parish of Trinity, Casey and Our Redeemer, Robinson received a servant in Rev. Adrian Piazza in April 2023 after a vacancy of about four and a half years.

In February 2023 the Rev. Stephen Rutherford accepted a call to congregations in Missouri. It left a vacancy not only at St. John's, Louisville, but also in the role of Circuit Visitor and LWML Zone Counselor.

There were only three active pastors in the circuit at the time, one being new, the second being a District Vice President, and the third serving three congregations and with a large family. The District President appointed the Rev. Steven Becker to serve as Circuit Visitor with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Pastor Becker also assumed the role of LWML Zone Counselor, since his wife, Esther, is the Zone President and Faith, Shumway where they are members was vacant until March 2025.

Pastor Becker, after finishing service to the Dual Parish of Casey and Robinson, took on the role of Vacancy Pastor for St. John's, Louisville, until the installation of Rev. Emmet Bartens in January 2025.

St. John's, Effingham served by Rev. Mike Burdick received an additional servant as associate pastor in candidate Rev. Trey Dille in June 2024.

The dual parish of St. Paul, Wheeler and St. John, Dieterich has been faithfully served by Rev. Dean Herberts. Pastor Herberts also continues to serve the vacancy of Grace, Dieterich.

The vacancy at Good Shepherd in Newton has been faithfully filled by Rev. Earl Brown.

The vacancy at Our Savior, Lawrenceville is being served by Rev. Thomas Kramer from Mt. Carmel.

The brothers of the Circuit continue to meet monthly from September to May with the brothers of the Shelby Circuit. Though in the months of November and May they include also the brothers of the Altamont Circuit.

Iroquois Circuit, Rev. H. Douglas Minton, Circuit Visitor

Circuit Overview

The Iroquois Circuit meets together for monthly Winkels with the Champaign Circuit. Our exegetical studies in the last triennium have included 1 Peter, Ephesians and festival Gospel readings which appear in both the one-year and three-year lectionaries. Our topical studies have included the Formula of Concord, Walther's *Church and Ministry*, and George Henry Gerberding's *The Lutheran Pastor*. The discussions in each of these studies have helped us sharpen ourselves and each other.

Our Circuit was represented at the 2023 Synodical Convention by Rev. Aaron Uphoff (Calvary, Watseka) and Larry Abbe (St. John, Buckley). While at the Convention, Mr. Abbe got the ball rolling for Rev. Dr. Michael Ziegler, Lutheran Hour speaker, to be present at a special service at St. John's, Buckley, on March 9, 2025.

This triennium has been relatively quiet, but most of our congregations and all of our schools have reached milestones in the years of their ministry in our corner of the Central Illinois District.

St. John, Buckley

St. John is shepherded by Rev. Kevin Wyckoff. The Church and School will reach 155 years of ministry in Buckley this year. The school has 113 students enrolled in Pre-K through eighth grade. Christ Lutheran High School in Buckley reached 25 years of ministry in 2022. They have thirteen students enrolled in ninth through twelfth grades.

Trinity, Cissna Park/St. John, Ash Grove

Trinity and St. John are shepherded by Rev. Dale Fjordbotten, who was installed on May 7, 2023. That same year, Trinity reached 95 years of ministry in Cissna Park. The year before, St. John's reached 135 years of ministry outside Cissna Park.

This year, the congregations have begun a multi-year effort to reach out to roughly five hundred people. They began by studying *Connected to Christ – Why Membership Matters* in Bible study.

Good Shepherd, Hoopeston/Immanuel, Idaville

Rev. Philip Callahan accepted a Call to Faith Lutheran Church in Corning, NY, in March 2022. Rev. David Putz was the vacancy pastor from May 2022 until April 2023, when he accepted a Call to Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Crawfordsville, IN. Rev. Doug Minton has been the vacancy pastor since April 2023. Immanuel reached 140 years of ministry outside Cissna Park in 2022.

In late 2024, Good Shepherd partnered with a local daycare to utilize space in the building to allow the daycare room to expand.

Immanuel, Loda/St. Peter, Thawville
Rev. Earl Kinnee continues to supply the pulpits for these non-calling congregations. Immanuel reached 75 years of ministry in Loda in 2024.

Our Savior, Milford
Our Savior is shepherded by Rev. Doug Minton, who also serves as the Iroquois Circuit Visitor. The congregation celebrated their 90th anniversary on February 6, 2022, recognizing that date as when Our Savior was constituted as a congregation. The congregation continues to minister not only in person but also online and through their radio ministry, which celebrated its 1600th weekly broadcast on September 3, 2023 and thirty years of broadcasting on February 28, 2023. God willing, we will celebrate our 1700th broadcast on August 3, 2025.

Calvary, Watseka
Calvary is shepherded by Rev. Aaron Uphoff. The congregation will reach 95 years of ministry in Watseka this year. Calvary Lutheran Preschool reached 40 years of ministry in 2024. They have 58 students enrolled.

St. Paul, Woodworth
St. Paul Lutheran Church and School are shepherded by Rev. Michael Ruhlig. The Church and School celebrated their 150th anniversary throughout 2022. The school has about 100 students enrolled in Pre-K through eighth grades.

Jacksonville Circuit, Rev. Brian Lesemann, Circuit Visitor

By God's grace our pastors have been able to meet each Tuesday for exegetical study using the original texts. We have hosted winkles the first Tuesday of each month with Divine service followed by exegetical and topical study. We also met the last Thursday of each month for Confessions Study at St. John's Bath where pastors from several circuits attended.
Trinity, Arenzeville - Over the previous three years, Trinity has continued the work of the school and celebrated 150 years of ministry. God has blessed that work and the school has grown. They are also in the process of forming a dual parish with St Paul's, Chapin. Our prayers are that God blesses this new ministry.

St. John's, Bath - In October of 2024 St. John's celebrated its 175th Anniversary with guest Pastor Arthur Schauer (1970 to 1975). In the afternoon Service of Thanksgiving President Mohr preached and we were blessed with a special music by organist Brenda Donoho. We still host our quarterly mission meals and are very thankful to all congregations in the district who come and support them.

Salem, Chandlerville – We are blessed at Salem as baptized believers to be able to meet to hear God's word and receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

St. John's, Beardstown - The past three years have seen many changes at St. John's Beardstown even as our Lord and His gifts remain unchanging. After the passing of Rev. Brian Homann in 2021, God blessed us with the calling of CTSFW graduate Rev. Keith Kettner, who was ordained and installed in June 2022. In December 2022, the pastor and elders officially decided to offer every Sunday Communion. 2023 was the 175th anniversary of St. John's, with three celebrations throughout the year Rev. Phillip Fischaber, emeritus Rev. John E. Johnson, and son of the congregation Rev. Joshua Frazee preaching. In September 2023, the pastor and elders decided to make confirmation family oriented by having the head of household attend class. October 2024 was another time for celebration at the Baptism of Noah, a child attending our bimonthly Spanish

services with Rev. Pablo Dominguez. Finally, starting in December 2024, St. John's now offers matins every single day at 9:00. We give thanks and pray that God will continue to richly bless us in the years ahead.

Salem, Jacksonville - Despite a prolonged vacancy, Salem thrived, sustained by faithful lay leadership, visiting pastors, and regular worship. The school saw remarkable growth with a new principal, and a dedicated Deaconess revitalized outreach, notably through the Swaddling Clothes Ministry. New members joined, and the Evangelism Committee continued its vital Friendship Bible Classes. Financially, a successful capital campaign, spearheaded by the Ladies Guild, significantly reduced our mortgage. Finally, in 2024, we welcomed a new pastor, a recent seminary graduate, who has been a blessing, leading us in worship and guiding the school. God's grace has been evident throughout.

St. John's, Rushville and First Lutheran, Mount Sterling – These congregations have opted to meet together on Thursday evenings at the First Lutheran location. For many years they were served by the late Rev. Tom Baker. However, after his passing circuits pastors worked together to preach until a more stable arrangement could be made. Currently they are being served by Pastor Dierks of Arenzville.

Trinity, Bluffs and Christ, Winchester – We continue to be served part-time by Rev. Richard R. Harre (Emeritus) of Springfield. Divine worship services are held where the Word of God and the Gospel of Christ is proclaimed and the Sacraments are administered. Trinity hosted the Jacksonville Circuit Reformation Service in 2023 with President as the preacher and special music by members of the Jacksonville symphony and members of Our Redeemer choir.

Lincoln Circuit, Rev. David Dunlop, Circuit Visitor

Zion Lutheran - Lincoln, IL

Over the course of the last triennium Zion Lincoln has continued to labor in the Lord's harvest fields. Our congregation has had 17 infant and child baptisms and two adult baptisms; 9 Jr. confirmands and 4 adult confirmands. 1 wedding was conducted, 29 saints were called to glory and we sadly lost 54 members to moving out of town, transferring to another LCMS congregation or granted a release. Zion Lutheran School welcomed Dr. Stephen parry as our principal and this the year of 2025 the school will celebrate its 50 th anniversary.

Faith Lutheran - Lincoln, IL

The saints of Faith Lutheran Church have completed a years long project to completely refurbish the building. New furniture, paint, carpet, and lights have now graced each and every room of the church building. Pastor Clarence Rogers retired from his service to Faith, and Pastor John Johnson served as the interim pastor from '22-'24. Having called a candidate from the Fort Wayne Seminary, Faith Lutheran installed Rev. Noah Kerstein in July of 2024.

Zion Lutheran - Mt. Pulaski, IL

Over the last triennium, Zion Lutheran Church & School in Mt. Pulaski has been blessed by God to accomplish much! During that time our congregation has had 12 baptisms, three weddings, confirmed 14 youth and two adults, and saw 14 saints enter eternal rest. In our school over the past three years we've had an average enrollment of 73 and have graduated 13 students. Next year, in 2026, we will be celebrating our 175th anniversary as a church and school.

Zion Lutheran - Chestnut, IL

The saints at Zion have been richly blessed in the Lord as they continue to rejoice in Jesus' death and resurrection. There have been eight baptisms, four youth confirmations, twelve members received through adult confirmation, one wedding, and three members who now rest from their labor in the Lord's nearer presence. The saints at Zion have remodeled and updated nearly every room of the church building, installed a new audio and system, restored the stained glass windows throughout the church, and installed new HV AC units.

Christ Lutheran - Clinton, IL

Christ Lutheran has continued to rejoice in receiving the Lord Jesus' promises. We have celebrated three baptisms and one wedding, and two members now rest in the church triumphant.

Zion Lutheran - New Holland, IL

The saints at Zion, New Holland have been richly blessed in the Lord as they continue to rejoice in Jesus' death and resurrection. There has been one baptism, six members received through adult confirmation, and three members who now rest from their labor in the Lord's nearer presence. The saints at Zion have updated the parsonage with a new furnace, air conditioner unit, ceiling lights, electrical outlets, and fresh paint inside. Zion formed a dual parish agreement with Christ Lutheran of Mason City.

Christ Lutheran - Mason City, IL

The saints at Christ, Mason City have been richly blessed in the Lord as they continue to rejoice in Jesus' death and resurrection. There have been eight baptisms, seven members received through adult confirmation, two youth confirmations, and seven members who now rest from their labor in the Lord's nearer presence. The saints at Christ have updated the parsonage: fresh paint throughout the inside, updated bathrooms, installed an egress window in the basement, installed new HV AC system and water heater, cleaned the ducts, installed new flooring, new washer and dryer. Christ Lutheran formed a dual parish agreement with Zion Lutheran of New Holland.

St. Luke Lutheran - San Jose, IL

Over the past three years, St. Luke, San Jose, IL has worshipped regularly. Our major event was when Pastor Jacob accepted the call to Ironwood, Michigan. Other events are the annual summer VBS, summer ice cream social, and December soup supper. St. Luke annually supports Kenya Kids, Adopt a Student, and Nathan & Sarah Federwitz at Lutheran Bible Translators. Several men from St. Luke join in a winter Bible Study with some men at St. Paul & Trinity, Manito.

Christ Lutheran - Delavan, IL

Christ Lutheran Church was chartered in 1957 and has been in a dual parish agreement with St. Luke Lutheran Church, San Jose for greater than 25 years. Our average Sunday worship service attendance is approximately 20 (down after Covid). Installation of church council officers occurs yearly in January. Our only building project was installation of a new GEO Thermal unit, paid completely by church membership donations in April of 2023. Christmas at Christ is a community event we host each December featuring a sausage sale, baked goods sale (all proceeds donated) and live, local holiday music.

St. Paul's Lutheran & Trinity Lutheran - Manito, IL

St. Paul's, Manito celebrated the retirement of Pastor James Batchelor in November of 2022 after six years of faithful service. Trinity and St. Paul's, Manito began discussions to form a Dual Parish in March of 2023. Thanks to the grace of God and the faithfulness of each congregation's Bd. of Elders a Dual Parish Agreement was presented to and accepted by each congregation in October

of 2023. On November 5 th , 2023 Pastor Matt Berndt (Trinity's incumbent pastor) was installed as the Pastor of the new Dual Parish.

St. Paul's Lutheran - Havana, IL

Rev. Ian Heinze was installed July 2, 2022. Throughout the last triennium, St. Paul's Lutheran Church has rejoiced in fifteen baptisms, five weddings, and eight confirmations. We await the day of Christ's return to wipe every tear from our eyes, as we have buried seventeen of the Lord's saints. We are currently coming to the conclusion of refurbishing the church's interior, as the Year of Our Lord 2025 is the 175th anniversary of St. Paul's.

Lincoln Circuit

The Lincoln Circuit was blessed by continued Word and Sacrament ministry. Rev. David Dunlop of Christ Lutheran in Clinton and Zion Lutheran in Chestnut served as circuit visitor. Kenny Trimpe of St. Paul's in Havana and Rev. Mark Thompson of Zion in Lincoln served as delegates to the Synodical convention in 2023. Each year during the triennium we worshipped together on Reformation Sunday at Zion Lutheran in Lincoln. Preachers at the joint service included Rev. James Batchelor in 2022 shortly before his retirement, President Rev. Michael Mohr in 2023, and Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb in 2024. In addition to diligent study of God's Word the circuit pastors finished their review of the Solid Declaration, read "Deliver Us" written by Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, and reflected on the Synod's past in the book "Rediscovering the Issues Surrounding the 1974 Concordia Seminary Walkout." We are planning to meet with the Jacksonville Circuit in May for a spring pastors' retreat at Camp CILCA.

Mattoon Circuit, Rev. Dan Ulrich, Circuit Visitor

The Mattoon Circuit saw several changes during this past triennium, but even in the midst of those changes, the same Gospel Good News of Christ crucified for us and for our salvation was proclaimed. Rev. Matthew Montgomery, St. Paul's Sadorus, served as Circuit Visitor at the beginning of this past triennium, until he took a call in late 2023 to Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, to serve as an Advancement Officer. At that time, Pres. Mohr appointed Rev. Daniel Ulrich, St. Paul's Mattoon, as Circuit Visitor.

The Mattoon Circuit also welcomed three retired pastors into the circuit: Rev. William Deuy, Rev. Richard Salcido, and Rev. Paul Doberstein. All three are members at Grace in Paris and have been a blessing to our circuit, helping with pulpit supply at various times. We've met monthly for Winkels where we studied the Book of Proverbs and Luther's 1535 Lectures on Galatians. Rev. Andrew Herzberg, St. John's Mattoon, and Mr. George Griffin, Grace Paris, served as delegates to the 2023 Synod Convention.

We held our Circuit Forum on February 16, 2025 at Immanuel Tuscola. At the forum, Rev. Daniel Ulrich was elected as Circuit Visitor, and Rev. Michael Burdick, 2nd VP CID, was there to give a presentation on the possible capital campaign to support our specialized missions in the CID.

Specific congregational reports are as follows:

Broadlands, Immanuel

Rev. John Sharp continues to serve God's saints at Immanuel. During this past triennium, the congregation at Immanuel granted Pastor Sharp a three month leave of absence, after which he returned to his duties. Immanuel is also in the process of calling an Associate Pastor.

Charleston, Immanuel

Rev. Ken Hoover retired on June 30, 2024 after serving God's people at Immanuel over 20 years. Thanks be to God for his service! Pastor Daniel Ulrich is serving as vacancy pastor. The saints of Immanuel continue to serve the people of Charleston in various ways; making quilts for Lutheran World Relief and the local Choices Pregnancy Center; Rachel, our Comfort Dog, visits local senior housing, schools, and other places in time of need; Immanuel helps sponsor the Matthew 25 Homeless living facility, and supports the local Coalition of People in Need; and Meals on Wheels. Immanuel's pre-school serves 70+ students. Immanuel also provides Campus Ministry to students at Eastern Illinois University with pastor-led bible studies on Mondays and "Unwind Wednesday" social gatherings.

Mattoon, St. John

Rev. Andrew Herzberg continues to serve as pastor at St. John's. St. John's continues to expand and grow its school, teaching and sharing the love of Christ with almost 400 students. Construction for a new school building began in 2023, and was completed for the 2024-2025 school year. The new building has classrooms for grades 4-8, and the new high school, which currently has students in grades 9 and 10, and will add grade 11 next year.

Mattoon, St. Paul's

Rev. Daniel Ulrich was installed at St. Paul's in July 2022. During this past triennium, St. Paul held a celebration giving thanks and glory to God for their organist Janet Homann, who retired after playing the organ for 80 years! St. Paul also resumed hosting their annual community benefit dinner. In 2024, the Ladies Aide hosted the LWML Champaign Zone Fall rally.

Paris, Grace

Rev. Daniel Smith continues to serve God's people at Grace in Paris. Grace continues to serve the community of Paris through their Werner Childhood Development Center and the Grace Lutheran Village.

Sadorus, St. Paul

In 2023, Rev. Matthew Montgomery took a call to CTSFW. Rev. Michael Stoerger, Peace Thomasboro, is serving as the vacancy pastor. St. Paul continues to serve their community through their Noah's Ark Preschool.

Tuscola, Immanuel

Rev. Jason Braaten continues to serve God's people at Immanuel. During this last triennium, Immanuel has focused on reaching out to their community in a variety of ways. First, Pastor Braaten has been canvassing the town to invite people to church. Second, in 2023, they started a conference focused on bringing people together in the community of different denominational backgrounds and inquirers to hear the answers that God provides for the questions that everyone deals with. Third, we began advertising special times and seasons of the church with large signs and articles in the newspaper. Lastly, we hope to expand our engagement of the community this summer in canvassing with the addition of a summer fieldworker from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Peoria Circuit, Rev. Karl Eckhoff, Circuit Visitor

God is gracious. The past triennium has seen the departure or retirement of several called workers within the Peoria Circuit.

After Terry Mooney's retirement from Christ Lutheran, Peoria, CLS was blessed to have Mr. Nat Schmidtke accept the call to be Christ Lutheran's next principal. Nat began the 2023-24 school year.

In January 2023, principal Paul Thompson accepted a call to be principal at Peace Lutheran School, Antigo, WI. In May of that same year, Mr. Drew Monkemeyer accepted a call to be the next principal at Concordia Lutheran School, Peoria, IL.

Rev. Aaron Hickey was called from the seminary to be an associate pastor at Redeemer Lutheran in Peoria; and most recently, he has accepted a call to serve Hale's Corners Lutheran in Wisconsin.

In the summer of 2023, Pastor Michael Liese accepted a call to Kentucky. The congregation extended a divine call to Pastor Michael G. Wagnitz in the Spring of 2024. He accepted this call on Easter 2024 and was installed on Pentecost Sunday.

At St Paul, Kewanee Pastor Burnell Eckardt retired in June of 2024 and after a short vacancy Pastor Winston Grieser accepted the congregation's call and was installed December 23, 2024.

Ministry Highlights

Redeemer, Peoria celebrated the 75th anniversary of the congregation and the 25th anniversary of the present campus. They built and dedicated a pavilion and established a trail ,complete with plastic cards and QR codes on posts to provide scripture for meditation.

Trinity, Peoria started to host a yearly Peoria-Tazewell Reformation Hymn Festival accompanied by an Octoberfest meal in October of 2023. And in September of 2024, a monthly Lutheran Young Adult Fellowship for ages 20-35 from the CID.

Mt. Calvary, Peoria celebrated its 90th anniversary with a catered meal and many guests from years gone by.

Quincy Circuit, Rev. Matthew Riley, Circuit Visitor

The Quincy circuit meets on the first Tuesday of the month September through May. We rotate between six of our churches for our meeting location. We begin with the Divine Service, and move into an exegetical study, followed by a topic study and lunch. We meet from 9 – 1 p.m. and have great attendance.

Rev. Mark Jauss (Concordia and St.Paul) attended the Synodical Convention as our circuit pastoral delegate and Zachary Clark (St. James Lutheran) attended as our circuit lay delegate. They reported through the Winkel and helped to guide discussion on action items from the convention.

We recently (February 2025) had our circuit convocation at Immanuel, Macomb, centered around the topic of "Catechesis After Confirmation." Rev. Dr. Timothy Fitzner presented. Everyone walked away with renewed excitement about studying the confessions with our congregations. We had a small group of attendees, but feedback was very positive. Following the convocation (9a-12p), we held our circuit forum. Rev. Mark Eddy presented on the need for mission funding and support. Rev. Matt Riley was elected circuit visitor.

Concordia Lutheran Church, Warsaw, IL (Rev. Mark Jauss) continues to be a blessing to the faithful that gather around God's Word and Sacrament. They host one Winkel a year. They continue to operate in a dual-parish agreement with St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bowen, IL.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Golden, IL (Vacant) has been vacant since July 2023. Their vacancy had been served by Rev. Michael Wagnitz until he accepted a call to St. Paul, Brimfield, IL in May 2024. They have been served by Rev. Matt Riley since June 2024. Holy Cross continues

to serve their community in many ways including regularly volunteering at the West Central Illinois Community Center. They will have a large confirmation class of nine in March 2025.

Immanuel Lutheran Church and Student Center, Macomb, IL (Rev. Chris Hull) was vacant for nearly four years until Pastor Hull accepted the call and was installed December 2023. Immanuel hosted our convocation and continues to host Winkels throughout the year. Pastor Hull has worked hard at the student center seeing great outcomes from his catechesis, resulting in confirmations of WIU students. Pastor Hull, his wife Allison, and their 6 children have been a welcome blessing to Immanuel.

The Lutheran Church of St. John, Quincy, IL (Rev. Steve Hayden) serves the community with grace overflowing. They serve as the body of Christ is many ways. LCOSJ hosts a food pantry, "Open Hands," every Thursday morning as well as engages others outside their congregation to help in their quarterly mobile food pantries. Pastor Hayden just returned recently (February 2025) from a week-long trip to Guatemala to serve with an organization called Hope for Home. St. John is served in worship by their called DPM Noah Boudreau. LCOSJ hosts gatherings of our Winkel. They regularly host youth gatherings for Jr. and Sr. High youth from the three congregations.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Quincy, IL (Rev. Martin Eden) continues to gather faithfully around Word and Sacrament. Our Redeemer shares the responsibility of hosting some of our monthly Winkels. Our Redeemer, as well as LCOSJ, support children and youth from their congregation in attending St. James Lutheran School. Our Redeemer also engages generously with mission work in Uganda. In late March 2025, Our Redeemer will host a zoom meeting with Rev. Peter Maganda from the Lutheran Church of Uganda to gain insight on updates to their new residential school and ministry efforts in Uganda.

St. James Lutheran Church, Quincy, IL (Rev. Matt Riley) had nearly a two-year vacancy being served by Rev. Marlin Rempfer. Pastor Riley served as Vicar Riley from July 2022 to June 2023, when he was ordained and installed as pastor. Pastor Rempfer officially retired in June 2024. Pastor Rempfer continues to serve by visiting shut-ins. Our circuit school, St. James Lutheran, continues to be a blessing to our churches and community. Currently there are just over 100 students enrolled. St. James is about to celebrate 175 years of ministry in 2026, kicked off with a sanctuary renovation to begin in December 2025.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bowen, IL (Rev. Mark Jauss) continues to be a blessing to the faithful that gather around God's Word and Sacrament. They host one Winkel a year. They continue to operate in a dual-parish agreement with Concordia Lutheran Church, Warsaw, IL.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pittsfield, IL (Vacant) has been vacant for several years after the retirement of Rev. Stephen Southward. Pastor Southward entered eternal glory in July 2023. St. Paul is being served by Rev. Dr. Abjar Bahkou of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Rock Island Circuit, Rev. Tim Nerud, Circuit Visitor

I. Parish Reports

A. Cristo Rey, East Moline

The congregation has 28 baptized members, which includes 18 active communicants. Average Sunday attendance is 18. CR is currently working on establishing an endowment with the Lutheran Legacy Foundation. This endowment will be in the name of Hispanic Ministry. The initial investment of $10,000 will be made by Cristo Rey. The congregation's Mission Commitment to CID for 2025 is $1,100 as well as a "rebate" in the amount of $10,000. It should be noted that the CID is supporting the prison ministry at the East Moline

Correctional Center with $5,000. Bible Studies at the prison are in Spanish with an average weekly attendance of 15 men. We also received help from LWML-CID for the purchase of Spanish' Bibles and Bible Study books. We received a grant from CEF to continue our one-hour radio ministry on Saturdays at 7 a.m. on Radio Station KALA. The program is called Christ for Today's Family. The estimated listening audience is 4,000-5,000. Cristo Rey members participate in the distribution of Christian material and CR information at the July 4th and September 15th parades, USA and Mexico Independence Day respectively. These are in East Moline.

B. Faith, Kewanee

Faith Lutheran Church in Kewanee rejoices to celebrate word and sacrament every Sunday.

C. Mount Calvary, Galesburg

By God's grace, a Word and Sacrament ministry continues at Mt Calvary in Galesburg served by Pastor Steven Sommerer entering his 8th year at the congregation. The congregation typically has between 75-95 in attendance most weeks. Mt Calvary has operated a preschool in Galesburg for over 50 years under new Director Kayla Bird with teachers Melanie Sommerer and Cassandra Hunt. The preschool enrollment lagged greatly this year with the state offering free preschool for eligible children. Enrollment for the coming year seems to be more promising. Most of those enrolled are not members of the congregation, though some have become members through our preschool, and a few more will soon be baptized into Christ. The congregation has been engaged in a capital campaign over the last couple of years to accomplish much needed renovation of church and school facilities. It is expected that capital improvement projects will begin piecemeal in an effort to avoid taking out considerable debt. After 32 years congregational president Tim Laugeson will step back for a time with Robert Nichols assuming that role. Mt Calvary has been blessed with energetic leaders attempting to address issues of aging facilities in need of maintenance. The youth program has been blessed to participate in a new circuit youth group started by Pastor Astrowski and lay leaders at Immanuel and continues to enjoy the circuit Bible Bowl competitions each year. Like other congregations Mt Calvary is "graying" with a small number of young families. We continue to believe that God will lead and bless His people in the coming triennium, even as He has in the past. Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum. To God alone be the glory!

D. St. John’s, Geneseo

Under God’s gracious provision, the Word and Sacrament ministry continues at St. John’s, Geneseo (Edford Township) with Pastor Timothy Nerud beginning his sixth year of serving the congregation. We have begun reading an article of the Augsburg Confession as part of our Service of Prayer and Preaching once a month. We continue our regular support for a current seminarian (switching between the two seminaries), Cristo Rey in East Moline (our sister congregation, Rev. Jonathan Clausing who is an LCMS missionary in Tanzania, and our local Pregnancy Resources. In addition, we participate in the district’s *A Dollar for Missions* program as well as making collections for LCMS Disaster Relief, Concordia Lutheran Academy, and other community mercy work organizations. While a small group, our LWML meets regularly and supports various missions through their mites. We put out Thanksgiving baskets with food and pantry items for those whom we are informed have a financial need. We put on a metal roof after our previous (non-metal) one was damaged by

wind and hail. Our pastor currently serves as both the Rock Island Circuit Visitor as well as the LWML Rock Island Zone Counselor.

E. Trinity, Coal Valley

Pastor David Anderson was installed as our Pastor on October 6, 2019 and continues to lead the congregation by the Word and by example. In addition to two weekend services, he also posts sermons and midweek services online with the help of his wife, Susanne. He also provides two services per month at Hope Creek Nursing Home for the residents there. We have a small but dedicated group of church members who help the residents from their rooms to the Chapel and back. Pastor Anderson also offers two different Bible Studies each week on Sundays and Thursdays.

Trinity quilters continue with their quilt ministry, donating over 100 quilts each year. These were distributed amongst the Women's Shelters, Veterans' Outreach, Lutheran World Relief, and World Relief Quad Cities for the refugees.

Trinity's Evangelism Committee has seen a decrease in the needs for their Coat Ministry here. We used to have all the youth at Arrowhead Ranch come and pick out a coat, jacket, gloves, scarves, sweat shirts, and sometimes blankets and socks. Arrowhead Ranch closed its doors in April of 2024. While we continue to offer warm winter clothing to local schools, other churches, food pantry recipients and community members in need, we do not have many that actually walk through the doors. Part of the problem is perhaps due to the lack of public transportation out to our small town. We have wonderful church members who take armloads of coats, etc., to the organizations that are requesting them.

The Evangelism Committee continues to help provide for and serve meals at Christian Care and the Rock Island Township Hall for the homeless and those in need. They were asked to pick up additional days as there has been a decrease in the number of people or groups that are able to do so.

The Board of Education started a new push in 2024 to encourage children around the perimeter of our congregation to come to church for special events and Sunday School. Most are not actual members of our church, but grandchildren, neighbors, etc. of members. Some of the children have brought friends with them to the special events!

In the last two years, our Board of Property has overseen new flooring in the Narthex, offices, Fellowship Hall, restrooms, and the hallways. Trinity also needed a new roof put on last year after the building sustained hail damage. Those on the Board of Property take great care to keep the grounds looking great, including new landscaping and trees from time to time.

We have a fair amount of space dedicated to God's Garden. We have gardeners who plant, water, weed, stake, and harvest a variety of fresh produce to share with the congregation. This also applies to the fruit trees and brambles that were planted years ago. In addition, we have home gardeners who bring in their surplus and share.

Trinity continues to have a strong presence in the local food pantry that is run by three of the churches here in Coal Valley. It had been four, but one church had to pull out. Church members donate food and/or funds to keep the pantry shelves fully stocked. We have several church members who are very active in working at the pantry and purchase items in bulk as needed. Some of the freewill offerings at church events also go to financially support the food pantry.

Not only does Trinity support the Coal Valley Food Pantry, we financially help support several seminarians, Lutheran Bible Translators, Q.C. Lutheran Deaf Ministry, POBLO Mission, the District and Synod, and Christ the King (Cristo Rey) the Spanish church.

For a small-town church, Trinity has been blessed with many opportunities to help our community and each other as we work to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. May He grant us many, many more years as a church to make a difference in the world He created.

F. Zion, Taylor Ridge

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in rural Taylor Ridge, Illinois continues to keep the main thing the main thing by teaching God's inspired word and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in regular divine services and other activities. The world would say that nothing special happened here over the past triennium. But the Holy Spirit had many opportunities to work saving faith in a variety of people. E.g. Zion's pastor leads Bible studies at Avonlea Cottages in Milan, services at Brookstone in Aledo, chapel at the Christian Care Center in Rock Island, and visits Angel Tree families.

II. Circuit Report

The Rock Island Circuit currently consists of twelve congregations. One congregation, Redeemer, Peru, closed in May, 2023. Holy Cross, Moline is currently vacant with the retirement of their pastor, Rev. Dr. Wilfred Karsten, in June, 2024. Rev. Gary Wright (Zion, East Moline) is serving as their vacancy pastor. St. John's, East Moline, is beginning preparations for their upcoming vacancy as their pastor, Rev. Kent Umbarger, will be retiring in July, 2025.

Winkels are generally well attended by the circuit pastors. They normally consist of an opening worship service, two studies, reports, time for casuistry as needed, and fellowship over lunch. One study is textual (usually on one of the readings for the upcoming Sunday) and the other is topical. Our current topic is *The Care of Souls Cultivating a Pastor's Heart* by Harold Senkbeil. We have had very informative and beneficial discussions in both areas. The circuit pastors are very supportive of one another as brothers in the ministry and fellow believers. In addition, we were invited to have a joint Winkel with the Davenport Circuit (Iowa East District) in March 2025 to hear a presentation by Lutheran Family Services, which we readily and gladly accepted.

Rev. Leonard Astrowski (Immanuel, Rock Island) and Immanuel's youth leaders have worked diligently with the pastors and youth leaders of other circuit congregations and we now have monthly "circuit youth" meetings or activities. While youth group size varies between the churches, many congregations participate at least on and off in these gatherings, and some are quite regular attendees.

Our most recent circuit forum, held February 16, included a presentation by President Michael Mohr regarding district finances and the capital campaign that will be proposed at the district convention. We hope to have a presentation by a district representative on Congregational Partnership Models at our next forum in the Fall of 2025 which will be in preparation for the 2026 synodical convention. A presentation on this topic was given at a Winkel, but we would like to have lay participation as well.

Shelby Circuit, Rev. Nathan Woolery, Circuit Visitor

(See late reports, overtures, and resolutions (see pp. B-65ff to be disseminated in late June.)

Springfield-East Circuit, Rev. Matthew Schneider, Circuit Visitor
Springfield-West Circuit, Rev. Martin Kaufmann, Circuit Visitor

Through all the changes of the past triennium, the congregations and LCMS Lutherans of the Springfield East and West Circuits have seen evidence of the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ. God's Word is faithfully proclaimed by the pastors and professional church workers He has provided. In joys and in sorrows, the saving Gospel remains our anchor and hope.

Shortly before the start of the last CID convention in the summer of 2022, hardship hit the Springfield area Lutheran community as the effects of mine subsidence was discovered at Lutheran High School in Springfield. The damage done to the buildings due to a mine collapse deep underground made them structurally unsound, and they had to be abandoned. In searching for a new location to hold classes and to continue the ministry of the school, God provided and led those responsible for LuHi's well-being to select the First Church of the Nazarene as LuHi's new temporary home, an arrangement which continues to this day and is secured for the next several years. Another blessing -- in 2024, an agreement was reached with Cherry Hills Church on Springfield's south side to purchase land adjacent to their church to be the future home of LuHi. Plans are ongoing for LuHi's future development and relocation to this site.

The majority of our congregations continue to be served by the same faithful undershepherds of the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ. But even in a three-year period, a good number of pastoral changes have taken place. Just prior to the start of the 2022 CID convention, Rev. Jim Hennig of Concordia, Springfield, accepted a call to serve in the Southern Illinois District, at Trinity, Centralia. That meant Rev. Michael Koschmann, part-time at Concordia, would fill the vacancy left by Rev. Hennig. Also in the Springfield East Circuit, in December, Rev. Brian C. Johnston accepted to the Call to serve at Trinity, Taylorville, after Rev. Rodney Blomquist's retirement left that congregation in need of a full-time pastor.

In the summer of 2023, a couple vacancies were filled, with the Rev. Jacob Moore being ordained and installed as pastor of St. John's, New Berlin on June 11. Rev. Jonathan Sharp was ordained and installed as associate pastor of Trinity, Springfield, on Sunday, July 9.

As we welcomed a couple new pastors, we also said goodbye to a number of pastors who, together, had provided several decades of service to the Springfield area. Rev. Sam Janssen retired from Good Shepherd, Sherman, and moved to South Dakota at the end of September. Rev. Clarence Rogers, pastor emeritus from St. John's, Chatham, who was still living in Chatham but serving Faith, Lincoln, ended his time of service at Faith, but by December he and his wife abruptly decided to move to Florida, and off they went. Rev. Don Pritchard retired from over 25 years of service to Zion, Pleasant Plains in December 2023. Just beginning to enjoy to retirement, Rev. Pritchard fell and fractured his hip in late April 2024, and underwent surgery two days after his fall. Rev. Mark Miller retired as assisting pastor at St. John's, Chatham, in April, 2024.

In the summer of 2024, our circuit welcomed Rev. Adam Rouse as pastor at Immanuel, Springfield, for his ordination and installation on June 23. Rev. Rouse is also leading worship every Sunday afternoon at the chapel next to the Central Illinois District office. This gave Rev. Jim Stuenkel, who had been serving Immanuel and the Chapel, the opportunity to retire once again. Also that same summer, on July 7, 2024, Rev. Joel Springer, having completed the SMP program, was ordained and installed as a pastor at Our Savior's, Springfield. In October of that same year, Our Savior's associate pastor, Rev. Brenden Harrell, left the Springfield West circuit to serve a parish in California.

Early this year, on January 12, Rev. Aaron Mueller was installed as senior pastor at Trinity, Springfield, coming to central Illinois from the Southern Illinois District town of Glen Carbon.

With Rev. Mueller's pastorate, only few vacancies remain in the Springfield circuits at present: Zion, Pleasant Plains, who continues the Call process and is being served by Rev. Jeff Gross of Petersburg. The other two parishes experiencing vacancies, Concordia, Springfield, and Good Shepherd, Rochester, are in the process of forming a dual parish, and continue to be served by Rev. Michael Koschmann and Rev. Rodney Blomquist, respectively. God has provided where there has been need. His faithfulness continues from generation to generation.

Our individual congregations continue to provide God's Word of hope in our communities. Since the pandemic of 2020, many of our churches started up a live stream or at least post recorded worship services later in the day, and they continue that practice to reach people electronically with the Word of God who cannot physically be in worship. Some highlights at various congregations include:

Rev. Gaylord Spilker, of Trinity, Edinburg, sends out daily devotionals entitled "Word of Encouragement" through emails and on Facebook. Trinity is blessed to have been able to start up their Sunday School program again as well as having a Jr. Confirmation Class and an Adult Instruction Class. They also have been able to host their Annual Pork Chop Suppers again on the first Saturday night of March.

Good Shepherd, Sherman, has gotten back into the habit of being together as the people of God. They have expanded their Bible study opportunities with the goal of having every member of the congregation involved in corporate Bible study. They have also added several new occasions for fellowship to give members a chance to build relationships and encourage one another in faith and good works.

Rev. Kevin Wendorf shares that their preschool continues to be a blessing at St. John's, Chatham, to reach members of the community with the Word of God.

Rev. Jacob Moore revamped the confirmation curriculum at St. John's, New Berlin, and now begins catechesis at a younger age (5th grade). This has proven to be extremely fruitful, as many of their young ones are becoming interested in Scripture and different theological topics. St. John's has also shifted it's focus to more intentional outreach for the surrounding community. It started "hot breakfast" for students of New Berlin HS who parked near the church during the week.

Rev. Keith Pereira of Christ, Waverly, will celebrate 40 years of ministry in Waverly in August of 2025. The church has 6 preschool-age children in their Sunday School, 3 of which are non-members, so praise God for that potential. Having no organists, they have adapted to digital recordings of LSB, which works well for their setting. Praise God for technology and it's use to enhance worship.

The Comfort Dog program at Trinity, Auburn, continues to bring compassion and caring into people's lives, puts the Church in a positive light, and gives members and opportunity for service. Dinah, Trinity's Comfort Dog, is nine years old, and the church has started the process of obtaining a second Comfort Dog to continue the program into the future. Rev. Martin Kaufmann shares that Trinity's preschool continues to be a blessing to reach families in the community with the Word of God. Rev. Rich Harre, emeritus from Trinity who lives in Auburn, continues to serve LCMS churches in the Jacksonville Circuit, at Bluffs and Winchester.

So much more could be said of the blessing God's people are in the Springfield East and West Circuits. Their faithfulness to their churches, and their support and love for their called workers and dedication to the Great Commission are commendable. It is truly a reflection of the love God has shown us through His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Tazewell Circuit, Rev. Jeffrey Anderson, Circuit Visitor

Churches in the circuit:
St John's Lutheran Church in Green Valley, Trinity Lutheran Church in Pekin, St. John's in Pekin, St. Peter's Lutheran Church in East Peoria, Bethel Lutheran Church in Morton and Our Savior Lutheran Church in Washington.

Over the last triennium other than faithful Word and Sacrament ministry in all church extra activity in the Tazwell Circuit includes the following. There is an annual Harvest Festival at St John's in Sand Prairie. There is an annual "Music of Mission" festival at St. John's in Pekin. This year's offerings went to CID's Hispanic ministry. St Peter's Lutheran church opened its doors to the community by hosting an Upward Basketball League. Bethel has built 5 homes in Mexico through CASA.

Good Shepherd and Bethel schools continue to provide Lutheran education to area students with numerous mission projects at each school

Vacancies:
Trinity Lutheran Church called Pastor Mark Drews who was installed in the summer of 2024.

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Washington remains vacant.

Pastor Greg Moyer (Bethel Lutheran Church) was elected as circuit visitor for the upcoming triennium.

Tazwell and Peoria Circuits continue to meet monthly together as well as provide support to each other's churches.

Congregational Constitutions and District Handbook Committee Report

Reviewed and approved by Committee and CID Board -16

Arenzville, Trinity – March 2023
Auburn, Trinity – September 2024
Beardstown, St John's – September 2024
Broadlands, Immanuel – April 2024
Buckley, St. John's – May 2023
Casey, Trinity – October 2023
Lincoln, Zion – March 2023
Louisville, St John's – October 2023
Mason City, Trinity – November 2023
Onarga, St John's Ash Grove – November 2023
Peoria, Christ – March 2023
Petersburg, Bethlehem – May 2023
Quincy, St. John – October 2023
Stewardson, Trinity – March 2025
Taylor Ridge, Zion – October 2023
Washington, Our Savior – April 2024

Withdrawn – 1

Manito, Trinity

Still in Process - 8

Champaign, St John's – Anticipated action at May 2025 BOD
Clinton, Christ – Anticipated action at May 2025 BOD
Lincoln, Faith
Moline, Holy Cross
Pleasant Plains, Zion
Quincy, Our Redeemer
Watseka, Calvary
Woodworth, St Paul's (Milford)

In Christ's service,
Rev. Dan Bishop, Rev. Kent Tibben, Mr. J. Greg Townsend
Members of the Congregational Constitutions and District Handbook Committee

PASTORS & GRADUATES ENTERING THE DISTRICT
(ORDINATION/INSTALLATION DATES: MAY 2022-APRIL 2025)

Schultz, Jonah (STL) Ordained and installed at Salem-Jacksonville on 6/16/25 by Rev. Michael Mohr

Circuit Visitor Reports

Shelby Circuit, Rev. Nathan Woolery, Circuit Visitor

(See late reports, overtures, and resolutions (see pp. B-65ff to be disseminated in late June.)

The following congregations comprise the Shelby Circuit: St. Paul's Lutheran, Pana; Holy Cross Shelbyville; Faith Lutheran, Shumway; St. Paul Lutheran, Sigel; Trinity Lutheran, Stewardson; Grace Lutheran, Strasburg; St. Paul's Lutheran, Strasburg; and Faith Lutheran, Sullivan.

The pastors of the Shelby Circuit meet with the pastor of the Effingham Circuit on a monthly basis. In the Spring and the Fall, the Shelby pastors meet with the pastors of the Altamont and Effingham Circuits at which time a guest speaker is invited to present the topic. We enjoy the blessed fellowship we have at these meetings.

Faith, Shumway spent the majority of the last triennium vacant and calling. Finally, the Lord provided a pastor this past spring, Rev. Jordan Peiser. He was installed on March 16.

St. Paul, Pana became vacant after Rev. Terry O'Brien retired in October of 2022. A year later, Rev. Keith Bueltmann was installed as pastor.

St. Paul, Sigel is vacant, served by Rev. Earl Brown.

Trinity, Stewardson, served by Rev. David Weaver continues to minister to the community through the church and through Trinity Lutheran School, which has 89 students enrolled.

Grace and St. Paul Strasburg forming a dual parish are continuing to be faithfully served by Rev. Kene Whybrew.

Holy Cross, Shelbyville served by Rev. Nathan Woolery continues to bring the message of the cross to its community.

Faith, Sullivan is being served by Rev. Justin Cullen. The congregation has made a number of improvements in the sanctuary over the past few years.

Thanks be to God for His blessings on our circuit.

Congregational Constitutions and District Handbook Committee Report

(Updated to reflect Board of Directors actions at their May meeting.)

Reviewed and approved by Committee and CID Board -19

Arenzville, Trinity – March 2023
Auburn, Trinity – September 2024
Beardstown, St John's – September 2024
Broadlands, Immanuel – April 2024
Buckley, St. John's – May 2023
Casey, Trinity – October 2023
Champaign, St John's –May 2025
Clinton, Christ –May 2025
Lincoln, Zion – March 2023
Louisville, St John's – October 2023

Mason City, Trinity – November 2023
Onarga, St John's Ash Grove – November 2023
Peoria, Christ – March 2023
Petersburg, Bethlehem – May 2023
Quincy, St. John – October 2023
Stewardson, Trinity – March 2025
Taylor Ridge, Zion – October 2023
Washington, Our Savior – April 2024
Watseka, Calvary – May 2025
Woodworth, St Paul's (Milford) – May 2025

Withdrawn – 1
Manito, Trinity

Still in Process - 5
Lincoln, Faith
Moline, Holy Cross
Pleasant Plains, Zion
Quincy, Our Redeemer

In Christ's service,
Rev. Dan Bishop, Rev. Kent Tibben, Mr. J. G. Townsend
Members of the Congregational Constitutions and District Handbook Committee

2025 PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Part 2

Rev. Michael Mohr

As we have come through the preparations for the district convention, there are several additional items not included in my report that I want to highlight to delegates and congregations. In order to keep my oral address/report to the convention brief, I make this supplemental report to you.

New Administrative Assistant – It is my hope that by the time the convention closes, I will be able to introduce to you our new Administrative Assistant for Missions and Administration. With our current Administrative Assistant for Missions, Evangelism, Stewardship, and Human Care entering into a period of modified service (***not*** retiring, as he reminds us in the opening line of his report on p. B-13), we have taken this opportunity to reassess how these areas are covered, as well as the administrative support that has waned with the elimination of three full time secretarial positions over the past twenty years. Rev. Dr. Schurb will continue to oversee Evangelism for CID, while the Stewardship and Human Care aspects of his portfolio are being added to the duties of two other, separate, full time deployed workers. The oversight of CID Missions was too great a task to defer to deployed staff, so Ken's full time successor will shepherd those missions carried out on behalf of the congregations of the Central Illinois District. He will also provide some additional support for and to the congregations of the district as I delegate some of my business manager responsibilities so that I can better accomplish my visitation and ecclesiastical supervisory duties. The worker to which we have extended this call should be ready to announce his decision right around the time we convene, so I hope to be able to share that news with you – if not in my oral address, then sometime prior to adjournment.

Reaching In – Our partners in the Gospel to the south have developed a wonderful opportunity for Christians to mentor those in prison. "Reaching In" provides the opportunity to correspond with inmates, sharing with them not only the precious news of salvation, but mentoring them in a godly way of living as they prepare to rejoin their communities. We are looking to provide this type of work with our own prison ministries right here in CID. To help protect those who serve, all letters are sent back and forth via a neutral PO Box, protecting the identity and location information of those writing back and forth. More about this wonderful opportunity will be available at the prison/jail ministry table in the exhibitor hall during the convention.

Dollar for Mission – We are not sure if this funding initiative will continue after the convention. We are ready to follow the expressed will of the congregations through their delegates. If the proposed Funding Campaign (Resolution 25-02-01A, pp. D-87ff.) is adopted, the delegates will be asked if they wish to suspend DFM, effective the day after the convention closes (Resolution 25-02-02, pp. D-42f.). It is possible for the delegates to decline this overture, keeping both initiatives operative at the same time. It makes sense for the district to concentrate on one funding initiative at a time, but there is also a logic in maintaining both since they have different donor bases. The six year old child placing her dollar bill into the church-shaped collection box each week when she attends services will not likely be writing a check for a hundred, a thousand, or tens of thousands of dollars toward the Funding Campaign. The two initiatives also have two difference foci. DFM grants are first given to new mission work throughout the district, and secondarily to help bolster new outreach efforts by established congregations around the district. It is only once projects in these two categories have been exhausted that any DFM dollars can go towards the kind of support for established district

missions that is the focus of the Funding Campaign. With this uncertainty about how the convention will act, we are making our preparations – and so should you. DFM projects are proposed by the congregations (and even individual members therein) of our district. Keep thinking about what new work can be done in your communities or nearby unchurched areas. Keep thinking about new outreach projects you might be able to conduct in your congregation (or in partnership with other congregations in your area). Should the convention choose to continue DFM, we will have six weeks to submit proposals for 2026. You can see more information, or download the submission form, at https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-apply.html.

Worker Wellness Initiative – Thanks to a generous, multi-year grant from the Synod, we are working on ways to for congregations to help their teachers, DCEs, deaconesses, and pastors healthy – physically, mentally, and spiritually. Our Human Care and Worker Wellness Committee should have some additional information by the time we meet at the convention about how these grant dollars can help our congregations and schools. And if we meet our goals with regard to the number of congregations and workers participating in these efforts, our grant award looks to increase over the next few years. So keep an eye out for these initiatives from our Human Care and Worker Wellness Committee.

2026 Remittance Forms – Finally, just a quick note while I have the attention of representatives from every congregation in the district that we will be modifying our congregational remittance forms for the coming year. We have long included, in what is now designated as "Section II" of the remittance form, a sampling of specific agencies/ministries to which congregations could contribute. For quite some time, we have recommended (as is stated on the form) "that donations be sent directly to the Agencies/Ministries," especially those agencies not listed on the form. Utilization of this section of the form has waned as congregations either have eliminated direct support of many of these organizations or have been making the contributions directly. It is staggeringly inefficient to have a member write a check to his/her congregation, the congregational treasurer then depositing the check and writing a congregational check to mail to the district for the exact same amount, then the district depositing that check and writing a district check to mail to the agency for the exact same amount. For the sake of stewardship of time and other physical resources, we will no longer be receiving gifts to forward to other agencies, rather, we will provide on the remittance form a list of addresses for various agencies commonly requested so that congregations (or individual members) can make their contributions directly.

We are four weeks away from the convention. I continue to pray that the work the Lord is doing through your congregations will continue to be blessed and fruitful as you remain faithful to His Word and make bold witness into your communities.

Presidential Nominations	C-2
Elected Officers Nominations	C-4
Circuit Visitors	C-5
Vice President Nominations	C-3, 6
Biographical Information	C-10
Floor Nominations Form	C-22

Report of 2025 Nominations

Due to nominations and biographical sketches for District President candidates not being available until early June (CID Bylaw 2.40a), this section of the workbook will be distributed in a separate mailing, together with late reports, overtures, and resolutions, scheduled to be released no later than June 16.

Report of the 2025 Nominations Committee

Nominations for District President

The procedures for the nomination of the District President (2018 CID Bylaw 2.40 a. and b.) have been followed.

2.40 Nomination for President

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.

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).

Nomination ballots were received from 22 congregations. All ballots were validly attested by the signatures of two congregational officers, so no ballots were spoiled.

The total number of nominations being 29, the number of nominations to qualify for the ballot is one and three-quarters.

The qualifying nominees are Jason Braaten (2), Mark Eddy (2), Michael Mohr (22).
Other nominee who received a qualifying number of nominations but declined nomination: Michael Schuermann (2).

Other nominee who received only one nomination, thus did not qualify for the ballot: Michael Burdick

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Kent Umbarger
Central Illinois District Secretary

Nominations for and Election of the Two Vice-Presidents

The procedures for conducting the primary election for the nomination of candidates for the offices of Vice-President (2018 Bylaws 2.41, 2.42, and 2.43) will be followed.

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

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.

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.

Nominations for Other Officers

The procedures for conducting the Nominations for Other Officers (2015 Bylaw 2.46a; CEF Bylaw 5.24 A) are not in full compliance. We were unable to fill all the allotted positions as provided in the Bylaws. Those deficiencies are noted in the following section listing the nominees, by inserting the words *No Candidate* in the appropriate places.

The procedures for conducting the Nominations for Other Officers (2015 CID Bylaw 2.46 b, c; CEF Bylaw 5.24 B, C) are in compliance.

Nominees

Secretary – Ordained (1)
Justin Cullen
No Candidate

Assistant Secretary – Ordained (1)
Marcus Manley
No Candidate

Treasurer – Layman (1)
Joel Oschwald
No Candidate

Financial Secretary – Layman (1)
No Candidate
No Candidate

Board of Directors – Parish Pastors (4)
Timothy Fitzner
Ryan Meyer
Steve Sommerer
Kent Tibben
Aaron Uphoff
Kevin Wendorf
No Candidate
No Candidate

Board of Directors – Commissioned (2)
Robinette Flach
Rebecca Heppe
Jordan Hopman
Steve Parry

Board of Directors – Laymen (4)
William Blessman
Kevin Block
Aaron Schroeder
No Candidate
No Candidate
No Candidate
No Candidate
No Candidate
No Candidate

Congregational Constitutions & District Handbook Committee
Ordained Ministers (at least 1 Parish Pastor) (2)
Stephen Mueller
James Stuenkel
Kent Tibben
No Candidate
Lay – Attorney (1)
No Candidate
No Candidate

Nominations Committee for 2028 District Convention
Parish Pastors (2)
Jason Braaten
David Dunlop
Keith Kettner
No Candidate

Parish Teachers or DCEs (2)
Gayle Dietsch
Rebecca Heppe
Sandy Spitz
No Candidate

Laymen (2)
Deloris Blessman
David Harshaw
Don James
Brandon West

Nominations for Circuit Counselor to be Ratified by District Convention

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		

You will be asked to nominate one pastor from the Eastern Region and one from the Western Region for Vice President. Eligible pastors in each region are listed below. District Bylaw 2.12 stipulates that the Vice President must reside in his respective region at the time of election; all Emeriti and Candidates who live outside the CID are not on this Nominating ballot. Synod Bylaw 2.13.1(b)(2) limits Specific Ministry Pastors from "hold[ing] any elective or appointive office… that is assigned by the Bylaws of the Synod to 'a pastor' or 'an ordained minister;'" all SMPs serving in the district are not on this Nominating Ballot.

CLERGY ROSTER - CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

EASTERN REGION

BACKHUS, Robert	Emeritus - Effingham
BARTENS, Emmett	St John-Louisville
BARTH, Robert	Emeritus - New Berlin
BECKER, Richard	Immanuel-Athens
BECKER, Steven	Emeritus - Effingham
BIRD, Aaron	St John-Decatur
BLOMQUIST, Rodney	Emeritus - Taylorville
BOYLAN, Shawn	Emeritus - Paxton
BRAATEN, Jason	Immanuel-Tuscola
BROWN, Earl	Emeritus - Effingham
BRUER, Robert	Mt Zion-Mt Zion
BUELTMANN, David	Concordia-Decatur
BUELTMANN, Keith	St Paul-Pana
BURDICK, Michael	St John-Effingham
CAITHAMER, Jeffrey	St John-Champaign
CLUVER, Joel	Emeritus - Latham
CORNELIUS, Brett	Holy Cross-Vandalia
CULLEN, Justin	Faith-Sullivan
DAMERY, Michael	Emeritus - Forsyth
DANIEL, David	Faith-Monticello
DILLE, Trey	St John-Effingham
DOBBERSTEIN, Paul	Candidate - Paris
DUEY, William	Candidate - Paris
EHLERS, Donald	Emeritus - Champaign
FELDMANN, Michael	Salem-Salem
FJORDBOTTEN, Dale	Trinity-Cissna Park/St John-Onarga
FORTKAMP, Gary	Emeritus - Effingham
FRANK, Robert	Candidate - Savoy
GEARIG, Mark	St Paul's-Decatur
GOODWIN, Robert	St Paul's-Decatur
GROSS, Jeffrey	Bethlehem-Petersburg
GRUENINGER, William	St Paul's-Decatur
HARRE, Richard	Emeritus - Springfield
HART, Ethan	Salem-Salem
HARTER, Jeffrey	Concordia Village-Springfield
HERBERTS, Dean	St John-Dieterich
HERZBERG, Andrew	St Johns-Mattoon
HINRICHS, Brett	Mt Calvary-Decatur
JOHNSTON, Brian	Trinity-Taylorville
KAUFMANN, Martin	Trinity-Auburn
KLUG, Jerry	Emeritus - Paris
KOSCHMANN, Michael	Immanuel-Riverton
LANDSKROENER, Timothy	Immanuel-Shobonier
MANLEY, Marcus	Bethlehem/Zion-Altamont

MC PIKE, Jeffrey	Immanuel-Fisher
MEYER, Douglas	Emeritus - Salem
MEYER, Ryan	St Peter-St Peter
MILLER, Mark	Emeritus - Springfield
MINTON, Harold	Our Savior-Milford
MOHR, Michael	Holy Cross-Vandalia
MOORE, Jacob	St John-New Berlin
MUELLER, Aaron	Trinity-Springfield
NIERMANN, Scott	Immanuel-Altamont
OFFERMANN, Wray	Emeritus - Oakley
OHLWINE, Arthur	Candidate - Decatur
PEISER, Jordan	Faith-Shumway
PEREIRA, Keith	Christ-Waverly
PIAZZA, Adrian	Trinity-Casey/Our Redeemer-Robinson
PRITCHARD, Donald	Emeritus-Pleasant Plains
RADTKE, Thomas	Emeritus - Springfield
RAY, Adam	St John-Decatur
REIMNITZ, Wesley	Emeritus - Springfield
RIKLI, Richard	Emeritus - Vandalia
ROUSE, Adam	Immanuel-Springfield
RUHLIG, Michael	St Pauls-Milford
SALCIDO, Richard	Emeritus - Paris
SCHNEIDER, Matthew	Good Shepherd-Sherman
SCHUERMANN, Michael	University-Champaign
SEIDENSTRICKER, Michael	Emeritus - Effingham
SHARP, Jonathan	Trinity-Springfield
SMITH, Daniel	Grace-Paris
SMITH, Samuel	Immanuel-Charleston
SPEERS, David	St Paul-Altamont
SPILKER, Gaylord	Trinity-Edinburg
STOERGER, Michael	Peace-Thomasboro
STROHSCHEIN, Glenn	Emeritus - Sullivan
STROM, Terry	Emeritus - Buckley
STUENKEL, James	Emeritus - Sherman
THEILEN, Joshua	Good Shepherd-Sherman
TIBBEN, Kent	Trinity-Danville
TRAXEL, Joshua	Our Savior-Springfield
TRIPLETT, Glen	Friendship LC of Joy-Champaign
ULRICH, Daniel	St Pauls-Mattoon
UPHOFF, Aaron	Calvary-Watseka
VERSEMANN, Matthew	Trinity-Decatur
WEAVER, David	Trinity-Stewardson
WENDORF, Kevin	St John-Chatham
WHYBREW, Kene	Grace/St Paul's-Strasburg
WOOLERY, Nathan	Holy Cross-Shelbyville
WYCKOFF, Jon	St Johns-Buckley
YONKERS, James	Immanuel-Danville

CLERGY ROSTER - CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT
WESTERN REGION

ANDERSON, David	Trinity-Coal Valley
ANDERSON, Jeffrey	Bethel-Morton
ASTROWSKI, Leonard	Immanuel-Rock Island
BERNDT, Matthew	St Paul/Trinity-Manito
BISHOP, Daniel	St John-Pekin
BOEHNE, Jonathan	Trinity-El Paso
BRECHBUHL, Peter	Emeritus - Jacksonville
BRINKMANN, Wayne	Emeritus - Morton
BRONDOS, Joel	Emeritus - Geneseo
BUESCHER, Jonathan	Zion-Mt Pulaski
BURNS, Joseph	Our Redeemer-Eureka
CUNNINGHAM, Kirk	Good Shepherd-Clayton
DIERKS, Andrew	Trinity-Arenzville/St. Paul-Chapin
DISBRO, Roger	Emeritus - Mapleton
DOMINGUEZ, Pablo	Christ The King-East Moline
DREWS, Mark	Trinity-Pekin
DUNLOP, David	Zion-Chestnut/Christ-Clinton
ECKARDT, Burnell	Emeritus - Kewanee
ECKHOFF, Karl	Christ-Peoria
EDDY, Mark	Zion-Taylor Ridge
EDEN, Martin	Our Redeemer-Quincy
EDEN, Roger	Emeritus - Quincy
EHLERS, David	Emeritus - Normal
FITZNER, Timothy	Christ-Normal
GALLAGHER, Frank	Our Savior-Washington
GRIESER, Winston	St Paul-Kewanee
GRUDEN, Mark	St Paul-Varna/St John-Washburn/Zion-Wenona
HAFERMANN, John	Emeritus - Normal
HAGEN, Robert	Emeritus - Coal Valley
HAYDEN, Steven	St John-Quincy
HEINZE, Ian	St Paul-Havana
HOOVER, Kenneth	Emeritus - East Peoria
HULL, Christopher	Immanuel-Macomb
JAUSS, Marcus	St Paul's-Bowen/Concordia-Warsaw
JOHNSON, John	Emeritus - Lincoln
KERSTEIN, Noah	Faith-Lincoln
KETTNER, Keith	St John-Beardstown
KINNEE, L	Candidate - Peoria
KNIEF, Louis	Emeritus - Peoria
LARSON, Kurt	St Matthew-Milan
LESEMANN, Brian	St John-Bath/Salem-Chandlerville
LIKENESS, David	Emeritus - Peoria
LONG, Barry	Mt Calvary-Peoria
LUBKEMAN, August	Emeritus - Bloomington
LUECK, Chad	Good Shepherd-Bloomington
MCBURNEY, David	Trinity-Bloomington
MILLER, Ronald	Emeritus - Peoria
MOYER, Gregory	Bethel-Morton
MUELLER, Stephen	Concordia-Geneseo
MURDOCK, Cecil	Emeritus - Hampton
NELSON, Mark	Trinity-Peoria

NERUD, Timothy	St John-Geneseo
NIEMANN, Glenn	Emeritus - Peoria
OLANDER, Charles	Emeritus - Beason
PAPE, Brian	St Peters-East Peoria
PETERS, Michael	St John-Secor
PETERSON, Ivan	Emeritus - Bloomington
REES, James	Candidate - Lexington
REMPFER, Marlin	St James-Quincy
RILEY, Matthew	St James-Quincy
RONCHETTO, Kyle	St Paul-Chenoa/St Paul-Lexington
SANSOM, James	St John-Green Valley
SCARBEARY, Bruce	Trinity-Roanoke
SCHULTZ, Jonah	Salem-Jacksonville
SMITH, Andrew	Our Redeemer-Bloomington
SOMMERER, Steven	Mt Calvary-Galesburg
SPAETH, David	Emeritus - Pekin
STRATTMAN, Gene	Emeritus-Chapin
SULLIVAN, Brandon	Christ-Mason City/Zion-New Holland
SYNNOTT, Matthew	Trinity-Peoria
THOMPSON, Mark	Zion-Lincoln
UMBARGER, Kent	St John-East Moline
WAGNER, Ronald	Emeritus - Roanoke
WAGNITZ, Michael	St Paul-Brimfield
WEBER, Paul	Faith-Kewanee
WESELOH, Melvin	Emeritus - Minier
WINTER, Frank	Redeemer-Peoria
WINTER, Frank	Emeritus - Peoria
WIRSING, Thomas	Emeritus - Normal
WRIGHT, Gary	Zion-East Moline
ZIMMERMAN, Frank	Zion-Danvers/Good Shepherd-Minier

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

President

Rev. Jason Braaten, Immanuel, Tuscola, IL

C: Admissions & Advancement for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN (2007–2010)

D: CID Conference Committee (2010–2014), CID Board of Directors (2018–2019), LCEF Board of Directors (2019–Present)

O: Tuscola Library Board (2012 – Present), Tuscola Rotary Club President (2016 – 2017), Tuscola Rotary Club Vice-President (2015–2016), Tuscola Rotary Club Secretary (2012 – 2015), Tuscola Community Foundation (2015 – Present), LCMS Contract Writer, Stewardship (2013 – 2020), Logic Instructor, Wittenberg Academy (2013 – Present)

What do you believe you could contribute to this position if elected?

I have a deep love for Christ, His Word, and His Church, a love that seeks the truth and desires to share it. I have an abiding respect for our Lutheran heritage and the rich theological tradition in doctrine and practice bequeathed to us from our Lutheran forefathers, a respect that I seek to impart in those around me. But not every challenge we face is addressed in this rich tradition, yet it informs how meet and answer them. We ought not change for the sake of
change.

As a former fundraiser and recruiter for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, I learned the delicate art of facing conflict and difficult situations — temporal and spiritual — in a pastoral, caring, biblical and honest manner. This means that I do not shy away from conflict and am not afraid to ask difficult questions or make tough decisions so that the truth may be heard, souls comforted, families and faith restored, and the Church further united.

As LCMS Lutherans, we have much to be thankful for. If I can be an agent, beyond my call as a parish pastor, to hand down the great gifts we have received, I am eager to serve.

Rev. Mark Eddy, Zion, Taylor Ridge, IL

C: Trinity, Hartford, SD (1983-86), Faith, Shumway, IL (1986-91), Holy Cross, Golden, IL (1991-2006), St. Paul, Bowen, IL (2000-2006)

D: Central Illinois District Evangelism Commission member, (1988-1991, 2009-2012 secretary), Synod Convention Delegate (1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2023), Quincy Circuit Counselor (1997-2003), CID Board of Directors (2006-2012), CID ad hoc committee to update the bylaws, chairman (2011-2012), CID Congregational Constitutions and District Handbook Committee, chairman (2012-2018), CID Missions Commission, secretary, (2018-present), CID 2nd Vice President, (2018-Nov. 2021), CID 1st Vice President, (Nov. 2021-present)

O: Community: Beecher City, IL, schools community advisory Committee (1989-1991), Mercer County Ministerial Association secretary (2012-2015, 2017-present), Quad City Wind Ensemble board of directors member-at-large (2020-2022)

What do you believe you could contribute to this position if elected?

By God's grace and with His continued help I would use whatever abilities He has given me to provide faithful, biblical, evangelical, orthodox, responses to whatever issues arise, and be available at any time to deal with them. To this point God has kept me healthy in both body and mind, so that I could energetically learn the "paper work" aspects of the position, get to know the members of the District whom I do not already know, and provide the help which the Synod and congregations expect (provided that those expectations agree with God's inspired Scriptures).

Rev. Michael Mohr, Holy Cross, Vandalia, IL

C: Grace, Strasburg (1998-2018)

D: Pastor's Conference Committee 99-00; Shelby Circuit Visitor 00-06; District Convention Floor Committee member 03; Event Organizer, CID Day at the Ballpark 99-14; Chairman, Central Illinois District Centennial Anniversary Committee 07, Assistant Secretary CID 09-15; Secretary, CID 15- 21; District Pastoral Counselor, LWMLCID 18-22; 2nd Vice President CID, 21-2022; District President 2022-present; COP Representative, Concordia Seminary Board of Regents, 2024-present

O: Treasurer, Helping Hands Ministerial Alliance (1998-2018), Thrivent Chapter Board, various offices (2003-2011), Member, MAPPING the Future of Strasburg (Community, Strategic Planning) (2007-2018), Chairman, Public School Strategic Planning Steering Committee (2008-2009), Chairman, Family Life Center Board of Directors, (2011-2013), Vandalia Association of Churches, Member (2018-2022)

What do you believe you could contribute to this position if elected?

Praise be to God for the relative calm and unity He has bestowed upon our district! Our work together, all 148 congregations of the Central Illinois District, is sharing the good news of Christ with all those who live in our communities. The two greatest challenges I see in the coming triennium are maximizing the efficiencies of the Word and Sacrament ministries throughout the district (both within and among individual congregations and in those mission efforts conducted on behalf of the congregations of the district) and in sharing/communicating the joys, successes, needs, and concerns of the work carried out on behalf of the congregations of the district. Having come through the steep, 30+ month learning curve of what it is to be a district president, I think the Lord has positioned me to be able to more readily concentrate in this next triennium on these tasks of supporting and coordinating the fantastic work being accomplished by the congregations of the district through their local pastors, commissioned workers, and volunteers, as well as the workers and volunteers set apart to serve in district mission sites.

Secretary

One ordained minister to be elected

Rev. Justin W. Cullen, Faith, Sullivan

C: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Olivette, MO, Jun 2019 - Jul 2020

D: CID Pastoral Conference Committee, Sep 2021 - Oct 2024

O: Chaplain, U.S. Army Reserve, Jan 2018 - Aug 2021; Chaplain, IL Army National Guard, Sep 2021 - Present; Chaplain/Troop Leader, Trail Life USA, Sullivan, IL, May 2023 – Present

I believe I can bring a unique blend of organizational skills, attention to detail, and a deep commitment to serving the district, shaped by my experiences as a pastor and military chaplain. Having served on the committee for planning pastoral conferences, I've demonstrated my ability to manage logistics, keep accurate records, and facilitate communication. As Scripture reminds us, "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40, ESV), and I am committed to upholding this principle in maintaining accurate, official records. Additionally, my service as a military chaplain has equipped me with a disciplined approach to leadership and administration under pressure. In that role, I often advised and supported teams in high-stakes environments, which strengthened my ability to collaborate with others.

Assistant Secretary

One ordained minister to be elected

Rev. Marcus Manley, Bethlehem/Zion, Altamont

C: St. Paul's, Ute, IA 2012-2017

D: CID Assistant Secretary 2023-2025; IDW Stewardship Committee 2014-2017

O: None Provided

Treasurer

One layman to be elected

Joel Oschwald, Good Shepherd, Sherman, IL

C: Formerly served as parish pastor at St. John's, Louisville, IL (2016-2017)

D: Chair of Board of Elders (St. John, Champaign), Vice Chair of Congregation (St. James, Glen Carbon, IL), Elder (Our Savior, Springfield, IL)

Treasurer, CID 2023-2025

O: Treasurer (First Step Women's Center - elected Treasurer in 2025, Board Member since 2021); Trustee (Springfield Fire Pension Board); Precinct Committeeman (Sangamon County Capital 54)

Lifelong involvement in the LCMS, serving as Layman and a brief period as Pastor, as well as over 25 years of commercial banking, financial analysis, and treasury management experience. My background has prepared me to serve the church in both theological and financial aspects.

Financial Secretary

One layman to be elected

No candidate.

Board of Directors

Four parish pastors to be elected

Rev. Timothy J. Fitzner, Christ, Normal

C: Immanuel & St. John's Lutheran Churches, Adair, IA (IDW), July 2008 - June 2017

D: CID LLL Assistant Pastoral Advisor (2024-present)
LWML Adair Zone Counselor (IDW) (2008-2016)
Operation Barnabas Chaplain, Atlantic, IA Chapter (IDW) (2011-2013)

O: Bloomington, IL Police Chaplain (2025-present)
Concordia University, St. Paul, MN Alumni Advisory Council (2016-2019, 2024-present)

If elected to the Board of Directors for CID, I would contribute a steadfast commitment to supporting our congregations, where the true work of the Church unfolds through Word and Sacrament ministry. 1 Peter 4:8 reminds us, the people of God love one another earnestly, gathered around the altar and pulpit in congregations and the family altar in homes. The district's role is to hold up the hands of our pastors and congregations as they preach the Gospel, administer the Sacraments, and catechize the faithful.

I bring a willingness to serve and to learn, and a focus on strengthening our district's support for the work of the congregations.

Fostering Collaboration: I will work with pastors, congregations, and district boards to plan and promote initiatives that prioritize faithful preaching, catechesis, and evangelism.

Ensuring Stewardship: I am committed to responsible financial oversight and accountability, ensuring our resources directly support congregations in their Gospel proclamation.

Listening and Serving: With humility, I will listen to the needs of our district's members to ensure our decisions reflect the priorities of our congregations and remain rooted in our Lutheran Confessions.

My goal is to help our district stay laser-focused on equipping congregations to faithfully carry out Christ's Great Commission, trusting the Holy Spirit to call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify His Church.

Rev. Ryan Meyer, Saint Peter's, St. Peter

C: Zion Lutheran, Tobias, Nebraska 2007-2017

D: Altamont Circuit Visitor 2022-present. CID LWML District Pastoral Counselor 2022-present

O: None

I would strive to use the gifts that God has given me to serve Him and the CID to the best of my ability.

Rev. Steve Sommerer, Mt Calvary, Galesburg

C: Our Savior, Odell, NE ('97-01); Messiah, Carlyle, IL ('01-17); Mt Calvary, IL ('17-25)

D: None

O: None

It is always an honor to serve if called upon.

Rev. Kent Tibben, Trinity, Danville

C: Trinity, Danville - 1992-present

D: CID Board of Directors; CID 2nd VP 2015-2018; CID 1st VP 2012-2015; CID Constitution Committee 2022-2025; Lutheran Musician Enrichment Instructor; Introductory Workshop Leader for HS '98; Introductory Workshop Leader for LSB; CUC Board of Regents 2007-2010

O: None

I have enjoyed many years serving within the CID, not only as parish pastor, but in other offices as well. It is my hope to faithfully serve the congregation to which the Lord has called me and to be of use to our district and synod however possible.

Rev. Aaron Uphoff, Calvary, Watseka

C: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Randolph, New Jersey (July 2014 to September 2020)

D: New Jersey District Convention Committee (2015, 2018); CID Board of Directors from January 2024 to Present

O: Bugenhagen Conference Planning Committee (2018 to Present); Member of American Legion Post #527 (2022 to Present)

If re-elected to the Board, I will be a supportive voice and vote for prudent uses of the District's resources as well as for faithful, realistic directions and goal-setting for the CID. I am an LCMS Lutheran thanks to Lutheran Student Fellowship in Macomb, and I am glad to serve the district that helped fund the ministry which both brought me into the Synod and encouraged me to enter the Ministry.

Rev. Kevin Wendorf, St. John, Chatham

C: St. John, Ash Grove - 2005-14; St. Paul, Havan - 2014-19

D: CID Board of Directors, 2022-present; Evangelism Commission, 2022-present; Circuit Visitor, 2018-19; Pastors' Conference Committee 2016-17

O: Christ Lutheran High School, Buckley - School Board; Religion Teach, 2006-7, 2009-10

I bring the experience of being a parish pastor in the CID for the past 20 years. I have also served in the District as a member of the Board of Directors and Circuit Visitor.

Board of Directors
Four laymen to be elected

William R. Blessman, St Paul, Havana

C: 6 terms as Congregation Chairman; 2 terms as treasurer; 6 terms as an Elder (several years as Head Elder); 1 term as Finance Committee member; Choir member for 48 years; Call Committee member three times (chairman twice); Youth Group Leader for 22 years (twice to National Youth Gathering); Current High School Bible Class Teacher (47 years); Current Congregation Vice-chairman; Current Chairman of 175th Anniversary Committee

D: None

O: Elected County Clerk of Mason County 1986-2013; Mason County Administrator 2013-2021; State Board of Elections Advisory Committee 1998-2013; IL County Clerks State Legislative Committee 1994-2013; IL State Electronic Records Commission 2006-2013; Mason County Public Building Commission (Secretary) 1988-2021; Havana Community Prevention Team 1993- 1998; Havavision Community Development Organization 1995-2000; Volunteer Havana High School JV Basketball Coach 2002-2015; Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (Chairman) 2014-present; Heart of Illinois Regional Port Authority 2016-present; Mason District Hospital Board of Directors 1993-present; MDH Hospital Charitable Foundation Board (Vice Chairman) 1998-present; City of Havana Zoning Board of Appeals (Chairman) 2015-present

I would endeavor to use the experience I have in the areas of leadership, finance, communication, human resources and church involvement to further the mission of the Central Illinois District and the church at large. This includes the business side of district operations and finances, but more importantly, our fulfillment of the District's role in the Great Commission—to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey everything the Lord has commanded. In all of our dealings, I would use a cooperative, common sense and Christ-centered approach to matters coming to the CID Board of Directors. I would be pleased and humbled to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Kevin E. Block, Immanuel, Broadlands

C: Board of Evangelism, Board of Lay Ministry (Elder), Vice Chairman of the Congregation (currently serving in this position)

D: Delegate at District Convention (two times), Delegate at Synodical Convention

O: President, Broadlands Community Club, Broadlands, IL, Volunteered for Prison Ministry in the Champaign County Courthouse, Urbana, IL.

I have served multiple times on our Church Council and 12 years as an Elder of our Congregation. I have participated in a prison ministry. I have a background in farming, banking and real estate investment/sales. I feel that my church, business background and experience gives me wisdom (hopefully) and maturity to assist the Central Illinois District in it's ministry.

Aaron Schroeder, Our Savior's, Springfield

C: Executive Director/Chairman, Chair the following Boards: Parish Education Board, Public Relations Board, Missions and Evangelism, Youth, and Christian Formation

D: Board of Directors, Member of Evangelism Commission

O: Lutheran High Foundation for Excellence; Member of the Theater in the Park Board; Member of the Springfield Historic Sites Commission; Operation Christmas Child Drop-Off Host

I believe I can contribute input based on my previous tenure on the CID Board of Directors and various church positions. Each day I see the need more and more for the Gospel to be spread to those who haven't heard of Jesus.

Board of Directors

Two commissioned ministers to be elected

Robinette Flach, Immanuel, Altamont

C: St. John Lutheran School, Forest Park, IL - 2005-2006; St. Lukes Lutheran Church and School, Montgomery, IL - 2006-2015; Altamont Lutheran Interparish School, Altamont; Youth group leader; St. Luke's Lutheran Church and school Leadership Council; Board member - Christ Lutheran Academy High School; Ysleta Lutheran Mission Trip planning team

D: Board member - CID Board of Directors - 2022

O: None

I am interested in assisting however God wishes me to be. If His plan is to be elected to the board of directors, I would bring a strong commitment to contributing to the overall success and growth of the organization.

Rebecca Heppe, Our Savior's, Springfield

C: Board of Education; Board of Directors; Board of Parish Life

D: Board of Directors, Springfield Lutheran High School

O: None

I have taught and served in Lutheran schools for 28 years, with 22 of those years being in the Central Illinois District. For the last two years, I have also served as Dean of Students at Our Savior's. I feel that I can relate well to people, and I'm a good problem solver due to my years of teaching experience and working with many faculty, staff, congregation members, and families.

Jordan Hopman, St Paul's, Decatur

C: None

D: None

O: TEACHER/ADMIN at ZION (BEECHER, IL) 2011-2016; TEACHER/ADMIN at LSA/UNITY (DECATUR) 2019-PRESENT

As a Lutheran school administrator I serve as our school's lone called principal. I've served in both rural and urban schools/congregations and understand the unique

challenges and opportunities that comes with each. Additionally, as an administrator and teacher, I understand the complexities that are involved in being part of a governing board, especially one involved with a church.

Steve Parry, Zion, Lincoln

C: Principal, Zion Lincoln - 2023-present; Principal, St. John Buckley - 2020-2023, Congregational Chair, Treasurer, Elder

D: CID Convention Floor Committee 2015; Parliamentarian CID Convention 2022; Lay Delegate LCMS Convention 2016

O: Choral Director/Choir, Habitat for Humanity, McLean County - 2011-2020; Choral Director, State Farm Employee Chorus - 2011-2018

I would work with the other members of the Board of Directors to help the District operate within its means while still providing the best possible leadership and assistance to congregations. I have analytical skills honed during my time at State Farm. These skills, combined with my experience as a Lutheran principal, and in various congregational offices, provide a solid foundation for me to help the District move into the future. I am also committed to the LCMS and want to see both individual congregations and schools, as well as the District, continue to thrive and provide Word and Sacrament ministry to the citizens of central Illinois.

Congregational Constitution, Bylaws and Handbook Committee

Two ordained ministers (1 must be parish pastor) to be elected

Rev. Stephen M Mueller, Concordia, Geneseo

C: St. James, Quincy, IL 2008-2012

D: None

O: None

Another set of eyes to read, ask questions, seek clarifications, and pray for congregations of our District working through their constitutions.

Rev. James Stuenkel, Immanuel, Springfield

C: St. Paul, Brookfield, IL, Teacher1972-78); St. John, East Moline, IL, DCE(1978-80); Good Shepherd, Sherman, IL, Pastor (1982-2017); Immanuel, Springfield, Pastor 2017-2024)

D: Synodical Convention rep. (Circuit); CID Stewardship Commission; CID Mission Commission; CID Board of Directors; CID Board of Directors (assistant sec & sec)

O: Lutheran H.S., Springfield BOD

Serving on the District BOD we reviewed many congregations constitutions and constitution changes gave me a little insight to what this committee will face.

Rev. Kent Tibben, Trinity, Danville

C: Trinity, Danville - 1992-present

D: CID Board of Directors; CID 2nd VP 2015-2018; CID 1st VP 2012-2015; CID Constitution Committee 2022-2025; Lutheran Musician Enrichment Instructor; Introductory Workshop Leader for HS '98; Introductory Workshop Leader for LSB; CUC Board of Regents 2007-2010

O: None

Having served one term, I have become familiar with how the Constitution Committee functions. I also have enjoyed many years serving within the CID, not only as parish pastor, but in other offices as well. It is my hope to faithfully serve the congregation to which the Lord has called me and to be of use to our district and synod however possible.

Congregational Constitution, Bylaws and Handbook Committee

One layman (attorney) to be elected

No candidate.

Nominations Committee for the 2028 Central Illinois District Convention

Two parish pastors to be elected

Rev. Jason Braaten, Immanuel, Tuscola, IL

C: Admissions & Advancement for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN (2007–2010)

D: CID Conference Committee (2010–2014), CID Board of Directors (2018–2019), LCEF Board of Directors (2019–Present)

O: Tuscola Library Board (2012 – Present), Tuscola Rotary Club President (2016 – 2017), Tuscola Rotary Club Vice-President (2015–2016), Tuscola Rotary Club Secretary (2012 – 2015), Tuscola Community Foundation (2015 – Present), LCMS Contract Writer, Stewardship (2013 – 2020), Logic Instructor, Wittenberg Academy (2013 – Present)

I have a deep love for Christ, His Word, and His Church, a love that seeks the truth and desires to share it. I have an abiding respect for our Lutheran heritage and the rich theological tradition in doctrine and practice bequeathed to us from our Lutheran forefathers, a respect that I seek to impart in those around me. But not every challenge we face is addressed in this rich tradition, yet it informs how meet and answer them. We ought not change for the sake of
change.

As a former fundraiser and recruiter for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, I learned the delicate art of facing conflict and difficult situations — temporal and spiritual — in a pastoral, caring, biblical and honest manner. This means that I do not shy away from conflict and am not afraid to ask difficult questions or make tough decisions so that the truth may be heard, souls comforted, families and faith restored, and the Church further united.

As LCMS Lutherans, we have much to be thankful for. If I can be an agent, beyond my call as a parish pastor, to hand down the great gifts we have received, I am eager to serve.

Rev. David Dunlop, Christ, Clinton and Zion, Chestnut

C: Stewardship Commission, 2018-2025; Circuit Visitor, 2022-2025
D: None
O: None

I could contribute organizational skills as I am meticulous in tracking certain details. I have been gifted the ability to plan and prioritize tasks in order to accomplish that which is set before me with efficiency.

Rev. Keith Kettner, Saint John, Beardstown

C: None
D: District Conference Committee
O: None

As a member of the nominations committee, I could especially provide a youthful acuity for technological communication.

Nominations Committee for the 2028 Central Illinois District Convention

Two parish teachers or DCEs to be elected

Gayle Dietsch, Trinity, Bloomington

C: Trinity Lutheran School 2004-present
D: CID/SID Teacher Conference Planning Committee, Treasurer of the CID/SID Teacher Conference Planning Committee 2021-present
O: None

I have a passion for Lutheran Education. I attended a Lutheran grade school, high school, and eventually college. My mom as well as some other members of my family were in Lutheran education. I want to see our churches and schools thrive so they can be a light in each of their communities so that all who hear may come to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Rebecca Heppe, Our Savior's, Springfield

C: Board of Education; Board of Directors; Board of Parish Life
D: Board of Directors, Springfield Lutheran High School
O: None

I have taught and served in Lutheran schools for 28 years, with 22 of those years being in the Central Illinois District. For the last two years, I have also served as Dean of Students at Our Savior's. I feel that I can relate well to people, and I'm a good problem solver due to my years of teaching experience and working with many faculty, staff, congregation members, and families.

Sandy Spitz, Immanuel, Loda

C: None

D: Mission Funding and Recognition Floor Committee (for CID Convention - 2025)

O: Secretary/Treasurer - CID Administrators' Group

Nominations Committee for the 2028 Central Illinois District Convention

Two laymen to be elected

Deloris Blessman, Saint Pauls, Havana

C: VBS Superintendent, Ladies Aid President and Treasurer, Sunday School Teacher, Wings (LWML group) Treasurer

D: CID LLL Treasurer and Fair Booth Chairmen; CID LWML Lincoln Zone President and District Corresponding Secretary; Camp Cilca Board Member and Treasurer

O: MacLean Forge: Human Resources, Accounts Payable, Purchasing

Organization, telephone and computer skills, persistence

Don James, Good Shepherd, Sherman

C: Elder Chair, Evangelism Chair, Sunday School Teacher, Adult Bible Class Teacher

D: None

O: President of Foundation For Excellence for Lutheran High

Willing to serve in any way I can, and not afraid to hear someone say "no"

David Harshaw, Our Savior's, Springfield

C: Board of Christian Education, Stewardship, Usher, Lutheran High School Board of Directors

D: Camp Cilca Board of Directors

O: None

I feel that my communication and business experience can be additive to the success of the District and the congregations within. I am excited to learn more about the district, the congregations and the leadership.

Brandon West, Saint Paul (Blue Point), Altamont, IL

C: Secretary, Parish Board

D: None

O: Illinois Council of Social Studies District 6 Representative

I will bring energy and passion to do whatever needs to be done. I'm able to effectively manage my time and willing to step up to any challenge.

Central Illinois District
2025 Nominations Committee
Rev. Michael Schuermann, Chairman
Mrs. Robinette Flach, Secretary
Rev. Joshua Theilen
Mrs. Lisa Dippel
Mr. Ray Stuckemeyer
Mr. Eldon Garlisch

***Please note*:** A number of positions could still use candidates. We ask the delegates to come to the convention with floor nominations. Seek out qualified individuals and receive their consent to serve in whatever capacity God has given them.

To that end, on the next page is a form to be used for floor nominations. It will need to be fully completed for the nomination to be valid and helpful in the elections process. It must include at least the nominee's name, street address, office of clergy, teacher, or layman, congregation that nominee holds membership in, and nominee's signature. The floor nomination form must be submitted during the convention time designated for the nominations committee (see convention schedule on p. A-1 of workbook).

Also, please find a fillable PDF of the floor nominations form at:
https://www.cidlcms.org/Convention2025/2025.Floor.Nominations.pdf

The Nominations Committee
Central Illinois District, LC-MS Convention, July 13—15, 2025

FLOOR NOMINATIONS for Elected Positions & Biographical Sketch of Nominee

Name: _____ **For the Position of**: _____

Street or P.O. Box_____City_____Zip_____

Email Address_____

I agree to have my name placed in nomination for the position stated above and, if elected, I will serve.

Signature: _____

Circle One: CLERGY TEACHER LAYMEMBER

Brief Biographical Sketch of Nominee for Elected Position
(Use back side of this form if additional space is needed)

Member of Congregation_____City_____

Place of Employment_____
Title or Position_____

Past and/or Present Position/Offices held in your congregation. Include dates, if known.

Past and/or Present Position/Offices held in District/Synod. Include dates, if known.

Past and/or Present Positions/Offices held in city, state, voluntary & professional organizations. Include dates, if known.

What do you believe you could contribute to this position if elected?

Note: Following Bylaw requirements, there are no nominations taken from the floor for District President and there is a special process for nominations for Vice Presidents.

Resolution 25-1-01 - To Stimulate Training for Witness D-1
Resolution 25-1-02 - Encourage Lutheran School Accreditation D-2
Resolution 25-1-03 - Encourage Witness and Outreach in Nursing Homes D-2
Resolution 25-2-04 - Clarify Policies Regarding Application and Renewal of RSO Status D-2
Resolution 2025-1-05 - Amend and Update Selected Bylaws of the CID Handbook D-4
Resolution 25-1-06 - Encourage Use of *Beyond the Classroom (BTC)* D-38
Resolution 25-1-07 - Encourage Sabbaticals for Church Workers D-38
Resolution 25-1-08 - Amend and Update Nomenclature for Church Workers in the Bylaws of the CID Handbook D-39
Resolution 25-1-09 - Encourage Study of the Left-hand and Right-hand Modes of Governance D-39
Resolution 25-1-10 - Decline Overture 25-03 D-40
Resolution 25-2-01 - Launch a Funding Campaign for Mission Support in the Central Illinois District D-41
Resolution 25-2-02 - Suspend "A Dollar for Missions" in the Central Illinois District D-42
Resolution 25-2-03 - Prioritize District Facilities for Funding D-43
Resolution 25-2-04 - Annualize Congregational Assessments D-43
Resolution 25-2-05 - Commemorate the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicæa D-49
Resolution 25-2-06 - Commemorate the 125th Anniversary of Deaf Ministry in Central Illinois D-49
Resolution 25-2-07 - Commemorate the Life and Ministry of Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn D-50
Resolution 25-2-08 - Encourage Church Planting D-50
Resolution 25-2-09 - Encourage Ministry In Prisons and County Jails D-52

Supplement

Resolution 25-1-05A - Amend and Update Selected Bylaws of the CID Handbook D-53
Resolution 25-2-01A - Launch a Funding Campaign for Mission Support in the Central Illinois District D-87
Resolution 25-2-05A - Commemorate the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicæa D-90

2025 RESOLUTIONS

FLOOR COMMITTEE 1 – CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 25-1-01

To Stimulate Training for Witness

Overture 25-06

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

therefore, be it

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolution 25-1-02

To Encourage Lutheran School Accreditation

Education and Congregational Life Report

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

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

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

therefore, be it

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

Resolution 25-1-03

To Encourage Witness and Outreach in Nursing Homes

Overture 25-05

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

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

therefore, be it

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

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

Resolution 25-2-04

To Clarify Policies Regarding Application and Renewal of RSO Status

Overture 25-02

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

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

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

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

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, 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 President 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:

1. 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] *Pride*ful 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*)
2. 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*),

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 polices 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 and 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 and revoked.

Resolution 2025-1-05

To Amend and Update Selected Bylaws of the CID Handbook

Overture 25-08

WHEREAS, The CID Board of Directors and the CID Commission on Constitutional Matters and District Handbook recommended changes and updates to the present edition of the CID Handbook and received prior approval from the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters;

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.

25-1-05 - 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

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.c. 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~~ pastor, ~~teacher or DCE~~ commissioned church worker from the Synod roster, 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 Synod~~ical~~ 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 church workers from the Synod roster.

2.6.a.8. The Circuit Visitors

2.6.a.9. Congregational Constitution and District Handbook Committee: two ~~Ministers of Religion Ordained~~ pastors (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 church workers from the Synod roster, 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 pastor, at least one commissioned church worker from the Synod roster, 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 ReligionCommissioned, two laymen~~ two pastors, one commissioned church worker from the Synod roster, one layman who is voting member of a congregation of the District, and a fifth member of a District congregation who is not a pastor.

~~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~~3~~. 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. 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.b. 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.c. 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~~ commissioned church worker from the Synod roster of the District. Therefore, as often as possible, he shall attend the conferences of pastors and ~~teachers,~~ commissioned church worker from the Synod roster, advise the congregations of the District as to the calling of pastors and ~~teachers,~~ commissioned church workers from the Synod roster, 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.

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

2.16 Qualifications

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

2.17 Duties

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

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

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

E. THE TREASURER OF THE DISTRICT

2.18 Qualifications

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

2.19 Duties

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

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

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

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

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

F. THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT

2.20 Qualifications

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

2.21 Duties

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

2.21.b. He shall be responsible for the issuance of regular reports in the official District news publication showing the contributions of each congregation in such manner and frequency as directed by the Board of Directors.

2.21.c. He shall be responsible for keeping an accurate account of the communicant membership of every congregation, of each circuit, and of the district.

2.21.d. He shall be responsible for reporting to the Board of Directors, congregations which may experience difficulty in being current with District/Synod mission commitment.

2.21.e. He may be assisted in the fulfillment of these responsibilities through such service and assistance as may be arranged with the Business Manager (if appointed).

G. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DISTRICT

2.22 Membership

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

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

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

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

2.23 Officers

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

2.24 Prohibition of Conflict of Interest

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

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

2.25 Responsibilities, Commissions

2.25.a. The Board of Directors as a whole is charged with the responsibility of handling for the District all matters 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~~ pastors and commissioned ~~ministers~~ church workers from the Synod roster 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~~ pastors, 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~~ical~~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~~ pastors, one commissioned church worker from the Synod roster, one layman who is voting member of a congregation of the District, and a fifth member of a District congregation who is not a~~n ordained minister~~ a pastor.

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.~~

2.3~~5.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 Pubic 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~~ pastors, two ~~teachers or DCEs~~, commissioned church workers from the Synod roster, 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 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 church workers from the Synod roster, 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 alternateto 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 Synod~~ical~~ 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 church workers from the Synod roster;

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 Synod~~ical~~ 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 ~~t~~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 Synod~~ical~~ purposes.

IV. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

4.1 Disputes defined in Bylaw Article 1.10 of the Synod~~ical~~ 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 church workers from the Synod roster, 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~~ and commissioned church workers from the Synod roster; 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 ~~s~~Synod~~ical~~ 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" (Synod~~ical~~ 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. Synod~~ical~~ 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.

10.2.1. 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~~Synod~~ical~~ 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~~Synod~~ical~~ 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 pastor, at least one commissioned church worker from the Synod roster, 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~~ commissioned church workers from the Synod roster 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.

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

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

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

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

XIII. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

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

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

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

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

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

Resolution 25-1-06

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

Evangelism Commission Report

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

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

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

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

Resolution 25-1-07

To Encourage Sabbaticals for Church Workers

Human Care and Church Worker Support and Wellness Report

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

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

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

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

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

therefore, be it

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

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

Resolution 25-1-08

To Amend and Update Nomenclature for Church Workers in the Bylaws of the CID Handbook

Overture 25-08

WHEREAS, The titles and acronyms of commissioned workers on the Roster of Synod include: Directors of Christian Education (DCE), Directors of Christian Outreach (DCO), Directors of Parish Music (DPM), Directors of Family Life Ministries (DFLM), Deaconesses, and Teachers; and

WHEREAS, The CID Bylaws make reference to teachers and DCEs when referring to commissioned ministers; and

WHEREAS, All those classified on the Synod Roster as "ordained" are also pastors in Christ's church, and

WHEREAS, The CID Board of Directors and the CID Commission on Constitutional Matters and District Handbook recommended changes and updates to the present edition of the CID Handbook and received prior approval from the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters;

therefore, be it

Resolved, That all occurrences of "teacher" and/or "DCE" and any combination of the two in the CID Handbook for 2025, be updated to read "commissioned church worker from the Synod roster"; and be it finally

Resolved, That all occurrences of the term "ordained minister" in the CID Handbook for 2025 be updated to read "pastor".

NOTE: These updates are included in the changes marked in 25-1-05 – Appendix A, starting on Page D-4.

Resolution 25-1-09

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

Overture 25-01

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

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

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

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

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

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

therefore be it

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

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

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

Resolution 25-1-10

To Decline Overture 25-03

Overture 25-03

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

therefore, be it

Resolved, That Overture 25-03 be declined.

FLOOR COMMITTEE 2 – MISSION FUNDING AND RECOGNITIONS

Resolution 25-2-01

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

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

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 $7 million campaign:

3. Providing for 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

4. 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: $5.5 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 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]

IT'S TIME TO DECIDE

WHEREAS, CID has contracted with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) to lead a Ministry Readiness Study (comprised of forum meetings and congregational surveys), and

WHEREAS, Forum meetings have been completed, and

WHEREAS, Survey results are being compiled and will be processed by May 2025, and

WHEREAS, the Ministry Readiness Study results will guide the District in determining a feasible goal to continue financial support for current and future District missions on behalf of the CID congregations,

therefore be it

Resolved, that the Central Illinois District approve the launch of a funding campaign to raise $1.5 million for repairs and upgrades to District facilities and $5.5 million for longer-range financial support through contributions to endowment funds for continued funding of these valuable District mission treasures, and be it finally

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

Resolution 25-2-02

To Suspend "A Dollar for Missions" in the Central Illinois District

Overture 25-04, Overture 25-07

(This is a Resolution the Floor Committee will offer if the Convention adopts Resolution 25-2-01, To Launch a Funding Campaign for Mission Support in the Central Illinois District)

WHEREAS, "A Dollar for Missions" (DFM) was approved and authorized by the 2022 Central Illinois District convention to provide funding for 1) new church starts, 2) mission-oriented augmentation of existing ministries, and 3) present CID missions, and was subsequently put in operation by District officers, and

WHEREAS, Information regarding the DFM has been distributed to all CID congregations, but with only one-sixth of CID churches contributing on a regular basis, and five-sixths of CID churches not participating and contributing to DFM; and

WHEREAS, The funds contributed to DFM can only be used for specific mission purposes, not for CID purposes at-large; and

WHEREAS, At its 2025 convention CID has adopted a campaign to address repair and upgrade needs at District-owned facilities; and

WHEREAS, A duplication of effort with DFM may result; and

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

Resolved, That any money designated for DFM received after July 15, 2025 and for the duration of the major campaign will be applied to paying for repairs and upgrades at District-owned mission facilities as listed by Mission Commission in its 2025 convention report.

Resolution 25-2-03

To Prioritize District Facilities for Funding

President's Report, Mission Commission Report, and Stewardship Commission Report

(This is a Resolution the Floor Committee will offer if the Convention does not adopt Resolution 25-2-01, To Launch Funding Campaign for Mission Support in the Central Illinois District)

Whereas, The Convention chose not to launch a funding campaign, and

Whereas, Financial constraints will strike before the next Convention,

therefore be it

Resolved, That the District in Convention conduct a non-binding prioritization to recommend to the CID Board of Directors when it considers funding for District missions.

Resolution 25-2-04

To Annualize Congregational Assessments

Overture 25-10

WHEREAS, The congregations of the CID currently contribute towards the synod convention, district convention, official district pastors' conferences, district pastors' wives' retreats, official district teachers' conferences, and official district school administrators' 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.

Congregation	Confirmed Membership	Average Attendance	Last Year Reported	Annual	3-yesr Total	2023 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
St. John - Beardstown	167/167	73/73	2024	$351.00	$1,053.00	$487.35
Good Shepherd - Bloomington	115/115	78/78	2024	$326.33	$979.00	$413.25
Our Redeemer - Bloomington	221/221	86/86	2024	$413.00	$1,239.00	$954.75

Congregation	Confirmed Membership	Average Attendance	Last Year Reported	Annual	3-yesr Total	2023 Synod Conv. Assmt.
Trinity - Bloomington	2180/2180	467/467	2024	$2,481.00	$7,443.00	$6,897.00
St. Paul - Blue Point	246/269	115/126	2015	$525.00	$1,575.00	$666.90
Trinity - Bluffs	190/196	33/34	2021	$292.33	$877.00	$786.60
St. Paul - Bowen	47/47	25/25	2024	$175.00	$525.00	$173.85
St. Paul - Brimfield	96/96	33/33	2024	$223.67	$671.00	$470.25
Immanuel - Broadlands	341/341	133/133	2024	$587.00	$1,761.00	$1,105.80
St. John - Buckley	596/608	135/138	2022	$775.00	$2,325.00	$1,610.25
Risen Savior - Buffalo	12/12	5/5	2023	$111.67	$335.00	$37.05
Trinity - Casey	86/86	25/25	2024	$201.00	$603.00	$239.40
Friendship/ Church of Joy - Champaign	93/94	45/45	2023	$246.33	$739.00	$296.40
St. John - Champaign	712/712	286/286	2024	$1,140.33	$3,421.00	$2,579.25
University - Champaign	27/27	60/61	2023	$233.67	$701.00	$54.15
Salem - Chandlerville	57/57	15/15	2024	$161.67	$485.00	$176.70
St. Paul - Chapin	70/75	54/58	2017	$259.67	$779.00	$342.00
Immanuel - Charleston	132/132	56/56	2024	$293.67	$881.00	$994.65
St. John - Chatham	283/283	109/109	2024	$500.33	$1,501.00	$937.65
St. Paul - Chenoa	228/228	66/66	2024	$377.67	$1,133.00	$681.15
Zion - Chestnut	84/84	65/65	2024	$279.67	$839.00	$205.20
Immanuel - Cissna Park	23/25	20/21	2017	$152.33	$457.00	$62.70
Trinity - Cissna Park	257/257	54/54	2024	$373.00	$1,119.00	$769.50
Good Shepherd - Clayton	50/50	34/34	2024	$195.00	$585.00	$153.90
Christ - Clinton	80/80	42/42	2024	$231.00	$693.00	$222.30
Trinity - Coal Valley	116/116	62/62	2024	$295.00	$885.00	$228.00
Zion - Danvers	25/26	14/14	2021	$139.00	$417.00	$74.10
Immanuel - Danville	426/430	87/88	2023	$556.33	$1,669.00	$1,305.30
Trinity - Danville	393/393	111/111	2024	$577.67	$1,733.00	$1,034.55
Concordia - Decatur	75/75	24/24	2024	$191.67	$575.00	$230.85
Mount Calvary - Decatur	261/261	115/115	2024	$497.67	$1,493.00	$743.85
St. John - Decatur	1108/1108	185/185	2024	$1,202.33	$3,607.00	$3,337.35
St. Paul's - Decatur	1874/1874	559/559	2024	$2,461.00	$7,383.00	$5,560.35
Trinity - Decatur	170/170	70/70	2024	$347.00	$1,041.00	$444.60
Christ - Delavan	105/106	20/20	2023	$204.33	$613.00	$310.65

Congregation	Confirmed Membership	Average Attendance	Last Year Reported	Annual	3-yesr Total	2023 Synod Conv. Assmt.
Grace - Dieterich	84/84	12/12	2024	$173.67	$521.00	$265.05
St. John - Dieterich	150/150	77/77	2024	$347.67	$1,043.00	$407.55
Cristo Rey - East Moline	18/18	18/18	2024	$141.67	$425.00	$48.45
St. John - East Moline	424/424	123/123	2024	$622.33	$1,867.00	$1,510.50
Zion - East Moline	130/139	50/54	2017	$294.33	$883.00	$396.15
Saint Peters - East Peoria	187/187	75/75	2024	$368.33	$1,105.00	$575.70
Trinity - Edinburg	132/132	25/25	2024	$231.67	$695.00	$513.00
St. John - Effingham	785/785	399/399	2024	$1,415.00	$4,245.00	$2,254.35
Trinity - El Paso	199/199	110/110	2024	$446.33	$1,339.00	$513.00
Our Redeemer - Eureka	125/129	55/57	2021	$293.67	$881.00	$356.25
Mt. Calvary - Galesburg	164/164	108/108	2024	$419.00	$1,257.00	$450.30
Concordia - Geneseo	308/308	121/121	2024	$541.00	$1,623.00	$880.65
St. John - Geneseo	167/167	47/47	2024	$299.00	$897.00	$532.95
Holy Cross - Golden	79/79	50/50	2024	$246.33	$739.00	$293.55
St. John - Green Valley	915/915	113/113	2024	$929.67	$2,789.00	$2,641.95
St. Paul - Havana	558/575	100/103	2021	$683.00	$2,049.00	$1,587.45
Good Shepherd - Hoopeston	25/25	15/15	2023	$140.33	$421.00	$111.15
Christ - Jacksonville	24/24	15/15	2023	$139.67	$419.00	$71.25
Our Redeemer - Jacksonville	147/147	74/74	2024	$339.67	$1,019.00	$416.10
Salem - Jacksonville	663/663	132/132	2024	$799.67	$2,399.00	$1,886.70
Faith - Kewanee	109/109	21/21	2024	$208.33	$625.00	$290.70
St. Paul - Kewanee	72/74	35/36	2021	$215.00	$645.00	$133.95
Our Savior - Lawrenceville	42/42	19/19	2024	$159.67	$479.00	$48.45
St. Paul - Lexington	208/208	54/54	2024	$340.33	$1,021.00	$609.90
Faith - Lincoln	326/326	70/70	2024	$451.00	$1,353.00	$934.80
Zion - Lincoln	303/303	174/174	2024	$643.67	$1,931.00	$1,268.25
Immanuel - Loda	75/75	24/24	2024	$191.67	$575.00	$233.70
St. John - Louisville	243/243	132/132	2024	$519.67	$1,559.00	$695.40
Immanuel - Macomb	72/73	50/51	2023	$244.33	$733.00	$202.35
St. Paul - Manito	138/138	50/50	2024	$285.67	$857.00	$416.10
Trinity - Manito	107/107	35/35	2024	$235.00	$705.00	$336.30
Christ - Mason City	194/194	67/67	2024	$357.00	$1,071.00	$558.60
St. John's - Mattoon	713/713	213/213	2024	$995.00	$2,985.00	$2,408.25
St. Paul - Mattoon	109/109	68/68	2024	$302.33	$907.00	$726.75

Congregation	Confirmed Membership	Average Attendance	Last Year Reported	Annual	3-yesr Total	2023 Synod Conv. Assmt.
St. Matthew - Milan	583/583	162/162	2024	$806.33	$2,419.00	$1,618.80
Our Savior - Milford	176/176	77/77	2024	$365.00	$1,095.00	$627.00
Good Shepherd - Miner	45/45	24/24	2023	$171.67	$515.00	$145.35
Holy Cross - Moline	185/185	80/80	2024	$377.00	$1,131.00	$900.60
Faith - Monticello	57/57	60/60	2024	$251.67	$755.00	$293.55
Bethel - Morton	1498/1498	683/683	2024	$2,458.33	$7,375.00	$3,819.00
Zion - Mt Pulaski	289/289	69/69	2024	$424.33	$1,273.00	$880.65
First - Mt. Sterling	55/60	25/27	2015	$187.67	$563.00	$85.50
Mount Zion - Mt. Zion	55/56	18/18	2023	$167.00	$501.00	$142.50
St. John - New Berlin	144/144	66/66	2024	$321.67	$965.00	$407.55
Zion - New Holland	71/72	29/29	2023	$199.67	$599.00	$114.00
Good Shepherd - Newton	36/36	12/12	2024	$141.67	$425.00	$125.40
Christ - Normal	534/534	195/195	2024	$839.67	$2,519.00	$1,282.50
St. John - Onarga	188/188	62/62	2024	$343.00	$1,029.00	$521.55
Immanuel - Osman	100/100	43/43	2024	$246.33	$739.00	$342.00
St. Paul - Pana	214/220	35/36	2021	$312.33	$937.00	$607.05
Grace - Paris	215/215	105/105	2024	$447.00	$1,341.00	$598.50
St. John - Pekin	527/527	110/110	2024	$665.00	$1,995.00	$1,698.60
Trinity - Pekin	261/261	66/66	2024	$399.67	$1,199.00	$803.70
Christ - Peoria	438/438	126/126	2024	$637.67	$1,913.00	$1,299.60
Mt. Calvary - Peoria	308/308	84/84	2024	$467.00	$1,401.00	$906.30
Redeemer - Peoria	901/901	410/410	2024	$1,514.33	$4,543.00	$3,705.00
Trinity - Peoria	509/509	326/326	2024	$1,085.00	$3,255.00	$2,462.40
Bethlehem - Petersburg	399/399	60/60	2024	$479.67	$1,439.00	$826.50
St. Paul - Pittsfield	29/30	16/16	2022	$145.67	$437.00	$116.85
Zion - Pleasant Plains	152/152	36/36	2024	$267.00	$801.00	$458.85
LC of St. John - Quincy	547/547	197/197	2024	$852.33	$2,557.00	$1,775.55
Our Redeemer - Quincy	474/479	142/143	2023	$699.00	$2,097.00	$1,308.15
St. James - Quincy	444/444	160/160	2024	$709.67	$2,129.00	$1,778.40
Immanuel - Riverton	40/40	20/20	2023	$160.33	$481.00	$99.75
Trinity - Roanoke	68/68	42/42	2024	$223.00	$669.00	$299.25
Our Redeemer - Robinson	36/36	22/22	2024	$161.67	$485.00	$88.35
Good Shepherd - Rochester	125/134	43/46	2017	$275.00	$825.00	$356.25
Immanuel - Rock Island	228/228	60/60	2024	$365.67	$1,097.00	$698.25

Congregation	Confirmed Membership	Average Attendance	Last Year Reported	Annual	3-yesr Total	2023 Synod Conv. Assmt.
St. John - Rushville	118/129	49/54	2015	$287.67	$863.00	$165.30
St. Paul - Sadorus	300/303	82/83	2023	$461.67	$1,385.00	$769.50
Salem - Salem	399/399	212/212	2024	$783.67	$2,351.00	$1,271.10
St. Luke - San Jose	136/137	35/35	2023	$255.00	$765.00	$384.75
St. John - Secor	232/232	21/21	2024	$290.33	$871.00	$695.40
Holy Cross - Shelbyville	289/289	100/100	2024	$486.33	$1,459.00	$866.40
Good Shepherd - Sherman	451/451	97/97	2024	$588.33	$1,765.00	$1,539.00
St. Paul - Shobonier	130/133	32/33	2022	$248.33	$745.00	$242.25
Faith - Shumway	219/235	115/123	2017	$496.33	$1,489.00	$572.85
St. Paul - Sigel	112/112	23/23	2024	$214.33	$643.00	$339.15
Concordia - Springfield	151/151	50/50	2024	$294.33	$883.00	$715.35
Holy Trinity - Springfield	7/7	7/7	2023	$112.33	$337.00	$57.00
Immanuel - Springfield	133/133	76/76	2024	$334.33	$1,003.00	$353.40
Our Savior's - Springfield	1283/1283	386/386	2024	$1,721.00	$5,163.00	$4,143.90
Trinity - Springfield	1391/1521	438/479	2015	$2,065.67	$6,197.00	$3,964.35
St. Peter - St. Peter	493/498	121/122	2023	$669.67	$2,009.00	$1,416.45
Trinity - Stewardson	401/401	136/136	2024	$633.00	$1,899.00	$1,097.25
Grace - Strasburg	96/96	54/54	2024	$265.67	$797.00	$285.00
St. Paul - Strasburg	377/392	150/156	2020	$667.00	$2,001.00	$1,026.00
Faith - Sullivan	169/169	74/74	2024	$354.33	$1,063.00	$256.50
Zion - Taylor Ridge	212/212	67/67	2024	$369.00	$1,107.00	$749.55
Trinity - Taylorville	420/424	72/73	2023	$522.33	$1,567.00	$1,268.25
St. Peter - Thawville	96/104	22/24	2016	$211.00	$633.00	$267.90
Peace - Thomasboro	151/153	65/66	2023	$327.67	$983.00	$427.50
Immanuel - Tuscola	158/158	106/106	2024	$411.00	$1,233.00	$487.35
Trinity - Urbana	130/131	85/86	2023	$353.00	$1,059.00	$769.50
Holy Cross - Vandalia	139/139	69/69	2024	$324.33	$973.00	$778.05
St. Paul - Varna	117/117	35/35	2024	$241.67	$725.00	$324.90
Concordia - Warsaw	24/26	13/14	2017	$139.00	$417.00	$68.40
St. John - Washburn	180/182	20/20	2023	$255.00	$765.00	$521.55
Our Savior - Washington	379/394	186/194	2020	$744.33	$2,233.00	$969.00
Calvary - Watseka	338/338	100/100	2024	$519.00	$1,557.00	$912.00
Christ - Waverly	106/110	18/19	2020	$205.00	$615.00	$307.80
Zion - Wenona	44/44	20/20	2024	$163.00	$489.00	$136.80

Congregation	Confirmed Membership	Average Attendance	Last Year Reported	Annual	3-yesr Total	2023 Synod Conv. Assmt.
St. Paul - Wheeler	134/134	60/60	2024	$303.00	$909.00	$322.05
Christ - Winchester	42/42	19/19	2024	$159.67	$479.00	$131.10
St. Paul - Woodworth	330/330	120/120	2024	$553.67	$1,661.00	$1,077.30

Resolution 25-2-05

To Commemorate the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicæa

President's Report

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

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

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

therefore be it

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

Resolution 25-2-06

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

Mission Commission Report

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

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

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

therefore be it

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

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

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

Resolution 25-2-07

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

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

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.

2025 AMENDED RESOLUTIONS

FLOOR COMMITTEE 1 – CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2025-1-05A

To Amend and Update Selected Bylaws of the CID Handbook

Overture 25-08, Late Overture 25-L02

WHEREAS, The CID Board of Directors and the CID Commission on Constitutional Matters and District Handbook 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

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.c. 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 Synod~~ical~~ 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.43. 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.~~a~~b 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.~~b~~c. 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.~~c~~d. 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

2.16 Qualifications

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

2.17 Duties

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

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

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

E. THE TREASURER OF THE DISTRICT

2.18 Qualifications

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

2.19 Duties

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

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

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

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

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

F. THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT

2.20 Qualifications

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

2.21 Duties

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

2.21.b. He shall be responsible for the issuance of regular reports in the official District news publication showing the contributions of each congregation in such manner and frequency as directed by the Board of Directors.

2.21.c. He shall be responsible for keeping an accurate account of the communicant membership of every congregation, of each circuit, and of the district.

2.21.d. He shall be responsible for reporting to the Board of Directors, congregations which may experience difficulty in being current with District/Synod mission commitment.

2.21.e. He may be assisted in the fulfillment of these responsibilities through such service and assistance as may be arranged with the Business Manager (if appointed).

G. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DISTRICT

2.22 Membership

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

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

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

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

2.23 Officers

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

2.24 Prohibition of Conflict of Interest

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

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

2.25 Responsibilities, Commissions

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

2.3~~5.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 Pubic 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 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~~, <u>two commissioned ministers</u>, 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 Synod~~ical~~ 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 Synod~~ical~~ 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 ~~t~~he 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 Synod~~ical~~ purposes.

IV. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

4.1 Disputes defined in Bylaw Article 1.10 of the Synod~~ical~~ 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 ~~s~~Synod~~ical~~ 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" (Synod~~ical~~ 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. Synod~~ical~~ 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.

10.2.1. 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~~Synod~~ical~~ 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~~Synod~~ical~~ 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.

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

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

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

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

XIII. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

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

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

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

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

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

FLOOR COMMITTEE 2 – MISSION FUNDING AND RECOGNITIONS

Resolution 25-2-01A

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

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.

IT'S TIME TO DECIDE

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

WHEREAS, Giving, once brought home, does not remain "at home," but enables Gospel proclamation beyond one's own congregation; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

therefore be it

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

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

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

- Endowment for campus ministry at University of Illinois
- Endowment for campus ministry at Illinois State University
- Endowment for campus ministry at Eastern Illinois University
- Endowment for campus ministry at Western Illinois University

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

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

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

and be it finally

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

Overture 25-01 - To Withdraw RSO Status from Organizations … E-1

Overture 25-02 - To Direct The Office of the Secretary of the Synod to Decline Applications for Recognized Service Organization Status… E-2

Overture 25-03 - To Establish a Task Force to Review and Recommend Improvements to Healthcare Options for LCMS Church Workers E-4

Overture 25-04 - To Suspend "A Dollar for Missions" in the Central Illinois District E-5

Overture 25-05 – To Encourage Witness and Outreach in Nursing Homes E-6

Overture 25-06 – To Stimulate Training for Witness E-6

Overture 25-07 – To End Dollar for Missions E-7

Overture 25-08 – To Amend the District Bylaws E-7

Overture 25-09 – To Initiate a District-Wide Funding Campaign E-28

Overture 25-10 – To Annualize Congregational Assessments E-30

Supplement

Late Overture 25-L01 - To Launch a Funding Campaign for Mission Support in the Central Illinois District E-32

Late Overture 25-L02 - To Establish a Date for District Conventions E-33

2025 OVERTURES

Overture 25-01

To Withdraw RSO Status from Organizations that Financially Benefit from or Advocate for Either Increased or Decreased Immigration and Refugee Services

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

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

WHEREAS, "The granting of recognized service organization (henceforth RSO) status by the Synod signifies that a service organization, while independent of the Synod, fosters the mission and ministry of the church … and respects and does not act contrary to the doctrine and practice of the Synod" (LCMS Bylaw 6.2.1); and

WHEREAS, Inspiritus, Inc., Lutheran Family Services of Colorado, Lutheran Services Florida, Inc., Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc., Lutheran Family Services of the National Capital Area, Lutheran Social Services of the South, Inc. (Upbring), Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, and Lutheran Community Services Northwest have been granted RSO status; and

WHEREAS, The above RSOs as part of Lutheran Services in America and its member organizations actively lobby the government regarding matters pertaining to the Kingdom of the Left, stating, "The collective power of our $26 billion faith-based voice on Capitol Hill plays a crucial role in advancing policies that improve lives. Together, we ensure that our voices are heard for millions of people experiencing need," (accessed November 1, 2024, *https://lutheranservices.org/public-policy-advocacy/*) including "refugees, New Americans and more;" (accessed November 1, 2024, *https://lutheranservices.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2023-LSA-Annual-Report_spread.pdf*); and

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

WHEREAS, The mission of the Church, even in human care, is not to advocate for more or less immigration and refugee services, or more or less government spending; and

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

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

therefore be it

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

Resolved, That the Synod engage in thoughtful political discourse seeking the public good with humility according to the Kingdom of the Left, and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod declare that RSO status shall not be given to any organization that lobbies the government for either increased or decreased immigration, or increased or decreased spending on refugee services, nor such organizations that financially benefit therefrom; and be it finally

Resolved, That the following organizations be immediately removed by the Synod in Convention of their RSO status:

Inspiritus, Inc.

Lutheran Family Services of Colorado (Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains)

Lutheran Services Florida, Inc.

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.

Lutheran Family Services of the National Capital Area

Lutheran Social Services of the South, Inc. (Upbring)

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest

Lutheran Community Services Northwest

Altamont Circuit Forum

Overture 25-02

To Direct The Office of the Secretary of the Synod to Decline Applications for Recognized Service Organization Status from Organizations Currently Supporting, Advocating, or Otherwise Promoting the LGBTQIA+ Agenda and Lifestyle and to Direct The Office of National Missions and The Office of International Mission to Revoke RSO Status of the Same

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

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

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

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

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, 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, The Office of the Secretary of the Synod is tasked with receiving and facilitating applications for RSO status, (Bylaw 6.2.4.a); and

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

WHEREAS, Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) and Lutheran Social Services of Northern California (LSSNorCA) have both been granted RSO status; and

WHEREAS, 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), and

WHEREAS, 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),

therefore be it

Resolved, That LCSNW and LSSNorCA be immediately removed by the Synod in Convention of their RSO status.

Resolved, That the members of Synod support and encourage their respective District Presidents as they go about their task given them in Bylaw 6.2.1.c of overseeing the RSOs under their ecclesiastical supervision.

Resolved, That the Office of the Secretary of Synod decline any applications for RSO status received from 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, advocating, or otherwise promoting the same; and be it further

Resolved, That the ONM and OIM do not grant or renew 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 Bylaw 6.2.3 be amended 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 polices 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. <u>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.</u> 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 Bylaw 6.2.4 be amended 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 and 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.

(a) Applications for recognized service organization status shall be made to the Office of the Secretary of the Synod, which will facilitate the application as follows:

…

(4) Decline applications for RSO status from organizations currently supporting, uplifting, celebrating, or otherwise promoting groups, agendas, thoughts, ideas, ideals, etc. contrary to God's design for man and woman as well as declining applications from organizations seeking RSO status that are partnered with the same.

(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 and revoked.

…

Note: There didn't seem to be any readily and speedily available mechanism in the Handbook for removal of RSOs who do not continue to live up to the RSO status. This overture would specifically empower ONM and OIM to revoke RSO status. In addition it would allow the Office of the Secretary of the Synod to vet out most of the problematic RSO applications at the front end. Since the granting of RSO status involves application and reapplication every 5 years, the proposed bylaw changes should cover any removals that need to happen within 5 years

Altamont Circuit Forum

Overture 25-03

To Establish a Task Force to Review and Recommend Improvements to Healthcare Options for LCMS Church Workers

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) recognizes the vital role of its called workers, including pastors, teachers, deaconesses, and other rostered church professionals, in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and nurturing the spiritual growth of its members; and

WHEREAS, These called workers dedicate their lives to serving God and His people, often foregoing more lucrative secular careers to answer this divine calling, motivated by love for God, a sense of divine purpose, and a desire to edify the body of Christ; and

WHEREAS, Scripture affirms the principle that "the laborer deserves his wages" (1 Timothy 5:18), and that those who minister the Gospel should receive their living from the Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:14), recognizing the importance of providing for those who dedicate their lives to ministry; and

WHEREAS, Recent changes in healthcare options available to LCMS church workers through Concordia Plan Services (CPS), have placed undue financial burdens on individuals, their families, and the congregations which they serve, increasing out-of-pocket costs, deductibles, and co-pays, thus creating undue financial hardship and stress among those whose vocations are often not financially rewarding; and

WHEREAS, These increased costs are causing congregations to consider other plans outside of CPS, creating a smaller pool of church workers served, leading to increasing cost for existing workers and their congregations participating in CPS; and

WHEREAS, These increased financial pressures can lead to significant stress and anxiety for church workers, negatively impacting their well-being, potentially leading to burnout, and hindering their ability to effectively serve their congregations and communities; and

WHEREAS, Inadequate healthcare coverage can also create concerns about access to necessary medical care, potentially leading to delays or avoidance of treatment, impacting the long-term health and well-being of our dedicated church workers; and

WHEREAS, Providing comprehensive and affordable healthcare options is essential for attracting and retaining qualified and dedicated individuals to serve in ministry, ensuring the continued health and vitality of the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, The well-being of our church workers is intrinsically linked to the health and strength of our congregations and the overall mission of the LCMS to share the Gospel with the world;

therefore, be it

Resolved, That the District memorialize the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention to establish a task force to thoroughly review the current healthcare options available to church workers and explore alternative models that provide more comprehensive, affordable, and sustainable coverage; and be it further

Resolved, That this task force include representatives from among the ordained clergy, teachers, deaconesses, lay leaders, and healthcare professionals, to ensure a diverse range of perspectives and expertise; and be it finally

Resolved, That this task force present its findings and recommendations to the synod at the 2029 convention, with the goal of implementing improved healthcare options for LCMS church workers that reflect the value and importance of their service to the church and the glory of God.

Rock Island Circuit Forum

Overture 25-04

To Suspend "A Dollar for Missions" in the Central Illinois District

WHEREAS, "A Dollar for Missions" (DFM) was approved and authorized by the 2022 Central Illinois District convention, and was subsequently put in operation by District officers, and

WHEREAS, Information regarding the DFM has been distributed to all CID congregations, but with only one-sixth of CID churches contributing on a regular basis and five-sixths of CID churches not participating and contributing to DFM; and

WHEREAS, The funds contributed to DFM can only be used for specific mission purposes, not for CID purposes at-large; and

WHEREAS, At its 2025 convention CID will consider the prospect of a campaign to address repair and upgrade needs at District-owned facilities; and

WHEREAS, If the District were to adopt such a campaign, a duplication of effort with DFM may result; and

WHEREAS, A single course of action is desirable so focus is maintained;

therefore be it

Resolved, That if the District adopts a major funding campaign at its 2025 convention, DFM will be suspended in CID at the close of the convention; and be it finally

Resolved, That any money designated for DFM received after July 15, 2025 and for the duration of the major campaign will be applied to paying for repairs and upgrades at District-owned mission facilities as listed by Mission Commission in its 2025 convention report.

Stewardship Commission

Overture 25-05

To Encourage Witness and Outreach in Nursing Homes

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

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

therefore be it

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

Resolved, That congregations consider "adopting" a nearby nursing home, the pastor going there regularly for services and/or Bible classes as well as personal visits, accompanied by church members who can assist with music, general conversation with residents and witness to them.

Evangelism Commission

Overture 25-06

To Stimulate Training for Witness

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

therefore be it

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

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

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

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

Resolved, That CID's Circuit Visitors be required to report to the 2028 District convention the steps taken by the congregations in their Circuits to implement this resolution (the foregoing *Resolved*s are based on LCMS 2023 Res. 1-01A).

Evangelism Commission

Overture 25-07

Resolved, that the CID-BOD end Dollar For Missions if a funding campaign is adopted by the District convention."

CID Board of Directors

Overture 25-08

Resolved, the CID-BOD approved recommended changes of the CID Handbook to be sent to LCMS CCM, including amending the language of "ordained minister" to "pastor" and amending "commissioned minister" to "commissioned church worker from the Synod roster."

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

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 Committee

An Auditing Committee

An Archivist

2.2.c. 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~~ pastor, ~~teacher or DCE~~ commissioned church worker from the Synod roster, 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 Synod~~ical~~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 minsters.

2.6.a.8. The Circuit Visitors

2.6.a.9. Congregational Constitution and District Handbook Committee: two ~~Ministers of Religion Ordained~~ pastors (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 church workers from the Synod roster, 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 pastor, at least one commissioned worker from Synod roster, 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 ReligionCommissioned, two laymen~~ two pastors, one commissioned church worker from the Synod roster, one layman who is voting member of a congregation of the District, and a fifth member of a District congregation who is not a pastor.

~~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.43. 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. 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.b. 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.c. 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~~ commissioned workers of the District. Therefore, as often as possible, he shall attend the conferences of pastors and ~~teachers,~~ commissioned worker, advise the congregations of the District as to the calling of pastors ~~and teachers,~~ commissioned church workers from the Synod roster, 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.

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

2.16 Qualifications

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

2.17 Duties

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

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

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

E. THE TREASURER OF THE DISTRICT

2.18 Qualifications

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

2.19 Duties

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

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

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

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

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

F. THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT

2.20 Qualifications

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

2.21 Duties

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

2.21.b. He shall be responsible for the issuance of regular reports in the official District news publication showing the contributions of each congregation in such manner and frequency as directed by the Board of Directors.

2.21.c. He shall be responsible for keeping an accurate account of the communicant membership of every congregation, of each circuit, and of the district.

2.21.d. He shall be responsible for reporting to the Board of Directors, congregations which may experience difficulty in being current with District/Synod mission commitment.

2.21.e. He may be assisted in the fulfillment of these responsibilities through such service and assistance as may be arranged with the Business Manager (if appointed).

G. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DISTRICT

2.22 Membership

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

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

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

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

2.23 Officers

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

2.24 Prohibition of Conflict of Interest

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

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

2.25 Responsibilities, Commissions

2.25.a. The Board of Directors as a whole is charged with the responsibility of handling for the District all matters 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~~ church workers from the Synod roster 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~~ pastors, 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~~ical~~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~~ pastors, one commissioned church worker from the Synod roster, one layman who is voting member of a congregation of the District, and a fifth member of a District congregation who is not a~~n ordained minister~~ pastor.

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~~ pastors, one ~~teacher or DCE~~, commissioned church worker from the Synod roster, 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. 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 Pubic 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~~ pastors, two ~~teachers or DCEs~~, commissioned church workers from the Synod roster, 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 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 church workers from the Synod roster, 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 Synod~~ical~~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 church workers from the Synod roster;

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 Synod~~ical~~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 ~~t~~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 Synod~~ical~~purposes.

IV. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

4.1 Disputes defined in Bylaw Article 1.10 of the Synod~~ical~~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 church workers from the Synod roster, 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~~ and commissioned church workers from the Synod roster; 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 ~~s~~Synod~~ical~~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" (Synod~~ical~~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. Synod~~ical~~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.

10.2.1. 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~~Synod~~ical~~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~~Synod~~ical~~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 pastor, at least one commissioned church worker from the Synod roster, 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~~ commissioned church workers from the Synod roster 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 workers' 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.

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

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

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

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

XIII. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

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

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

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

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

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

Overture 25-09

WHEREAS, The Central Illinois District (CID) operates and maintains buildings, properties and oversight of Missionaries' salaries and benefit packages for 3 campus ministries, 1 Hispanic ministry and 1 deaf ministry, as well as the District Office Building, the Red Building and three District executives and staff Salaries and benefit packages, and

WHEREAS, A recent ten-year maintenance and repair schedule for all Mission sites and properties was conducted by Dr. Schurb, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Schurb's survey discovered that there are over one million dollars in expected maintenance for the Mission facilities, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Schurb's survey does not yet include projected maintenance and upkeep for the District office building, the "Red Building" or salary increases for the CID Missionaries and CID Executives and staff under the CID's BOD's oversight, and

WHEREAS, The CID congregational giving to the CID is projected to be unable to allow for all of the projected repairs and upkeep of the mission properties alone to be completed, and

WHEREAS, This shortfall in income could bring about the elimination of one or more of the Missions under the CID's oversight, and

WHEREAS, A possible solution to this income shortfall may be for the CID to carry out a Funding Campaign,

therefore be it

Resolved, That the CID BOD authorize the formation of a Funding Campaign sub-committee consisting of The Chair of the Finance and Management Commission, A member of the Stewardship Commission, The Chair of the Missions Commission, and President Mohr, with Pastor Chuck Olander and Rev. Dr. Schurb serving in an advisory capacity, for the purpose of choosing a Fund Raising Campaign Company to do a feasibility study starting no later than February 1, 2025 and be it further

Resolved, If the Fund Raising Campaign Company's feasibility study determines that a District wide Funding Campaign is feasible to undertake, then be it finally

Resolved, That if at all possible, the Funding Campaign would hold a kick off of a District wide Funding Campaign at the July 2025 CID Convention, for the purpose of caring for the ten year projected needs for upgrades and repairs for all district properties and using money raised beyond this to be divided and placed into the endowments of each one of the missions under CID's oversight.

CID Board of Directors

Overture 25-10

To Annualize Congregational Assessments

WHEREAS, The congregations of the CID currently contribute towards the synod convention, district convention, official district pastors' conferences, district pastors' wives' retreats, official district teachers' conferences, and official district school administrators' 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, 1/3 based on communicant membership, 1/3 based on average attendance (both as reported by the congregations in their most recent annual statistical report to synod), and 1/3 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.

CID Board of Directors

Late Overture 25-L01

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

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

WHEREAS, Giving, once brought home, does not remain "at home," but enables Gospel proclamation beyond one's own congregation; and

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

WHEREAS, Proactive major repairs and upgrades to District-owned facilities where Gospel proclamation is done in these fields has been projected to cost the District about $935,000 over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, The District office building, from which support of these and others ministries is offered, also stands in need of proactive major repairs and upgrades during the same period; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

therefore be it

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

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

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

- Endowment for campus ministry at University of Illinois
- Endowment for campus ministry at Illinois State University
- Endowment for campus ministry at Eastern Illinois University
- Endowment for campus ministry at Western Illinois University
- (earnings from the four above endowments go directly to the CID office, to support campus ministry expenses)

- Endowment for Central Illinois Lutheran Deaf Outreach, the District wide deaf parish
- Endowment for Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline
- (earnings from the two above endowments go directly to the respective ministries – they report their annual endowment earnings to CID, and the District adjusts its support accordingly); and be it finally

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

Board of Directors

Adopted 5/20/25

Late Overture 25-L02

To Establish a Date for District Conventions

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM), in reviewing the proposed bylaw changes submitted by the Central Illinois District Board of Directors, suggests "The specification of a date definite for the district president's assumption of office should perhaps require a bylaw specifying a date before which the district convention must be held.; and

WHEREAS, The Central Illinois District customarily holds its convention in July of the year prior to the synod convention; and

WHEREAS, A reasonable transition period is desirable for a newly elected district president to set affairs in order in his congregation as well as receive transitional instruction from the outgoing district president; and

WHEREAS, Absent direction in a report or overture, the floor committee cannot establish such a date to include with the other proposed amendments to the district bylaws;

therefore, be it

Resolved, That Central Illinois District Bylaw 2.7 be amended as follows:

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.~~a~~b. 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.~~b~~c. 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.~~c~~d. 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.

Board of Directors

Adopted 5/20/25

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Report to the 7th Regular Convention
Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc.

July 14, 2025

The 2022 convention elected Mr. Jeff Bonnett, Rev. Martin Eden, Mr. Richard McMullen, Ms. Cheryl Neal, and Rev Gaylord Spilker to the Board of Trustees of the Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc. ("Fund"). The board elected the following officers at its August 2022 meeting: Mr. Richard McMullen, Chair, Ms. Cheryl Neal, Vice-Chair, and Rev. Martin Eden, Secretary/Treasurer.

The Board met for 12 regular meetings as well as special meetings since the last convention. The Board meets at the CID office in Springfield or telephonic and Zoom conferences.

Actions by the Board:

1. The Board has operated within the Bylaws adopted at the 2022 Convention..
2. The Board reviews its Investment Policy Statement (IPS) revised February 16, 2021 at each meeting . The IPS established a range of investment categories, i.e. minimum and maximum percentage of total investments for each class of investments in its portfolio. In May 2023 a bequest for $583,328 was received, which caused the investment portfolio to fall outside the IPS guidelines. The board reviewed and elected no change to the IPS as investments were being actively managed to regain compliance.
3. During the triennium the Board received documents indicating the fund had not received assets from an estate in accordance with the decedent's instructions. The Board has retained legal counsel to assist with this matter.
4. The Board adopted a proactive scholarship distribution policy on June 7, 2019. This policy directs the Board to distribute to the CID for scholarship purposes four (4)% of fund assets as of December 31 of the prior year. This policy remains in effect.
5. The board elected to use Capital Accounting & Audit for annual audits which is the same firm as the Central Illinois District.

Lutheran Legacy Foundation information available at: www.lutheranlegacyfoundation.org

All data from annual Audits (2021-2023) with CID Endowment Fund records for 12/31/2024.

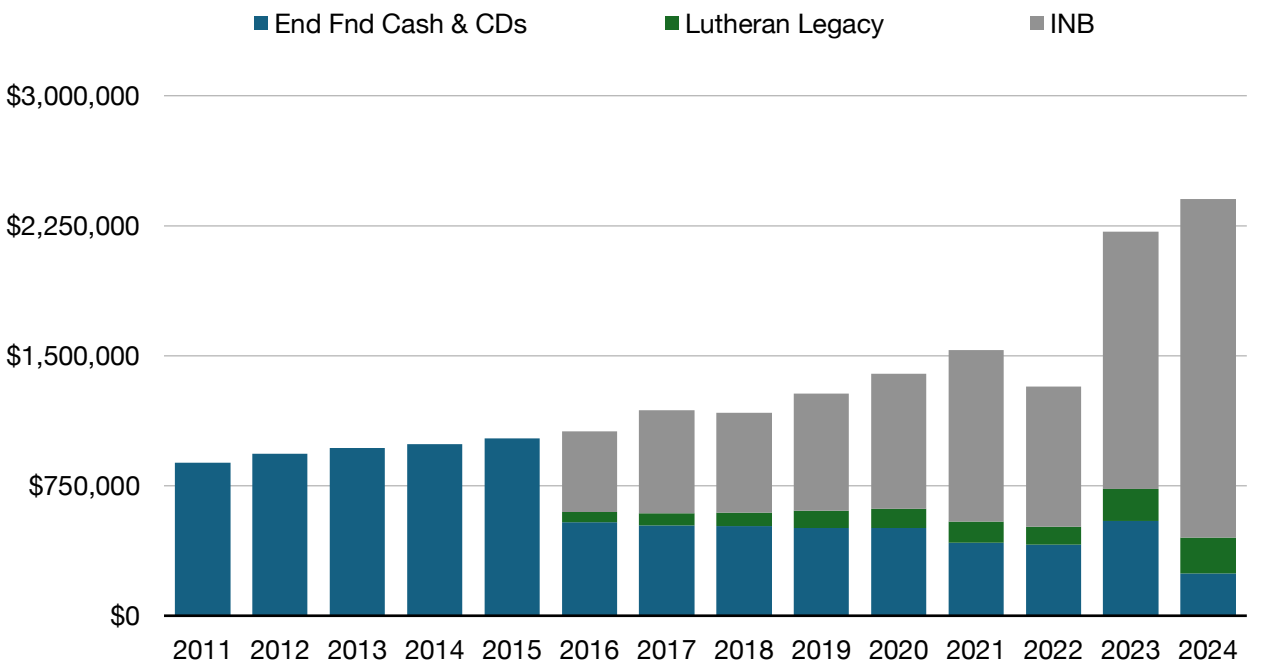
Distributions for scholarships:
The Central Illinois District of the LCMS distributed $357,400 for school years 2022 to 2024, of which the Endowment Fund has provided $202,817 or 56.7%.

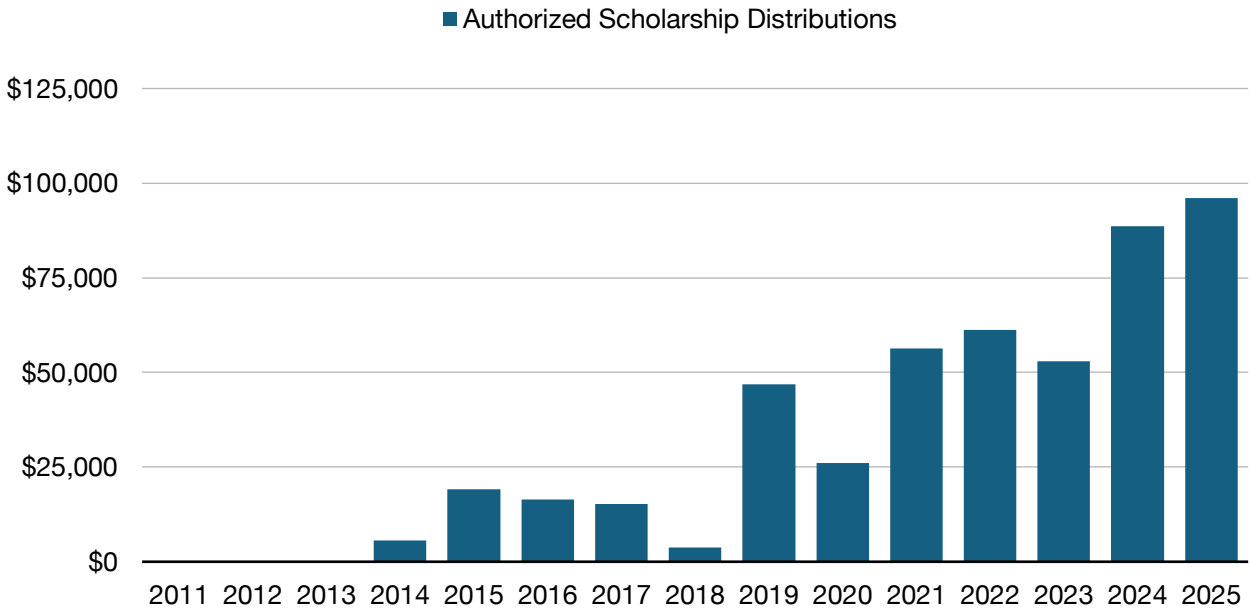
The Board has authorized $96,100 for the 2025-2026 academic year.

The Fund continues to work toward increased returns on its investments while validating the investment mixes with our established Investment Policy Statement.

Our primary source of new funds is through bequests, individual contributions as well as CID Endowment Sunday, the first Sunday in May each year.

We thank those who have contributed to the Endowment Fund during this triennium. We ask you to assist us by informing your members of the opportunity to support the education of our future pastors and teachers through gifts to the Central Illinois District Endowment Fund.





Respectfully submitted,

Richard McMullen

Richard McMullen, Chair
Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc.

Agenda

Opening Prayer

Convention Report

Election

Motion to Adjourn

CID Endowment Fund, Inc.
Board of Trustees 2022-2025

Mr. Richard McMullen, Chairman
Ms. Cheryl Stickel Neal, Vice Chair
Rev. Martin Eden, Secretary/Treasurer
Mr. Jeff Bonnett
Rev. Gaylord Spilker

Nominees for CID Endowment Fund, Inc. Board of Trustees

Nominations and biographical sketches for Endowment Fund Trustees will be distributed in the mailing with District Officer nominations, late reports, overtures, and resolutions, scheduled to be released no later than June 16.

Nominees for CID Endowment Fund, Inc. Board of Trustees

(Elect 1 layman & 4 others who may be lay members, clergy or teacher)

Shawn Anderson, Concordia, Geneseo
C: President, deacon, trustee
D: LLL Young Adult coordinator (early 90s)
O: Good Shepherd Foundation of Henry County (current)
* I am hopeful that my experience with business, church offices, and the willingness to serve will be of benefit to the CID Endowment Fund.

Kevin E. Block, Immanuel, Broadlands
C: Board of Evangelism, Board of Lay Ministry (Elder), Vice Chairman of the Congregation (currently serving in this position)
D; Delegate at District Convention (two times), Delegate at Synodical Convention
O: President, Broadlands Community Club, Broadlands, IL, Volunteered for Prison Ministry in the Champaign County Courthouse, Urbana, IL.
* I have served multiple times on our Church Council and 12 years as an Elder of our Congregation. I have participated in a prison ministry. I have a background in farming, banking and real estate investment/sales. I feel that my church, business background and experience gives me wisdom (hopefully) and maturity to assist the Central Illinois District in it's ministry.

Jeff Bonnett, St Paul, Havana
C: Treasurer (2nd term), Finance Committee Chair and member,
D: CID Endowment Board 22-present.
O: Chair, Community Bankers Association of IL (15 + years); Independent Community Bankers Association of America – Ag Committee (4 years); Havana Chamber of Commerce, chair and treasurer 05-14; Havana Rotary Club, since 92, treasurer 12-2present; Havana High School volunteer football and basketball coach; Havana Football Fund Raising Club 11-present; Mason District Hospital Foundation 07-present; Matanza Lake Association treasurer 10-present.
* I am a CPA and have been involved in business and finance since graduating from Millikin in 85. I was in public accounting for 15 years (last two as partner). I have been with Havana National Bank since 2000 and am the president and CEO and on the board.

Rev. Martin Eden, Our Redeemer, Quincy
C: Immanuel, Mellon WI 95-04, St. Paul, Pana IL 04-09; Our Redeemer, Quincy 09-present.
D: Board of Continuing Education North Wisconsin District 97-04, Camp CILCA Board 08-09; CID Endowment Board 15-present.
* I worked for AAL 90-91 and have a knowledge of and a continuing interest in markets, economics, and finance. Good stewardship is important for the future of our church.

Rev. Gaylord Spilker, Trinity, Edinburg
C: Trinity, Edinburg 02-present
D: CID Human Services Committee; LWML Pastoral Counselor 20-24
O: Lutheran Care Center Board member and president until 1999; served on various dairy organizations and SW Electric Cooperative Advisory Board; Nabor Alumni Board, University of Illinois. Presently Treasurer of the Edinburg Ministerial Association and Edinburg Food Pantry.
* I desire to serve to the best ability God gives me.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND, INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc.

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LORI K. MILOSEVICH-LAHR, C.P.A.
TERRI L. PHELPS, C.P.A.
JAMES C. LEGG, C.P.A.
DANIEL J. CODY, C.P.A.

RICHARD W. OGDEN, C.P.A.

Estes, Bridgewater & Ogden

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

901 South Second Street, Suite 300
Springfield, Illinois 62704
217/528-8473
Fax 217/528-8506

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Trustees of
Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc.

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc. which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc. as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc. and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc.'s internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Estes, Bridgewater & Ogden

Certified Public Accountants
Springfield, Illinois

November 8, 2024

Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc.
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Assets	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 88,489	$ 3,051
Investments	2,127,689	1,318,697
TOTAL ASSETS	**$2,216,178**	**$1,321,748**
Liabilities and Net Assets		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	$ -	$ -
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	1,728,095	833,665
With donor restrictions	488,083	488,083
Total net assets	2,216,178	1,321,748
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	**$2,216,178**	**$1,321,748**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc.
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023			2022		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUES						
Contributions	$ 753,789	$ -	$ 753,789	$ 4,002	$ -	$ 4,002
Investment income - net	196,220	-	196,220	(173,662)	-	(173,662)
Total support and revenues	950,009	-	950,009	(169,660)	-	(169,660)
EXPENSES						
Program services	52,870	-	52,870	38,165	-	38,165
Administrative expenses	2,709	-	2,709	3,363	-	3,363
Total expenses	55,579	-	55,579	41,528	-	41,528
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	**894,430**	**-**	**894,430**	**(211,188)**	**-**	**(211,188)**
NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	833,665	488,083	1,321,748	1,044,853	488,083	1,532,936
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	**$1,728,095**	**$ 488,083**	**$2,216,178**	**$ 833,665**	**$ 488,083**	**$1,321,748**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc.
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
For The Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets	$ 894,430	($ 211,188)
Unrealized (gains) losses on investments	(169,350)	192,101
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by (used for) operating activities:		
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	-	-
Total cash flows provided by (used for) operating activities	725,080	(19,087)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of investments	(1,263,834)	(467,748)
Sale of investments	624,192	476,267
Total cash flows provided by (used for) investing activities	(639,642)	8,519
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	**85,438**	**(10,568)**
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	3,051	13,619
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – END OF YEAR	**$ 88,489**	**$ 3,051**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

NOTE 1 – ORGANIZATION

The Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc. ("CID Endowment Fund") is a not-for-profit corporation organized to provide a separate entity to accept, invest, and distribute income from gifts and bequests that are restricted as to use for the programs of the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt religious organization. The CID Endowment Fund is established exclusively for the benefit of the Central Illinois District and its members' churches.

The mission of the CID Endowment Fund is to promote and encourage Christian Stewards through special gifts and bequests. These funds will be used to further the Lord's work primarily in the areas of scholarship for the education of full time church workers and other missions of the Central Illinois District.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A summary of the Organization's significant accounting policies consistently applied in the preparation of the accompanying financial statements follows:

Basis of Accounting – Assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses are recognized on the accrual basis of accounting.

Basis of Presentation – The financial statements of the Organization have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("US GAAP"), which require the Association to report information regarding its financial position and activities accordingly to the following net asset classifications:

> Net assets without donor restrictions – Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of the Organization's management and the board of directors.
>
> Net assets with donor restrictions – Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors, and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of the Organization or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, where by the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.
>
> Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the statement of activities.

Investments – Investments consist of certificates of deposit, mutual funds and equities. Certificates of deposit are carried at cost, which is equal to market value and mutual funds and equities are carried at market value. The investment in the Lutheran Legacy fund is carried at market value.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, Continued

Cash and Cash Equivalents – For purposes of the cash flow statements, cash includes amounts deposited in a checking account and the Organization considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Estimates – The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly actual results could differ from those estimates.

Expense Allocation – The costs of providing various programs and activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited.

NOTE 3 – TAX STATUS

The Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc., is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Organization is not involved in activities unrelated to its exempt status; therefore, there is no tax on unrelated business income at December 31, 2023 and 2022.

NOTE 4 – LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY

Financial assets available for general expenditure, that is, without donor or other restrictions limiting their use, within one year of December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022 are:

	2023	2022
Financial assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 88,489	$ 3,051
Investments	2,127,689	1,318,697
Total financial assets	2,216,178	1,321,748
Less financial assets held to meet donor-imposed restrictions:		
Donor-restricted endowment funds (Note 8)	(2,127,689)	(1,318,697)
Amount available for general expenditures within one year	$ 88,489	$ 3,051

The organization's cash flows have variations during the year attributable to timing of payments from the congregations and individual donors. To manage liquidity, the organization structures its financial assets to be available as general expenses, liabilities and other obligations come due.

NOTE 5 – INVESTMENTS

Investments are stated at market value and consisted of the following at December 31,:

	2023		2022	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Cash Equivalents	$ 150,131	$ 150,131	$ 15,414	$ 15,414
Certificates of Deposit	792,539	792,799	406,539	406,539
Lutheran Legacy Foundation	181,095	186,182	124,900	102,937
Mutual Funds	360,574	484,906	375,218	421,437
Equities	307,087	513,671	229,712	372,370
Totals	$1,791,426	$2,127,689	$1,151,783	$1,318,697

Investment income and expenses consisted of the following at December 31:

	2023	2022
Interest & dividends income	$ 39,782	$ 23,132
Realized gains	(1,902)	3,973
Unrealized gains	169,350	(192,102)
Investment fees	(11,010)	(8,665)
Net investment income	$ 196,220	($ 173,662)

NOTE 6 – FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Fair value is defined as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly hierarchy, which requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The standard describes three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

Level 1 – Inputs are based on unadjusted quoted market prices within active markets.
Level 2 – Inputs are based primarily on quoted prices for similar assets in active or inactive markets.
Level 3 – Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

NOTE 6 – FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS, Continued

Fair value measured on a recurring basis at December 31, 2023 and 2022 are as follows:

	Fair Value	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
December 31, 2023				
Certificates of Deposit	$ 792,760	$ -	$ 792,760	$ -
Mutual Funds:				
Small Cap Core	79,300	79,300	-	-
Mid Cap Growth	71,695	71,695	-	-
Large Cap Growth	72,143	72,143	-	-
Large Cap Core	118,242	118,242	-	-
Large Growth/World Stock	143,526	143,526	-	-
Total Mutual Funds	484,906	484,906	-	-
Equities-Common Stock:				
Large Cap Growth	75,208	75,208	-	-
Large Cap Core	161,010	161,010	-	-
Large Cap Value	105,656	105,656	-	-
International	32,266	32,266	-	-
Enhanced Large	139,570	139,570	-	-
Total Equities	513,710	513,710	-	-
Lutheran Legacy Foundation Investments	186,182	-	186,182	-
Cash Equivalent:				
Federated Government Obligations Fund	150,131	-	150,131	-
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	**$2,127,689**	**$ 998,616**	**$1,129,073**	$ -

NOTE 6 – FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS, Continued

	Fair Value	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
December 31, 2022				
Certificates of Deposit	$ 406,539	$ -	$ 406,539	$ -
Mutual Funds:				
Small Cap Core	30,709	30,709	-	-
Small Cap Value	37,769	37,769	-	-
International	33,749	33,749	-	-
Mid Cap Growth	58,298	58,298	-	-
Large Cap Growth	122,904	122,904	-	-
Large Cap Core	53,809	53,809	-	-
Total Mutual Funds	421,437	421,437	-	-
Equities:				
Large Cap Growth	47,964	47,964	-	-
Large Cap Core	162,728	162,728	-	-
Large Cap Value	133,374	133,374	-	-
International	28,304	28,304	-	-
Total Equities	372,370	372,370	-	-
Lutheran Legacy Foundation Investments	102,937	-	102,937	-
Cash Equivalent:				
Federated Government Obligations Fund	15,414	-	15,414	-
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	**$1,318,697**	**$ 793,807**	**$ 524,890**	$ -

NOTE 7 – CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

Financial instruments, which potentially subject the organization to concentration of credit risk, include cash and investments. The organization places its temporary cash with creditworthy, high quality financial institutions.

Investments with the Central Illinois District – Church Extension Fund (CEF) of $456,539 and the Lutheran Legacy Foundation of $186,182 are not SIPC or FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts, and repayment of principal and interest is dependent upon the general financial condition of CEF. Management has reviewed the financial condition of the CEF and is satisfied that deposits are secure despite lack of regulatory insurance coverage.

NOTE 8 – NET ASSETS

In 2004, the Endowment Fund was created with permanent funds of $488,083 transferred from the Central Illinois District.

The donor-restricted endowment funds are required to be maintained in perpetuity.

The board designated endowment fund receives contributions from congregations and individual donors designated for the scholarships and are included in the net assets with donor restrictions.

Net assets with donor restrictions consisted of the following at December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	2023	2022
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions		
Board Designated Endowment Fund	$1,728,095	$ 833,665
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions		
Donor-Restricted Endowment Funds:		
General Fund	436,473	436,473
Meseke Scholarship Fund	6,000	6,000
Christ Peoria Scholarship Fund	23,110	23,110
Dr. A. Mueller Memorial Fund	22,500	22,500
Total	488,083	488,083
Total Endowment Funds	$2,216,178	$1,321,748

NOTE 9 – DONOR-RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT FUND

The CID's Endowment Fund consists of four individual funds established primarily for scholarship purposes and each are donor-restricted perpetual endowment funds. In addition, there is a Board Designated Endowment fund which is considered without donor restrictions. As required by GAAP, net assets associated with endowment funds are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

The Board of Directors of the organizations have interpreted the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) as requiring the preservation of the purchasing power (real value) of the donor-restricted endowment funds absent explicit donor stipulations to the contrary. The original gift is defined by the organization as (1) the original value of gifts donated to the donor-restricted endowment, (2) the original value of any subsequent gifts to the donor-restricted endowment, and (3) accumulations to the permanent endowment made in accordance with the direction of the applicable donor gift instrument as the time the accumulation is added to the fund. If the endowment assets earn investment returns beyond the amount necessary to maintain the endowment assets' real value that excess is available for appropriation and, therefore, classified as donor-restricted net assets until appropriated by the Board for expenditure. If the value of a donor-restricted endowment fund falls below 75% of the original gift, the Board of Directors will cease spending until its value exceeds the original gift.

UPMIFA permits the organization to appropriate for expenditure or accumulate so much of a donor-restricted endowment fund as it determines is prudent for the uses, benefits, purposes, and duration for which the endowment fund is established. In making its determination to appropriate or accumulate, the organization must act in good faith, with the care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances, and it must consider, if relevant, the following factors:

- The duration and preservation of the endowment fund
- The purposes of the organization and the donor-restricted endowment fund
- General economic conditions
- The possible effect of inflation and deflation
- The expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments
- Other resources of the organization
- The investment policies of the organization.

Investment Return Objectives and Strategies. The Organization has adopted investment and spending policies for endowment assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding to support the scholarship program of the Lutheran Church Missouri Central Illinois District, while also maintaining the purchasing power of those endowment assets over the long-term. Accordingly, the investment process seeks to achieve an after-cost total real rate of return, including investment income as well as capital appreciation, which exceeds the annual distribution with acceptable risk. Endowment assets are invested in a diversified asset mix that is intended to result in a consistent inflation-protected rate of return that has sufficient liquidity to make an annual distribution of 4%, while growing the funds if possible. The Organization expects the current spending policy to allow its endowment funds to grow at a nominal average rate of 4-6% annually, which is consistent with the Organization's objective to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets as well as to provide additional real growth through investment return and contributions. Investment risk is measured in terms of the total endowment fund; investment assets and allocation between asset classes and strategies are managed to not expose the fund to unacceptable risks.

NOTE 9 – DONOR-RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT FUND (Continued)

Spending Policy. The Organization has a policy of appropriating for distribution each year 4% of its endowment assets for the scholarship fund. The Organization considered the long-term expected rate of return on its investment assets and the possible effects of inflation and the duration of the endowment funds to be maintained in perpetuity.

NOTE 10 – EXPENSES BY NATURE AND FUNCTION

The table below presents expenses by their function for fiscal years ending 2023 and 2022.

	2023			2022		
	Program Services	Management and General	Total	Program Services	Management and General	Total
Scholarship	$ 52,870	$ -	$ 52,870	$ 38,165	$ -	$ 38,165
Professional and other expenses	-	2,709	2,709	-	3,363	3,363
Total expenses	$ 52,870	$ 2,709	$ 55,579	$ 38,165	$ 3,363	$ 41,528

NOTE 11 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Organization reviewed events for inclusion in the financial statements through November 8, 2024, the date through which subsequent events have been evaluated and the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

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SECTION G

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund
10th Regular Convention

Agenda

Call to Order	President Darin Gehrke
Opening Prayer	Rev. Charles Olander
Minutes of the 9th Regular Convention	President Darin Gehrke
Report of the President	President Darin Gehrke
Resolutions	President Darin Gehrke
Slate of Candidates	President Darin Gehrke
Report of Executive Director	Christine Anderson
Additional Floor Actions	President Darin Gehrke
Installation of new Board	CID Pres. Rev. Michael Mohr
Closing Prayer	Rev. Chad Lueck

CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT
CHURCH EXTENSION FUND
9th REGULAR CONVENTION
JULY 18, 2022

MINUTES

The Convention was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by President Kevin Schultz.

Trustee Rev. Terry O'Brien opened the Convention with prayer.

President Schultz reminded the 2022 Convention that the 2018 Convention passed a resolution authorizing the CID-CEF Board of Trustees to approve the minutes of the 2018 Convention, and it was so noted that said minutes of the 2018 Convention had been approved by the CID-CEF Board.

President Schultz gave the President's Report, in which he discussed changes in the Board, CID-CEF administrative activities, and financial results since the last convention.

President Schultz presented the David L. Goldhammer Award for Outstanding Service to former CID-CEF Trustee Kim Kleinschmidt, who previously served on the Board for twelve years, nine as President and three as vice-president. Mr. Kleinschmidt was not able to be in attendance due to illness.

The CID-CEF brought two resolutions to the Convention. Each was presented by President Schultz for separate vote by the delegates. The first resolution entitled "To Affirm the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund" was presented with no request for discussion from the floor and passed unanimously by voice vote. The second resolution entitled "To Continue Uninterrupted Operations of the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund" was presented, and discussion from the floor was requested, where the question was posed as to whether the language in this resolution should be similar to the language related to dissolution as used by the Endowment Fund. President Schultz explained that the situations are not similar. The second resolution passed unanimously by voice vote. No other resolutions were submitted during the allowed time, and discussion on resolutions ended.

The slate of candidates for the CID-CEF Board of Trustees was then presented by President Schultz. President Schultz called for nominations from the floor and requested that if such nominations were presented, the nominees would have already provided approval for their nomination. No nominations from the floor were received. President Schultz advised the delegates that there was one nominee per trustee position and called for a voice vote on the entire slate. The slate, consisting of nominees Darin Gehrke as President, David Ward as Vice President, Carol Radtke as Secretary/Treasurer, Rev. Chuck Olander and Rev. Chad Lueck as Trustees-Minister of Religion, and Kim Kleinschmidt and K. Rick Keller as Trustees, passed unanimously.

Executive Director Christine Anderson reviewed a PowerPoint presentation providing an update to the delegates on the activities and financial results for the CID-CEF since the last convention, including an update on new interest rates and an overview of the new CID-CEF website. The significant drop in new investor activity in 2022 was also brought to the delegates' attention, with a request to communicate the opportunity to invest in the future of the LCMS ministry in the CID through investment in the CID-CEF.

President Schultz requested a resolution authorizing the Board of Trustees to approve the minutes of the 2022 Convention at the next regular meeting of the CID-CEF. The motion was made, seconded, and passed to allow this action.

Vice President/newly-elected President Darin Gehrke presented service recognition plaques to the three members leaving the Board, thanking Dale Wolff for his seven years of service and legal expertise, Rev. Terry O'Brien for his seven years of service and ministerial and financial expertise brought to the Board, and President Kevin Schultz for his thirteen years of service and banking expertise brought to the Board.

Central Illinois District President Mark Miller installed the following members of the Board of Trustees: President Darin Gehrke, Vice President David Ward, Secretary/Treasurer Carol Radtke, and Trustees Rev. Chuck Olander and Rev. Chad Lueck. Newly elected Trustees Kim Kleinschmidt and K. Rick Keller were unable to be in attendance.

Newly elected President Gehrke called for a motion from the floor to adjourn the Convention. The motion was seconded and passed.

Trustee Rev. Chuck Olander closed with prayer.

The Convention adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Anderson
Executive Director
Acting Secretary

Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund
Board of Trustees 2022 - 2025

President – Mr. Darin Gehrke

Vice President – Mr. David Ward

Secretary/Treasurer – Mrs. Carol Radtke

Trustees – Mr. Rick Keller
Mr. Kim Kleinschmidt
Rev. Chad Lueck
Rev. Charles Olander

Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund
Nominations

CID-CEF President

(One person to be elected)

Mr. Darin Gehrke – Salem Lutheran Church, Jacksonville

Current Employment: Senior Vice President, Market Leader Central and Southern Illinois – SomerCor (a Certified Development Company that processes the SBA 504 loan program).

Prior Relevant Employment/Other Experience: President, Commercial Lender – Town and Country Bank, Jacksonville, Illinois. Village President – Woodson, Illinois.

LCMS/Charitable Organization Activities: Has served as Elder, Treasurer, and Athletic Director at Salem.

Anticipated Contribution to CID-CEF Board of Trustees: Brings 18 years of lending experience in a combination of commercial and SBA lending to the Board.

CID-CEF Vice President

(One person to be elected)

Mr. David Ward – St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Varna

Current Employment: Retired from the banking industry.

Prior Relevant Employment/Other Experience: A career in banking spanning 40 years - most recently as President of North Central Bank – Hennepin, served as board member and Group Director of the Community Bankers' Association of Illinois, on the Regulatory Review Committee of the Independent Community Bankers of America, Founding President of the Hennepin Business and Betterment Association.

LCMS/Charitable Organization Activities: District Life Coordinator for CID, directed Creation Science Program for CID Lutheran schools. Has served as Co-treasurer, Elder, and Trustee at St. Paul's.

Anticipated Contribution to CID-CEF Board of Trustees: Broad experience in banking administration, lending, and real estate loans.

CID-CEF Secretary/Treasurer

(One person to be elected)

Mr. Dale Dirks – Immanuel Lutheran Church, Springfield

Current Employment: Tax CPA – Eck, Schafer & Punk, LLP, CPAs, Springfield – 2025.

Prior Relevant Employment/Other Experience: 18 years as a sole CPA practitioner after over 24 years with larger firms in the Springfield area, and 31 years operating a family grain farm business.

LCMS/Charitable Organization Activities: CID Treasurer for 7 years, active in member churches over the years as Sunday School Superintendent, Sunday School teacher, church treasurer, and church board member, active in local and professional activities in the Athens and Springfield area as a volunteer and advisor.

Anticipated Contribution to CID-CEF Board of Trustees: With my extensive experience with clients as their advisor and operating my own business, I understand what the investors expect and what the congregations need. I look forward to being a part of the continuing long-term success of the CID-CEF.

CID-CEF Ministers of Religion

(Two persons to be elected)

Rev. Chad Lueck – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Bloomington

Current Employment: Pastor at Good Shepherd, Bloomington since 1999.

Prior Relevant Employment/Other Experience: Pastor – Hope Lutheran in Shawnee Kansas from 1996 - 1998, Pastor – Emmanuel Lutheran in Littlefield Texas from 1991 – 1995, accountant for family business.

LCMS/Charitable Organization Activities: CID Circuit Visitor, Texas Circuit Secretary, Texas LWML Zone Counselor, Kansas LLL Zone Counselor, Media Coordinator for Lutheran Hour Ministries, LCMS 150th Anniversary Committee, Beta Sigma Psi National Pastoral Advisor.

Anticipated Contribution to CID-CEF Board of Trustees: The CID-CEF has held our church's mortgage for years. Getting elected in 2022 has allowed me to see everything that this Board does and accomplishes. Under Christine Anderson's great leadership and the wonderful make-up of the Board we have great camaraderie and work well together. I have been blessed as someone very involved in our church's finances to bring a unique perspective to the Board. We thank the Lord for the work that gets done and looking forward it will be wonderful to assist fellow CID congregations in their mission and work for the Lord's Kingdom.

Rev. Charles Olander, Emeritus – Zion Lutheran Church, New Holland
Current Employment: Retired LCMS Pastor, current CID Planned Gift Counselor.

Prior Relevant Employment/Other Experience: Pastor – Zion Lutheran in New Holland from 2005 – 2020 and 1980 – 1988, Pastor – Concordia Lutheran in Springfield from 1988 – 2005, Pastor – Trinity Lutheran in Winkler and Zion Lutheran in Morden, Manitoba, Canada from 1978 - 1980. Previous experience before entering the ministry includes banking, insurance, and construction.

LCMS/Charitable Organization Activities: Prior service on the CID-CEF Board of Trustees from 2003 – 2015, CID-CEF Special Loan Committee, CID Prison Chaplain, Circuit Counselor, delegate for 3 LCMS Synodical Conventions, delegate-at-large for the LCMS Lutheran Church Extension Fund for 11 years.

Anticipated Contribution to CID-CEF Board of Trustees: Having served on the CID-CEF Board for many years, I am very familiar with the mission and history of CID-CEF. I also know how the District CEFs work with, and are related to, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCMS). I will encourage CID-CEF to continue to make needed loans to CID churches to better share the Gospel, and to make grants and gifts to CID missions, ministries, and students. I am conservative in theology and in lending practices, with zeal for missions and innovative ministries. If elected, I will serve with the strength, wisdom, love, and faith I receive from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

CID-CEF Trustees

(Two persons to be elected)

Mr. K. Rick Keller – St. John's Lutheran Church, Effingham
Current Employment: Attorney (of counsel) with Orr Law, LLC, Effingham, since 2015.

Prior Relevant Employment/Other Experience: Partner at Keller & Runde from 1993 – 2015, attorney at Meyer, Keller & Runde from 1991 – 1993, attorney at Braden & Keller from 1984 – 1991, Effingham County State's Attorney from 1979 – 1984, former member of the Illinois Commission on Juvenile Delinquency.

LCMS/Charitable Organization Activities: Has served as Elder, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, member of Board of Education, Communion Assistant, and in the Church Praise Band at St. John's.

Anticipated Contribution to CID-CEF Board of Trustees: Having served on the CID-CEF Board for 3 years, I am more familiar with the workings of the Board and better prepared to help in the mission of the CID-CEF to aid our churches, schools, and other LCMS agencies in growing God's Kingdom.

Mr. Kevin Schultz – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Sherman

Current Employment: Senior Vice President for Hickory Point Bank since 2008, with responsibility for relationship management for commercial clients, including real estate loans, operating lines of credit, and deposit services, managing a loan portfolio in excess of $35 million.

Prior Relevant Employment/Other Experience: Marketing President for First Bank responsible for the Springfield and Jacksonville markets from 2000 - 2005.

LCMS/Charitable Organization Activities: Prior service on the CID-CEF Board of Directors from 2009 – 2022, current member of the CID-CEF Special Loan Committee, has served as Elder at Good Shepherd and on the Board of Directors and as Treasurer for Land of Lincoln Goodwill.

Anticipated Contribution to CID-CEF Board of Trustees: Using my experience in commercial real estate and cash management to assist the Executive Director in maintaining the safety and soundness of the CID-CEF.

THE CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT
CHURCH EXTENSION FUND, INC.
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2024, 2023 AND 2022

The Central Illinois District
Church Extension Fund, Inc.

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Capital Accounting & Audit, LLC

Certified Public Accountants

2800 Montvale Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
217-528-8475

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Trustees
Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, Inc.
Springfield, Illinois

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, Inc. (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2024, 2023, and 2022, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, Inc. as of December 31, 2024, 2023, and 2022, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, Inc. and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Prior Period Financial Statements

The financial statements of Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, Inc. as of December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022 were audited by other auditors whose reports dated July 26, 2024 and June 23, 2023 expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, Inc.'s internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Capital Accounting + Audit, LLC

Certified Public Accountants
Springfield, Illinois

May 6, 2025

Central Illinois District
Church Extension Fund, Inc.
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022

	2024	2023	2022
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 2,477,226	$ 1,218,707	$ 1,644,349
Deposits and investments:			
Investments – Lutheran Church Extension Fund – LCMS	7,400,000	7,706,669	8,906,669
Certificates of deposit	6,575,763	8,749,000	5,395,000
U.S. Treasuries	1,244,788	260,262	1,001,821
Total deposits and investments	15,220,551	16,715,931	15,303,490
Loans Receivable:			
Congregations, schools, and other LCMS entities	18,617,593	17,747,323	19,646,996
Less allowance for loan losses	(1,895,000)	(1,895,000)	(1,895,000)
Net loans receivable	16,722,593	15,852,323	17,751,996
Accrued interest and other receivable	71,662	103,047	63,135
Fixed assets – net	63,450	9,757	3,353
Prepaid expense	18,497	21,602	38,725
TOTAL ASSETS	**$34,573,979**	**$33,921,367**	**$34,805,048**
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
LIABILITIES			
Interest-bearing debt instruments:			
Flex accounts	$ 1,000,697	$ 1,311,526	$ 1,582,735
Investment certificates	23,397,155	22,794,659	23,714,096
Total interest-bearing debt instruments	24,397,852	24,106,185	25,296,831
Accounts payable & other payables	151,266	135,981	163,933
Accrued interest payable	190,571	154,516	81,711
Interest rebates payable	150,000	125,000	150,000
Total liabilities	24,889,689	24,521,682	25,692,475
NET ASSETS			
Without donor restrictions:			
Undesignated	9,022,013	8,721,302	8,448,921
Board Designated	662,277	678,383	663,652
Total net assets	9,684,290	9,399,685	9,112,573
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	**$34,573,979**	**$33,921,367**	**$34,805,048**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Central Illinois District
Church Extension Fund, Inc.
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
For the Years Ended December 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022

	2024	2023	2022
REVENUE			
Interest income:			
Interest on loans	$ 839,557	$ 766,769	$ 767,324
Interest on investments	765,037	560,917	373,608
Subtotal	1,604,594	1,327,686	1,140,932
Less loan interest rebate	(150,000)	(125,000)	(150,000)
Total interest income	1,454,594	1,202,686	990,932
Interest expense	(694,649)	(484,401)	(341,752)
Net interest income	759,945	718,285	649,180
Provision for loan loss	-	-	(1,055,000)
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	759,945	718,285	(405,820)
Support and other income:			
Gifts and bequests	7,785	7,700	12,660
Miscellaneous income	-	492	-
Total revenue and other support	767,730	726,477	(393,160)
EXPENSES			
Salaries and benefits	307,733	293,608	273,301
Office expenses	15,621	13,756	13,798
Occupancy and insurance	36,212	33,947	34,253
Professional and computer services	51,518	36,992	44,318
Depreciation	10,204	2,470	4,531
Grants	43,963	38,469	75,310
Other expenses	17,874	20,123	28,979
Total expenses	483,125	439,365	474,490
NET INCOME (LOSS)	**284,605**	**287,112**	**(867,650)**
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	9,399,685	9,112,573	9,980,223
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS – END OF YEAR	**$9,684,290**	**$9,399,685**	**$9,112,573**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Central Illinois District
Church Extension Fund, Inc.
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
For the Years Ended December 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022

	2024	2023	2022
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Net income (loss)	$ 284,605	$ 287,112	($ 867,650)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by (used for) operating activities:			
Depreciation	10,204	2,470	4,531
Increase in provision for loan loss	-	-	1,055,000
(Increase) Decrease in Assets:			
Prepaid expense	3,105	17,123	15,356
Accrued interest and other receivable	31,385	(39,912)	(23,073)
Increase (Decrease) in Liabilities:			
Accounts and other payables	15,285	(27,952)	36,737
Interest payable	36,055	72,805	(8,890)
Interest rebates payable	25,000	(25,000)	-
Net cash provided by (used for) operating activities	405,639	286,646	212,011
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Purchase of equipment	(63,897)	(8,873)	(1,736)
Congregations, schools, and other LCMS entities loan advances	(3,433,172)	-	(1,160,350)
Congregations, schools, and other LCMS entities loan repayments	2,562,903	1,899,672	2,487,308
Redemption of investments	10,501,669	5,170,113	4,434,950
Purchase of investments	(9,006,289)	(6,582,554)	(5,906,821)
Net cash provided by (used for) investing activities	561,214	478,358	(146,649)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Purchase of interest-bearing debt instruments	3,123,337	2,324,773	1,502,801
Redemptions of interest-bearing debt instruments	(2,831,671)	(3,515,419)	(2,961,629)
Net cash provided by (used for) financing activities	291,666	(1,190,646)	(1,458,828)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	**1,258,519**	**(425,642)**	**(1,393,466)**
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,218,707	1,644,349	3,037,815
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – END OF YEAR	**$ 2,477,226**	**$ 1,218,707**	**$ 1,644,349**
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:			
Cash paid during the year for interest	$ 658,594	$ 411,596	$ 350,642

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Central Illinois District
Church Extension Fund, Inc.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Years Ended December 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022

NOTE 1 – ORGANIZATION

The Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, Inc. (Church Extension Fund) is one of four District-based Church Extension Funds under the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). The Church Extension Fund is a church organization of the LCMS and as such is a charitable exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and relies on investments by individuals and entities located primarily in central Illinois. Investors are subject to fluctuations in the economic status of the geographic region of central Illinois. No provisions have been made for changes in the economic environment.

The purpose of this corporation is to aid the member congregations and agencies of the Central Illinois District of the LCMS to finance the acquisition of land and in the purchase, erection or improvement of facilities for effective programs of ministry, witness, outreach, and service for the expansion of God's Kingdom in the Central Illinois District of the LCMS.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting - The financial statements of the Church Extension Fund have been prepared on the accrual basis in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

The significant accounting policies followed by the Church Extension Fund are described below to enhance the usefulness of the financial statements to the reader.

Basis of Presentation - The financial statements of the Church Extension Fund have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("US GAAP"), which require the Church Extension Fund to report information regarding its financial position and activities accordingly to the following net asset classifications:

> Net assets without donor restrictions - Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of the Church Extension Fund's management and the board of trustees.
>
> Governing Board Designations - Board designated net assets represent bequests received by the Church Extension Fund. The Board designated the funds from net assets without restrictions for future approved projects or expenditures of the Church Extension Fund. The balances are $662,277, $678,383 and $663,652 as of December 2024, 2023 and 2022.
>
> Net assets with donor restrictions - Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of the Church Extension Fund or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, whereby the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.
>
> Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the statement of activities.

Cash and Cash Equivalents - For the purposes of the statements of cash flows, highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less at the date of acquisition generally are considered to be cash equivalents.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, (Continued)

Investments - Investments consist of notes and certificates of deposit with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund – LCMS and financial institutions as well as U.S. Treasuries at various rates and are carried at cost which approximates market value, or, in the case of U.S. Treasuries, including amortization of discount at purchase.

Fixed Assets - Fixed assets are recorded at cost and consist of office equipment, furniture and software which is depreciated over their estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. Management's policy is to recognize depreciation in the month the asset is acquired through the life of the asset.

Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recorded in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Tax Status - The Church Extension Fund is a church organization of the LCMS and as such is a charitable exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and as a church entity is exempt from filing requirements.

Functional Expenses - The costs of providing program and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among program services, management and general, fundraising, occupancy and supporting services benefited. Such allocations are determined by management on an equitable basis. See Note 11 for presentation of fiscal years ending December 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022.

NOTE 3 – LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY

Financial assets available for general expenditure, that is, without donor or other restrictions limiting their use, within one year of December 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022 are:

	12-31-24	12-31-23	12-31-22
Financial assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 2,477,226	$ 1,218,707	$ 1,644,349
Short-term investments	4,419,000	11,528,931	3,410,241
Total financial assets available within one year	$ 6,896,226	$12,747,638	$ 5,054,590

The organization's cash flows have variations during the year attributable to timing of payout of notes payable and advances on loans. To manage liquidity, the organization structures its financial assets to be available as general expenses, liabilities, advances on loans and other obligations come due. Short-term investments include those that will mature within one year.

NOTE 4 – FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets are stated at cost and are comprised of the following for the years ended December 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022:

	12-31-24	12-31-23	12-31-22
Computer equipment and software	$ 54,680	$ 102,616	$ 101,387
Office furniture and equipment	25,866	18,580	14,624
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(17,096)	(111,439)	(112,658)
Total – net	$ 63,450	$ 9,757	$ 3,353

NOTE 5 – LOANS RECEIVABLE AND ALLOWANCE FOR LOAN LOSSES

Loans Receivable:

Loans that management has the intent and ability to hold for the foreseeable future, or until maturity or payoff, are reported at the principal balance outstanding, net of allowance for loan losses. The loans receivable consist of loans with various maturity dates and with interest rates ranging from 2.20% to 6.00%. The balance of loans receivable for the years ended December 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022 was $18,617,593, $17,747,323, and $19,646,996, respectively.

Interest income earned on loans receivable for the years ended December 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022 was $839,557, $766,769, and $767,324 and accrued interest amounted to $1,570, ($8,331), and $2,664, respectively. The board of trustees approved interest rebates of $150,000 for 2024, $125,000 for 2023, and $150,000 for 2022.

In accordance with the Church Extension Fund's policy, titles, deeds of trust, and mortgages to properties are held by the Church Extension Fund until the related indebtedness has been satisfied by the respective borrower.

Allowance For Loan Losses:

During 2023, the Church Extension Fund implemented FASB ASU 2016-13 Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326). Commonly referred to as the Current Expected Credit Loss (CECL) Model, this guidance was used to estimate the Allowance for Loan Losses on loans held by the Church Extension Fund as of December 31, 2024. Under CECL, the Loss Rate Method of evaluation was utilized, with management estimating the allowance balance using relevant available information, from internal and external sources, relating to historical information, current conditions, and reasonable and supportable forecasts.

Management has assessed the Church Extension Fund loan portfolio and identified the following three types of borrowers as portfolio segments, or pools, to be used under the Loan Rate Method CECL model:

Churches/organizations without schools
Churches with schools
Associations/stand-alone schools

Historical credit loss experience provides the basis for estimation of expected credit losses. Having not experienced any loan loss since the inception of the Church Extension Fund, the historical loss rate for the Fund stands at 0.00%. If loan losses are experienced in the future, more detailed information may be tracked on loans at that time where relevant to the occurrence of loss.

Current qualitive, or environmental, conditions likely have some degree of variation throughout the lives of the loans in the loan pools. Due to a historical loss rate of 0.00% over the existence of the Church Extension Fund, no correlation between the variations in these conditions and an impact on the loss rate can be identified and readily supported because no losses were incurred. The Church Extension Fund will continue to monitor these qualitative conditions going forward to seek to identify any correlation for adjustment to the historical loss rate should a loss occur.

NOTE 5 – LOANS RECEIVABLE AND ALLOWANCE FOR LOAN LOSSES, (Continued)

Reasonable and supportive forecasts are based on qualitative, or environmental, conditions which are very similar to the impact of current conditions in that they also are likely to have some degree of variation throughout the lives of the loans in the loan pools. Given the historical loss rate of 0.00% over the existence of the Church Extension Fund, no correlation between the variations in these conditions and an impact on the loss rate can be identified and reasonably and readily supported because no losses were incurred. As of December 31, 2024, management assessed the situation and assigned overall qualitative adjustments to the pools referenced above based on factors with the potential to affect the forecasted loss rate in each pool.

The balance of the allowance for loan losses account was $1,895,000, $1,895,000 and $1,895,000 for the years ended December 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022, respectively. Prior to implementation of CECL in 2023, the allowance for loan losses complied with generally accepted accounting principles applicable at the time. In 2022, the board of trustees increased the allowance for loan losses by $1,055,000 to $1,895,000, after impairment of a loan. The loan is currently on interest only payments.

Management considers a loan to be impaired when it is placed on nonaccrual status, among other considerations. As of December 31, 2024, the balance of impaired loans with a specific valuation allowance outside of the standard portfolio segments (pools) was $2,181,594, and without a specific valuation allowance was $23,078. The valuation allowance related to impaired loans totaled $1,461,668 as of December 31, 2024. The valuation allowance attributed to impaired loans is a component of the overall allowance for loan losses.

There have been no loan delinquencies related to the financial condition of any borrowers (more than 90 days delinquent) during the years ended December 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022. No loans are delinquent at year end (over 90 days past due).

Loan Commitments:

As stated in each promissory note, the Church Extension Fund does not have an obligation to extend credit under its loan commitments where the borrower is in default under the terms of any agreement, is no longer in existence or is insolvent, has applied funds for other than their authorized purpose, or where the Church Extension Fund ins good faith believes itself insecure. Given that credit will not be extended where any possibility of loss exists or would be expected, the Church Extension Fund will not be including loan commitment in its calculation of loan loss.

Unexpended loan commitments as of December 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022 are $-0-, $4,000,000, and $-0-, respectively.

NOTE 6 – INVESTMENTS

Investments are mainly comprised of notes and certificates of deposit with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund – LCMS and financial institutions at varying rates and with terms up to 60 months. Investments are carried at cost which approximates market value. The Church Extension Fund also holds investments in U.S. Treasury Bills and Notes. Those are valued at cost, and any discount at time of purchase is amortized over the life of the note.

Raymond James provides investment services for a portion of the certificates of deposit in the Church Extension Fund's portfolio. The certificates of deposit listed under Raymond James are not investments in Raymond James.

NOTE 6 – INVESTMENTS, (Continued)

Investments consisted of the following at December 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022:

	Par Value	Current Rates/Yield	Maturity Date	Cost/Market 12-31-24	Cost/Market 12-31-23	Cost/Market 12-31-22
Lutheran Church Extension Fund – LCMS						
Notes		2.250% - 2.500%	2023	$ -	$ -	$ 700,000
Notes		2.625% - 3.000%	2024	-	5,206,669	7,206,669
Notes		3.00% - 5.00%	2025	1,500,000	1,250,000	1,000,000
Notes		4.25% - 6.25%	2026	3,200,000	1,250,000	-
Notes		4.25%	2027	700,000	-	-
Notes		4.00%	2028	500,000	-	-
Notes		4.50%	2029	1,500,000	-	-
Total Lutheran Church Extension Fund – LCMS				**7,400,000**	**7,706,669**	**8,906,669**
Raymond James, Springfield, Illinois						
Certificates of Deposit		2.45% - 3.45%	2023	-	-	1,470,000
Certificates of Deposit		1.60% - 5.55%	2024	-	5,364,000	3,435,000
Certificates of Deposit		5.00% - 5.50%	2025	2,187,000	1,952,000	-
Certificates of Deposit		4.10% - 5.40%	2026	1,486,000	490,000	-
Certificates of Deposit		3.90% - 4.00%	2028	494,000	-	-
Certificates of Deposit		4.00%	2029	249,000	-	-
				4,416,000	7,806,000	4,905,000
U.S. Treasuries:						
US Treasury Bills	$259,000	3.869%	2023	-	-	249,579
US Treasury Bills	$259,000	3.990%	2023	-	-	249,534
US Treasury Notes	$256,000	4.000%	2023	-	-	249,307
US Treasury Notes	$261,000	4.340%	2024	-	249,654	249,654
US Treasury Notes	$259,000	3.889%	2026	249,030	-	-
US Treasury Notes	$260,000	3.929%	2026	249,705	-	-
US Treasury Notes	$257,000	4.079%	2026	246,628	-	-
US Treasury Notes	$268,000	4.116%	2029	249,332	-	-
US Treasury Notes	$257,000	4.125%	2029	247,532	-	-
				1,242,227	249,654	998,074
Discount paid on US Treasuries				2,561	10,608	3,747
Total Raymond James Investments				**5,660,788**	**8,066,262**	**5,906,821**

NOTE 6 – INVESTMENTS, (Continued)

	Current Rates/Yield	Maturity Date	Cost/Market 12-31-24	Cost/Market 12-31-23	Cost/Market 12-31-22
Other Financial Institutions – Certificates of Deposit:					
Bloomsdale Bank, Bloomsdale, MO	1.000%	2023	$ -	$ -	$ 245,000
Prime Alliance	5.300%	2025	238,000	-	-
State Bank of Texas, Dallas, TX	5.350% - 5.500%	2025-24	249,000	249,000	-
US Alliance Financial, Rye NY	1.000% - 4.850%	2025-23	245,000	245,000	245,000
INOVA Federal Credit Union, Elkhart, IN	4.310% - 5.500%	2026-24	249,402	249,000	-
Vibrant Credit Union, Moline, IL	5.000%	2027-24	210,861	200,000	-
Lafayette Federal Credit Union, West Kensington, MD	4.500%	2027	247,500	-	-
EFCU Financial, Baton Rouge, LA	4.750%	2027	222,500	-	-
Heartland Credit Union, Hutchinson, KS	4.090%	2027	247,500	-	-
Heartland Credit Union, Springfield, IL	4.400%	2028	250,000	-	-
Total Other Financial Institutions – Certificates of Deposit			**2,159,763**	**943,000**	**490,000**
TOTAL INVESTMENTS			**$15,220,551**	**$16,715,931**	**$15,303,490**

Interest income on investments for the years ended December 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022 was $765,037, $560,917, and $373,608, respectively. The accrued interest amounted to $70,092, $104,968, and $60,471, respectively.

NOTE 7 – CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

Financial instruments, which potentially subject the organization to concentration of credit risk, include cash and cash equivalents and investments. The organization places its temporary cash with credit-worthy, high quality financial institutions. There were no uninsured balances at these financial institutions at December 31, 2024.

Investments and cash on demand with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund – LCMS of $7,951,414 are not SIPC or FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts, and repayment of principal and interest is dependent upon the general financial condition of LCEF. Management has reviewed the financial condition of LCEF and has been made aware of a lawsuit in which LCEF has been named as one of multiple defendants. LCEF maintains that the lawsuit and its claims are spurious and will vigorously defend against them. Management will continue to monitor the status of the lawsuit and LCEF's financial condition to ensure the investments held with the LCEF remain unimpaired.

NOTE 8 – INTEREST-BEARING DEBT INSTRUMENTS

The balances in interest-bearing debt instruments represent amounts that members of LCMS have invested in the Church Extension Fund in the following:

	12-31-24	12-31-23	12-31-22
Flex Accounts	$ 1,000,696	$ 1,311,527	$ 1,582,735
Investment certificates:			
6 months	113,116	112,382	127,365
11 months	1,741,357	-	-
12 months	2,355,060	2,195,402	2,062,461
18 months	12,277,821	10,570,921	1,300,662
24 months	-	1,002,015	7,816,637
36 months	1,681,958	2,171,520	2,938,725
60 months	5,227,844	6,742,419	9,468,246
Total interest-bearing debt instruments	$24,397,852	$24,106,186	$25,296,831

Interest rates on outstanding interest-bearing debt instruments range from 0.40% to 4.50%. The accounts held in each of the above investments are not SIPC or FDIC insured.

Future scheduled maturities of investment certificates are as follows:

2025	$16,008,602
2026	3,870,459
2027	1,444,465
2028	1,353,277
2029	720,352
Totals	$23,397,155

NOTE 9 – RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Office space is provided to the Church Extension Fund under a lease agreement with the District with monthly payments of $1,150 for rent and utilities.

The Church Extension Fund also provides various grants to member congregations and other entities including the District.

The following represents payments made to the District from the Church Extension Fund for the years ended December 2024, 2023, and 2022:

	2024	2023	2022
Ministry Outreach Grants	$ 2,615	$ 473	$ -
Board Grants	-	12,095	3,683
Bequest Grants	4,250	-	5,656
Rent and utilities	13,800	13,200	13,200

The District had 2 outstanding loans with the Church Extension Fund on December 31, 2024 with a balance due of $66,045, 2 loans on December 31, 2023 and 2 loans on December 31, 2022 with balances due of $88,416 and $109,723, respectively.

NOTE 10 – RETIREMENT PLAN

The Church Extension Fund participates with other organizations affiliated with the LCMS in a multiemployer noncontributory, defined-benefit pension plan covering substantially all employees. Benefits are provided through Concordia Plan Services (the Plan). The cost of these benefits to the Church Extension Fund for the years ended December 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022 was $17,774, $16,994, and $15,120, respectively.

Accumulated plan benefits information, as provided by consulting actuaries, has not been distinguished from the benefits of the other organizations participating in the multiemployer Plan and, accordingly, such information is not presented herein. The most recent available financial information for the Plan is as of December 31, 2023. The December 31, 2023 audited financial statements of the Concordia Retirement Plan reflected approximately $3.9 billion in net assets available for benefits and $4.5 billion of actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits. Therefore, the Plan was approximately 86% funded and is in the "Green Zone" for classification under the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA). The PPA considers Plans that are neither endangered nor critical to be in the "Green Zone" and are not required to take action. Plans considered endangered are "Yellow Zone" and critical are considered "Red Zone." Pension Plans in critical and endangered status are required to adopt a plan aimed at restoring the financial health of the Pension Plan.

In addition, the Church Extension Fund also offers a retirement plan under Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code for employees. The employer matching contributions for the years ending December 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022 was $3,627, $3,455, and $3,290, respectively.

NOTE 11 – EXPENSES BY NATURE AND FUNCTION

The table below presents expenses by their function for fiscal years ending 2024, 2023 and 2022.

	Program Services	Management and General	Total
December 31, 2024			
Salaries and benefits	$157,573	$150,160	$307,733
Office expenses	7,999	7,622	15,621
Occupancy and insurance	18,542	17,670	36,212
Professional and computer services	38,638	12,880	51,518
Depreciation	7,654	2,550	10,204
Grants	43,963	-	43,963
Other expenses	-	17,874	17,874
Total expenses	$274,369	$208,756	$483,125
December 31, 2023			
Salaries and benefits	$150,461	$143,147	$293,608
Office expenses	7,049	6,707	13,756
Occupancy and insurance	17,396	16,551	33,947
Professional and computer services	27,744	9,248	36,992
Depreciation	1,853	617	2,470
Grants	38,469	-	38,469
Other expenses	-	20,123	20,123
Total expenses	$242,972	$196,393	$439,365
December 31, 2022			
Salaries and benefits	$140,527	$132,774	$273,301
Office expenses	7,095	6,703	13,798
Occupancy and insurance	17,612	16,641	34,253
Professional and computer services	33,238	11,080	44,318
Depreciation	3,399	1,132	4,531
Grants	75,310	-	75,310
Other expenses	-	28,979	28,979
Total expenses	$277,181	$197,309	$474,490

NOTE 12 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The organization reviewed events for inclusion in the financial statements through May 6, 2025, the date that the financial statements were available to be issued.

CID 2023 Audit H-1
CID 2022 Audit H-18
CID 2021 Audit H-35

LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD
CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT, INC.
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors of
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc.
Springfield, Illinois

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc., which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc. as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc. and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may

involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc.'s internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Estes, Bridgewater & Ogden

Certified Public Accountants
Springfield, Illinois

October 7, 2024

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
Assets		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 373,226	$ 479,244
Accounts receivable	-	2,336
Interest receivable	1,109	1,109
Prepaid expense	1,150	637
Total Current Assets	375,485	483,326
OTHER ASSETS		
Restricted – Cash and cash equivalents	25,356	25,273
Staff housing loans receivable	88,416	109,722
Investments	516,884	516,881
Fixed assets – net	887,397	889,264
Total Other Assets	1,518,053	1,541,140
TOTAL ASSETS	**$1,893,538**	**$2,024,466**
Liabilities and Net Assets		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	$ 31,565	$ 31,249
Mortgage payable – current	6,188	5,916
Total Current Liabilities	37,753	37,165
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		
Mortgages payable – less current portion	82,227	103,806
Total Liabilities	119,980	140,971
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions:		
Investment In Plant	798,982	779,798
Board Designated	24,980	24,980
Undesignated	851,876	976,888
Total	1,675,838	1,781,666
With Donor Restrictions	97,720	101,829
Total Net Assets	1,773,558	1,883,495
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	**$1,893,538**	**$2,024,466**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2023
SUPPORT:			
District congregations	$1,598,886	$ -	$1,598,886
Gifts and grants	160,114	183,611	343,725
Total support	1,759,000	183,611	1,942,611
REVENUES:			
Building rent	13,200	-	13,200
Conferences/Convention	122,055	-	122,055
Reimbursements	19,119	-	19,119
Interest income	13,122	-	13,122
Total revenues	167,496	-	167,496
Net assets released from restrictions	187,720	(187,720)	-
Total support and revenue	2,114,216	(4,109)	2,110,107
EXPENSES:			
Direct Program Services:			
Preparing church workers	128,725	-	128,725
Missions & ministry	812,944	-	812,944
Program services – support	367,460	-	367,460
Total Program Services	1,309,129	-	1,309,129
Supporting Service Expenses:			
General Administration	431,244	-	431,244
Unallocated payments to related organization	479,671	-	479,671
Total Supporting Service Expenses	910,915	-	910,915
Total expenses	2,220,044	-	2,220,044
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	**(105,828)**	**(4,109)**	**(109,937)**
NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,781,666	101,829	1,883,495
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	**$1,675,838**	**$ 97,720**	**$1,773,558**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2022
SUPPORT:			
District congregations	$1,631,678	$ -	$1,631,678
Gifts and grants	32,538	162,475	195,013
Total support	1,664,216	162,475	1,826,691
REVENUES:			
Building rent	13,200	-	13,200
Conferences/Convention	104,567	-	104,567
Reimbursements	19,505	-	19,505
Interest income	6,975	-	6,975
Total revenues	144,247	-	144,247
Net assets released from restrictions	145,764	(145,764)	-
Total support and revenue	1,954,227	16,711	1,970,938
EXPENSES:			
Direct Program Services:			
Preparing church workers	104,498	-	104,498
Missions & ministry	828,855	-	828,855
Program services – support	309,582	-	309,582
Total Program Services	1,242,935	-	1,242,935
Supporting Service Expenses:			
General Administration	299,800	-	299,800
Unallocated payments to related organization	489,573	-	489,573
Total Supporting Service Expenses	789,373	-	789,373
Total expenses	2,032,308	-	2,032,308
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	**(78,081)**	**16,711**	**(61,370)**
NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,982,586	85,118	2,067,704
Prior Period Adjustment (Note 13)	(122,839)	-	(122,839)
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	**$1,781,666**	**$ 101,829**	**$1,883,495**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Preparing Church Workers	Missions & Ministry Services	Other Program Support	Total Program Services	Payments to Synod	Management and General	Total 2023
Unallocated payments to related organization	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 479,671	$ -	$ 479,671
Student Aid Scholarships	128,725	-	-	128,725	-	-	128,725
Board Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	5,360	5,360
Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	124,056	124,056
Conferences, committees and convention	-	623	134,737	135,360	-	9,330	144,690
Depreciation	-	30,929	-	30,929	-	11,628	42,557
Insurance	-	23,510	731	24,241	-	5,593	29,834
Grant expenses	-	7,749	-	7,749	-	-	7,749
Maintenance	-	1,450	-	1,450	-	9,591	11,041
Other expenses	-	2,254	2,412	4,666	-	6,078	10,744
Postage	-	256	450	706	-	1,010	1,716
Printing and publications	-	-	5,766	5,766	-	-	5,766
Professional and contractual services	-	13,939	2,183	16,122	-	11,252	27,374
Program costs	-	20,548	7,885	28,433	-	846	29,279
Salaries and benefits	-	622,343	174,648	796,991	-	208,444	1,005,435
Subsidies	-	50,737	24,000	74,737	-	-	74,737
Supplies	-	574	128	702	-	5,970	6,672
Telephone	-	3,265	600	3,865	-	1,814	5,679
Travel/Visitations	-	6,004	13,920	19,924	-	14,067	33,991
Utilities	-	28,763	-	28,763	-	16,205	44,968
Total Expenses	$ 128,725	$ 812,944	$ 367,460	$1,309,129	$ 479,671	$ 431,244	$2,220,044

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Preparing Church Workers	Missions & Ministry Services	Other Program Support	Total Program Services	Payments to Synod	Management and General	Total 2022
Unallocated payments to related organization	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 489,573	$ -	$ 489,573
Student Aid Scholarships	104,498	-	-	104,498	-	-	104,498
Board Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	5,515	5,515
Conferences, committees and convention	-	173	81,366	81,539	-	4,836	86,375
Depreciation	-	32,098	-	32,098	-	25,547	57,645
Insurance	-	21,927	767	22,694	-	5,077	27,771
Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance	-	10,157	110	10,267	-	9,947	20,214
Other expenses	-	-	202	202	-	106	308
Postage	-	255	109	364	-	1,109	1,473
Printing and publications	-	68	6,126	6,194	-	-	6,194
Professional and contractual services	-	7,510	1,665	9,175	-	10,869	20,044
Program costs	-	61,941	15,426	77,367	-	2,509	79,876
Salaries and benefits	-	616,316	164,033	780,349	-	202,982	983,331
Subsidies	-	33,114	24,000	57,114	-	-	57,114
Supplies	-	263	25	288	-	4,424	4,712
Telephone	-	3,468	600	4,068	-	3,438	7,506
Travel/Visitations	-	10,387	15,153	25,540	-	7,366	32,906
Utilities	-	31,178	-	31,178	-	16,075	47,253
Total Expenses	$ 104,498	$ 828,855	$ 309,582	$1,242,935	$ 489,573	$ 299,800	$2,032,308

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets	($109,937)	($ 61,370)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by (used for) operating activities:		
Depreciation expense	42,557	57,645
(Increase) decrease in assets:		
Accounts receivable & interest receivable	2,336	371
Staff loan receivable	21,306	27,473
Prepaid expenses	(513)	12,609
Increase (decrease) in liabilities:		
Accounts payable	316	(4,129)
Net cash provided by (used for) operating activities	(43,935)	32,599
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Principal payments	(21,209)	(24,959)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Fixed asset acquisitions	(40,791)	(45,971)
Loss on sale of fixed assets	-	44,499
Net cash provided by (used for) investing activities	(40,791)	(1,472)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	**(105,935)**	**6,168**
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	504,517	498,349
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – END OF YEAR	**$398,582**	**$504,517**
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:		
Cash and cash equivalents:		
Unrestricted	$373,226	$479,244
Restricted	25,356	25,273
Total cash and cash equivalents	$398,582	$504,517

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (Central Illinois District-LCMS) is a charitable exempt organization organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and was established to provide ministry and other support services to member congregations and to provide missions support to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The Central Illinois District-LCMS 's programs are supported primarily by member church congregations.

The financial statements of the Central Illinois District-LCMS have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

The significant accounting policies followed by the Central Illinois District-LCMS are described below to enhance the usefulness of the financial statements to the reader.

Basis of Accounting – The financial statements of the Central Illinois District-LCMS have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis of Presentation – The financial statements of the Association have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("US GAAP"), which require the Association to report information regarding its financial position and activities accordingly to the following net asset classifications:

> Net assets without donor restrictions – Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of the Association's management and the board of directors.
>
> Net assets with donor restrictions – Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors, and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of the Association or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, where by the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.
>
> Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the statement of activities.

Cash and Cash Equivalents – Cash consists solely of amounts used for current operations in a demand deposit.

Investments – Investments consist of certificates of deposit and a flexible savings account. They are carried at cost which is equal to market.

Income Taxes – The organization is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, Continued

Functional Expenses – The costs of providing program and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among program services, management and general, fundraising, occupancy and supporting services benefited. Such allocations are determined by management on an equitable basis.

Contribution Receivables – The Central Illinois District-LCMS receives the majority of its support from the district congregations it serves. For budgeting purposes, each district congregation submits a non-binding pledge on an annual basis. According to board policy, these pledges are informational only and no effort to collect the amounts would be made should a congregation experience financial hardship. Accordingly, no pledge receivables are recognized in the statements.

Fixed Assets – Fixed assets (greater than $500) are recorded at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. Management's policy is to recognize a full year of depreciation in the year the asset is acquired and no depreciation in the year of disposal. Depreciation expense was $64,400 for the year ended December 31, 2023. The prior year total was $61,327.

Use of Estimates – The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recorded in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE 2 – LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY

Financial assets available for general expenditure, that is, without donor or other restrictions limiting their use, within one year of December 31, 2023 and 2022 are:

	2023	2022
Financial assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 373,226	$ 479,244
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	25,356	25,273
Accounts receivable, net	-	2,336
Investments	516,884	516,881
Total financial assets	915,466	1,023,734
Less financial assets held to meet donor-imposed restrictions:		
Purpose-restricted net assets (Note 8)	(97,720)	(101,829)
Amount available for general expenditures within one year	$ 817,746	$ 921,905

The organization's cash flows have variations during the year attributable to timing of payments from the congregation and donors. To manage liquidity, the organization structures its financial assets to be available as general expenses, liabilities and other obligations come due.

NOTE 3 – CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

Financial instruments, which potentially subject the organization to concentration of credit risk, include cash, accounts and staff loans receivable and investments. The organization places its temporary cash with credit-worthy, high quality financial institutions. Accounts receivable and notes receivable are principally with member churches and individuals within the Central Illinois District. The organization performs ongoing evaluations of the financial conditions of the member churches to ensure collection of outstanding balances.

Investments with the Central Illinois District – Church Extension Fund (CEF) of $516,884 are not SIPC or FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts, and repayment of principal and interest is dependent upon the general financial condition of CEF. Management has reviewed the financial condition of the CEF and is satisfied that deposits are secure despite lack of regulatory insurance coverage.

NOTE 4 – INVESTMENTS

Investments consisted of the following for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2022	
	Cost	Market	Cost	Market
Central Illinois District				
Church Extension Fund:				
Certificates of Deposit, Rates: 1.5% - 1.85%	$516,139	$516,139	$516,139	$516,139
Flexible Account	745	745	742	742
Total	$516,884	$516,884	$516,881	$516,881

Investment income includes interest income earned on the above investments and loans receivable. Interest income for the years December 31, 2023 and 2022 were $6,976 and $7,318, respectively.

NOTE 5 – FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets consisted of the following for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	2023	2022
Land	$ 266,728	$ 266,728
Land improvements	120,602	120,602
Office buildings/Campus Centers/Other	2,952,219	2,911,528
Furniture and equipment	426,549	426,549
Total property and equipment	3,766,098	3,725,407
Accumulated depreciation	(2,878,701)	(2,836,143)
Fixed Assets – Net	$ 887,397	$ 889,264

NOTE 6 – LOANS PAYABLE

1) In March 2012, the Central Illinois District-LCMS obtained a loan for $294,224 for the purchase of property in Monticello, Illinois. The mortgage is with the Central Illinois District-Church Extension Fund (CEF) and the interest rate is 5.00% with a monthly payment of $867.89. The mortgage is due and payable on March 30, 2038. This loan was paid off during the year.

2) The Central Illinois District-LCMS signed a promissory note dated March 9, 2018 for the purchase of a house on 130 Pinehurst Drive, Springfield Illinois, for Pastor Schurb. The Pastor put a down payment of $60,000 towards the property at purchase. The Central Illinois District-LCMS makes the monthly payments and is reimbursed each month. The loan is for 25 years and is due March 9, 2043 and the interest rate is 4.5%. Scheduled monthly payments are $581.12. The balance at December 31, 2023 is $54,398.

   The following is the repayment schedule of principal and interest:

	Principal	Interest
2024	$ 3,923	$ 3,051
2025	4,103	2,871
2026	4,291	2,682
2027	4,488	2,485
2028	4,695	2,279
2029-2033	26,913	7,954
2043	5,985	827
	$ 54,398	$ 22,149

3) In March 2019, the Central Illinois District-LCMS obtained a loan for $85,000 for the purchase of property in Carbon Cliff, Illinois for Pastor Dominguez. The Central Illinois District-LCMS makes the monthly payments and the Pastor reimburses on a monthly basis. The loan was for $85,000 and the interest rate is 4.50%. The monthly scheduled payment is $395.08 commencing March, 2019 for twenty-five years and payable thru February 2044. The balance at December 31, 2023 is $34,017.

   The following is the repayment schedule of principal and interest:

	Principal	Interest
2024	$ 2,265	$ 2,476
2025	2,369	2,372
2026	2,478	2,263
2027	2,592	2,149
2028	2,711	2,030
2029-2033	15,543	8,162
2034-2038	6,059	2,219
	$ 34,017	$ 21,671

NOTE 7 – CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND, INC.

In 2003, the Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc. (Endowment Fund) was created to manage invested funds. Endowment Fund is governed by a board of trustees independent of Central Illinois District. Inasmuch as disbursements from Endowment Fund can be for purposes and programs administered by Central Illinois District, Central Illinois District is represented at Endowment Fund meetings in a non-voting capacity. Should Endowment Fund dissolve, the assets of the Fund would be distributed to Central Illinois District, if extant, or else to Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

NOTE 8 – NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets without donor restrictions are considered undesignated as to use unless a restriction has been placed by the donor. For reporting purposes, management has identified certain net assets to be used for specific purposes. These net assets are termed "board designated" for the specific purpose. At December 31, 2023, $97,720 of net assets without donor restrictions were designated as Net Investment In Plant and represents the book value of fixed assets held by the organization reduced by the outstanding liabilities against those assets.

In 2013, funds received of $53,826 were designated by the board for special projects. Board designated net assets for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 were $24,980 and $24,980, respectively.

NOTE 9 – NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets with donor restrictions were solicited for or designated for a specific use by the donor and are listed in the following table:

	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022
Cemetery Fund	$ 8,198	$ 8,198
Beyond the Classroom	4,523	-
University – Champaign	2,799	2,799
Student Aid	7,512	16,954
Disaster Relief Equipment and Operations	10,697	10,579
Circuit Visitor Training	(875)	-
LLF Endowment – University Support	1,500	937
LWML – Latvia VBS Translation	-	3,500
LWML – Student Interns	2,152	8,472
LWML – Connect to Disciple	(239)	1,236
New CID Pastors & Teachers	500	6,000
Missions – Church planting	-	796
Missions – DFM	20,348	429
LWML – New Prison ministry	8,359	9,683
LCMS Foundation – Mission Church Startup	32,246	32,246
Total net assets with donor restrictions	$ 97,720	$101,829

NOTE 9 – NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS, Continued

Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes or by occurrence of other events specified by donors. For the year ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, net assets released were as follows:

	2023	2022
Church Planting	$ 1,201	$ 2,007
Spanish Ministry	-	6,185
Prison Ministry	1,324	317
C2D	1,474	-
CEF Grants	-	540
Kleinschmidt Bequest	-	7,843
Dollars for Missions	20,140	-
Student Aid	129,238	104,498
Disaster Relief Equipment and Operations	405	1,347
LLF Endowment University Support	4,579	9,092
LWML – Student Interns	6,320	6,935
LWML – Latvia VBS translation	3,500	1,500
New CID Pastors & Teachers	5,500	5,500
Beyond the Classroom	1,708	-
Life Coordination	4,436	-
Circuit Visitor Training	4,525	-
School Administrative Training	897	-
CID President Benevolence Fund	2,000	-
Small Church Summit	473	-
Total	$187,720	$145,764

NOTE 10 – CAMP CILCA

Camp CILCA is a 501(c)(3) organization. The Central Illinois District-LCMS appoints one half of the members of the board of directors. Camp CILCA owns certain real estate and other assets which are encumbered by debt and would revert to the Central Illinois District-LCMS should the corporation cease to exist. There is no plan to dissolve the corporation.

NOTE 11 – RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Central Illinois District-LCMS rents space to the Church Extension Fund on a month to month basis. Currently, rent is $1,100 per month and covers the use of space and utilities by the Church Extension Fund in the district building. Rent income for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 was $13,200 and $13,200, respectively.

The following represents payments made to the District from the Church Extension Fund for the years ended December 2023 and 2022:

	2023	2022
Ministry Outreach Grants	$ 473	$ -
Board Grants	12,095	3,683
Bequest Grants	-	5,656
Rent and utilities	13,200	13,200
Water damage payment	-	-

The District had two outstanding loans with the Church Extension Fund on December 31, 2023 and two outstanding loans with the Church Extension Fund on December 31, 2022 with total balances due of $88,415 and $109,722, respectively.

NOTE 12 – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Central Illinois District-LCMS participates with other organizations affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Concordia Plan Services (the Plan). The Plan provides for benefits in a noncontributory defined-benefit pension plan covering substantially all full-time employees. The costs for the employer pension contributions for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 were $54,906 and $57,014, respectively.

Accumulated plan benefits information, as provided by consulting actuaries, has not been distinguished from the benefits of the other organizations participating in the multiemployer Plan and, accordingly, such information is not presented herein. The most recent available financial information for the Plan is as of December 31, 2022. The December 31, 2022 audited financial statements of the Concordia Retirement Plan reflected approximately $3.8 billion in net assets available for benefits and $4.5 billion of actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits. Therefore, the Plan was approximately 84% funded and is in the "Green Zone" for classification under the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA). The PPA considers Plans that are neither endangered nor critical to be in the "Green Zone" and are not required to take action. Plans considered endangered are "Yellow Zone" and critical are considered "Red Zone". Pension Plans in critical and endangered status are required to adopt a plan aimed at restoring the financial health of the Pension Plan.

The Plan also includes coverage for health insurance as well as disability and survivor benefits. The costs related to that plan for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 were $173,637 and $177,639, respectively.

NOTE 13 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Organization reviewed events for inclusion in the financial statements through October 7, 2024, the date through which subsequent events have been evaluated and the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD
CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT, INC.
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors of
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc.
Springfield, Illinois

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc., which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc. as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc. and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are

considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc.'s internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Estes, Bridgewater & Ogden

Certified Public Accountants
Springfield, Illinois

November 17, 2023

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
Assets		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 479,244	$ 468,141
Accounts receivable	2,336	2,148
Interest receivable	1,109	1,668
Prepaid expense	637	13,246
Total Current Assets	483,326	485,203
OTHER ASSETS		
Restricted – Cash and cash equivalents	25,273	30,208
Staff housing loans receivable	109,722	137,195
Investments	516,881	516,992
Fixed assets – net	889,264	1,179,130
Total Other Assets	1,541,140	1,863,525
TOTAL ASSETS	**$2,024,466**	**$2,348,728**
Liabilities and Net Assets		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	$ 31,249	$ 35,378
Mortgage payable – current	5,916	11,741
Total Current Liabilities	37,165	47,119
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		
Mortgages payable – less current portion	103,806	233,905
Total Liabilities	140,971	281,024
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions:		
Investment In Plant	779,798	1,070,679
Board Designated	24,980	24,980
Undesignated	976,888	886,927
Total	1,781,666	1,982,586
With Donor Restrictions	101,829	85,118
Total Net Assets	1,883,495	2,067,704
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	**$2,024,466**	**$2,348,728**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2022
SUPPORT:			
District congregations	$1,631,678	$ -	$1,631,678
Gifts and grants	32,538	162,475	195,013
Total support	1,664,216	162,475	1,826,691
REVENUES:			
Building rent	13,200	-	13,200
Conferences/Convention	104,567	-	104,567
Reimbursements	19,505	-	19,505
Interest income	6,975	-	6,975
Total revenues	144,247	-	144,247
Net assets released from restrictions	145,764	(145,764)	-
Total support and revenue	1,954,227	16,711	1,970,938
EXPENSES:			
Direct Program Services:			
Preparing church workers	104,498	-	104,498
Missions & ministry	828,855	-	828,855
Program services – support	309,582	-	309,582
Total Program Services	1,242,935	-	1,242,935
Supporting Service Expenses:			
General Administration	299,800	-	299,800
Unallocated payments to related organization	489,573	-	489,573
Total Supporting Service Expenses	789,373	-	789,373
Total expenses	2,032,308	-	2,032,308
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	**(78,081)**	**16,711**	**(61,370)**
NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,982,586	85,118	2,067,704
Prior Period Adjustment (Note 13)	(122,839)	-	(122,839)
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	**$1,781,666**	**$ 101,829**	**$1,883,495**

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES, Continued
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2021
SUPPORT:			
District congregations	$1,693,053	$ -	$1,693,053
Gifts and grants	102,374	159,037	261,411
Total support	1,795,427	159,037	1,954,464
REVENUES:			
Building rent	28,800	-	28,800
Conferences/Convention	3,693	-	3,693
Reimbursements	14,528	-	14,528
Interest income	7,318	-	7,318
Total revenues	54,339	-	54,339
Net assets released from restrictions	176,666	(176,666)	-
Total support and revenue	2,026,432	(17,629)	2,008,803
EXPENSES:			
Direct Program Services:			
Preparing church workers	113,432	-	113,432
Missions & ministry	755,688	-	755,688
Program services – support	212,381	-	212,381
Total Program Services	1,081,501	-	1,081,501
Supporting Service Expenses:			
General Administration	282,503		282,503
Unallocated payments to related organization	507,951	-	507,951
Total Supporting Service Expenses	790,454	-	790,454
Total expenses	1,871,955	-	1,871,955
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	**154,477**	**(17,629)**	**136,848**
NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,828,109	102,747	1,930,856
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	**$1,982,586**	**$ 85,118**	**$2,067,704**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Preparing Church Workers	Missions & Ministry Services	Other Program Support	Total Program Services	Payments to Synod	Management and General	Total 2022
Unallocated payments to related organization	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 489,573	$ -	$ 489,573
Student Aid Scholarships	104,498	-	-	104,498	-	-	104,498
Board Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	5,515	5,515
Conferences, committees and convention	-	173	81,366	81,539	-	4,836	86,375
Depreciation	-	32,098	-	32,098	-	25,547	57,645
Insurance	-	21,927	767	22,694	-	5,077	27,771
Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance	-	10,157	110	10,267	-	9,947	20,214
Other expenses	-	-	202	202	-	106	308
Postage	-	255	109	364	-	1,109	1,473
Printing and publications	-	68	6,126	6,194	-	-	6,194
Professional and contractual services	-	7,510	1,665	9,175	-	10,869	20,044
Program costs	-	61,941	15,426	77,367	-	2,509	79,876
Salaries and benefits	-	616,316	164,033	780,349	-	202,982	983,331
Subsidies	-	33,114	24,000	57,114	-	-	57,114
Supplies	-	263	25	288	-	4,424	4,712
Telephone	-	3,468	600	4,068	-	3,438	7,506
Travel/Visitations	-	10,387	15,153	25,540	-	7,366	32,906
Utilities	-	31,178	-	31,178	-	16,075	47,253
Total Expenses	$ 104,498	$ 828,855	$ 309,582	$1,242,935	$ 489,573	$ 299,800	$2,032,308

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	Preparing Church Workers	Missions & Ministry Services	Other Program Support	Total Program Services	Payments to Synod	Management and General	Total 2021
Unallocated payments to related organization	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 507,951	$ -	$ 507,951
Student Aid Scholarships	113,432	-	-	113,432	-	-	113,432
Board Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	5,633	5,633
Conferences, committees and convention	-	490	4,929	5,419	-	6,180	11,599
Depreciation	-	36,911	-	36,911	-	24,416	61,327
Insurance	-	22,157	797	22,954	-	4,911	27,865
Interest	-	3,837	-	3,837	-	-	3,837
Maintenance	-	2,954	4	2,958	-	7,515	10,473
Other expenses	-	896	2,037	2,933	-	198	3,131
Postage	-	229	88	317	-	987	1,304
Printing and publications	-	-	4,043	4,043	-	-	4,043
Professional and contractual services	-	14,382	990	15,372	-	10,044	25,416
Program costs	-	1,581	27,499	29,080	-	2,450	31,530
Salaries and benefits	-	607,061	144,750	751,811	-	190,677	942,488
Subsidies	-	33,000	20,000	53,000	-	-	53,000
Supplies	-	73	119	192	-	3,580	3,772
Telephone	-	3,283	600	3,883	-	4,813	8,696
Travel/Visitations	-	4,604	6,525	11,129	-	5,616	16,745
Utilities	-	24,230	-	24,230	-	15,483	39,713
Total Expenses	$ 113,432	$ 755,688	$ 212,381	$1,081,501	$ 507,951	$ 282,503	$1,871,955

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets	($ 61,370)	$136,848
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by (used for) operating activities:		
Depreciation expense	57,645	61,327
(Increase) decrease in assets:		
Accounts receivable & interest receivable	371	(1,482)
Staff loan receivable	27,473	20,031
Prepaid expenses	12,609	(13,115)
Increase (decrease) in liabilities:		
Accounts payable	(4,129)	(6,958)
Net cash provided by (used for) operating activities	32,599	196,651
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Principal payments	(24,959)	(51,794)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Fixed asset acquisitions	(45,971)	(34,631)
Purchase of investments	-	(300,002)
Loss on sale of fixed assets	44,499	-
Net cash provided by (used for) investing activities	(1,472)	(334,633)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	**6,168**	**(189,776)**
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	498,349	688,125
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – END OF YEAR	**$504,517**	**$498,349**
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:		
Cash and cash equivalents:		
Unrestricted	$479,244	$468,141
Restricted	25,273	30,208
Total cash and cash equivalents	$504,517	$498,349
Cash paid for interest	$ -	$ 3,837

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (Central Illinois District-LCMS) is a charitable exempt organization organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and was established to provide ministry and other support services to member congregations and to provide missions support to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The Central Illinois District-LCMS 's programs are supported primarily by member church congregations.

The financial statements of the Central Illinois District-LCMS have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

The significant accounting policies followed by the Central Illinois District-LCMS are described below to enhance the usefulness of the financial statements to the reader.

Basis of Accounting – The financial statements of the Central Illinois District-LCMS have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis of Presentation – The financial statements of the Association have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("US GAAP"), which require the Association to report information regarding its financial position and activities accordingly to the following net asset classifications:

> Net assets without donor restrictions – Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of the Association's management and the board of directors.
>
> Net assets with donor restrictions – Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors, and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of the Association or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, where by the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.
>
> Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the statement of activities.

Cash and Cash Equivalents – Cash consists solely of amounts used for current operations in a demand deposit.

Investments – Investments consist of certificates of deposit and a flexible savings account. They are carried at cost which is equal to market.

Income Taxes – The organization is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, Continued

Functional Expenses – The costs of providing program and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among program services, management and general, fundraising, occupancy and supporting services benefited. Such allocations are determined by management on an equitable basis.

Contribution Receivables – The Central Illinois District-LCMS receives the majority of its support from the district congregations it serves. For budgeting purposes, each district congregation submits a non-binding pledge on an annual basis. According to board policy, these pledges are informational only and no effort to collect the amounts would be made should a congregation experience financial hardship. Accordingly, no pledge receivables are recognized in the statements.

Fixed Assets – Fixed assets (greater than $500) are recorded at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. Management's policy is to recognize a full year of depreciation in the year the asset is acquired and no depreciation in the year of disposal. Depreciation expense was $64,400 for the year ended December 31, 2022. The prior year total was $61,327.

Use of Estimates – The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recorded in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE 2 – LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY

Financial assets available for general expenditure, that is, without donor or other restrictions limiting their use, within one year of December 31, 2022 and 2021 are:

	2022	2021
Financial assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 479,244	$ 468,141
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	25,273	30,208
Accounts receivable, net	2,336	2,148
Investments	516,881	516,992
Total financial assets	1,023,734	1,017,489
Less financial assets held to meet donor-imposed restrictions:		
Purpose-restricted net assets (Note 8)	(101,829)	(85,118)
Amount available for general expenditures within one year	$ 921,905	$ 932,371

The organization's cash flows have variations during the year attributable to timing of payments from the congregation and donors. To manage liquidity, the organization structures its financial assets to be available as general expenses, liabilities and other obligations come due.

NOTE 3 – CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

Financial instruments, which potentially subject the organization to concentration of credit risk, include cash, accounts and staff loans receivable and investments. The organization places its temporary cash with credit-worthy, high quality financial institutions. Accounts receivable and notes receivable are principally with member churches and individuals within the Central Illinois District. The organization performs ongoing evaluations of the financial conditions of the member churches to ensure collection of outstanding balances.

Investments with the Central Illinois District – Church Extension Fund (CEF) of 516,881 are not SIPC or FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts, and repayment of principal and interest is dependent upon the general financial condition of CEF. Management has reviewed the financial condition of the CEF and is satisfied that deposits are secure despite lack of regulatory insurance coverage.

NOTE 4 – INVESTMENTS

Investments consisted of the following for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021:

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2021	
	Cost	Market	Cost	Market
Central Illinois District				
Church Extension Fund:				
Certificates of Deposit, Rates: 1.5% - 1.85%	$516,139	$516,139	$516,252	$516,252
Flexible Account	742	742	740	740
Total	$516,881	$516,881	$516,992	$516,992

Investment income includes interest income earned on the above investments and loans receivable. Interest income for the years December 31, 2022 and 2021 were $6,976 and $7,318, respectively.

NOTE 5 – FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets consisted of the following for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021:

	2022	2021
Land	$ 266,728	$ 296,751
Land improvements	120,602	120,602
Office buildings/Campus Centers/Other	2,911,528	3,261,033
Furniture and equipment	426,549	424,535
Total property and equipment	3,725,407	4,102,921
Accumulated depreciation	(2,836,143)	(2,923,791)
Fixed Assets – Net	$ 889,264	$1,179,130

NOTE 6 – LOANS PAYABLE

1) In March 2012, the Central Illinois District-LCMS obtained a loan for $294,224 for the purchase of property in Monticello, Illinois. The mortgage is with the Central Illinois District-Church Extension Fund (CEF) and the interest rate is 5.00% with a monthly payment of $867.89. The mortgage is due and payable on March 30, 2038. This loan was paid off during the year.

2) The Central Illinois District-LCMS signed a promissory note dated March 9, 2018 for the purchase of a house on 130 Pinehurst Drive, Springfield Illinois, for Pastor Schurb. The Pastor put a down payment of $60,000 towards the property at purchase. The Central Illinois District-LCMS makes the monthly payments and is reimbursed each month. The loan is for 25 years and is due March 9, 2043 and the interest rate is 4.5%. Scheduled monthly payments are $581.12. The balance at December 31, 2022 is $65,945.

   The following is the repayment schedule of principal and interest:

	Principal	Interest
2023	$ 3,750	$ 3,223
2024	3,923	3,051
2025	4,103	2,871
2026	4,291	2,682
2027	4,488	2,485
2028-2032	25,731	9,136
2033-2043	19,659	2,468
	$ 65,945	$ 26,482

3) In March 2019, the Central Illinois District-LCMS obtained a loan for $85,000 for the purchase of property in Carbon Cliff, Illinois for Pastor Dominguez. The Central Illinois District-LCMS makes the monthly payments and the Pastor reimburses on a monthly basis. The loan was for $85,000 and the interest rate is 4.50%. The monthly scheduled payment is $395.08 commencing March, 2019 for twenty-five years and payable February 2044. The balance at December 31, 2022 is $43,777.

   The following is the repayment schedule of principal and interest:

	Principal	Interest
2023	$ 2,166	$ 2,575
2024	2,265	2,476
2025	2,369	2,372
2026	2,478	2,263
2027	2,592	2,149
2028-2032	14,860	8,845
2033-2037	17,046	4,774
	$ 43,777	$ 25,452

NOTE 7 – CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND, INC.

In 2003, the Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc. (Endowment Fund) was created to manage invested funds. Endowment Fund is governed by a board of trustees independent of Central Illinois District. Inasmuch as disbursements from Endowment Fund can be for purposes and programs administered by Central Illinois District, Central Illinois District is represented at Endowment Fund meetings in a non-voting capacity. Should Endowment Fund dissolve, the assets of the Fund would be distributed to Central Illinois District, if extant, or else to Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

NOTE 8 – NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets without donor restrictions are considered undesignated as to use unless a restriction has been placed by the donor. For reporting purposes, management has identified certain net assets to be used for specific purposes. These net assets are termed "board designated" for the specific purpose. At December 31, 2022, $1,006,591 of net assets without donor restrictions were designated as Net Investment In Plant and represents the book value of fixed assets held by the organization reduced by the outstanding liabilities against those assets.

In 2013, funds received of $53,826 were designated by the board for special projects. Board designated net assets for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 were $24,980 and $24,980, respectively.

NOTE 9 – NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets with donor restrictions were solicited for or designated for a specific use by the donor and are listed in the following table:

	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2021
Cemetery Fund	$ 8,198	$ 8,198
Kleinschmidt Bequest	-	7,843
University – Champaign	2,799	2,799
Student Aid	16,954	14,885
Disaster Relief Equipment and Operations	10,579	11,927
CEF Grants	-	540
LLF Endowment – University Support	937	5,783
LWML – Latvia VBS Translation	3,500	5,000
LWML – Student Interns	8,472	15,407
LWML – Connect to Disciple	1,236	1,236
New CID Pastors & Teachers	6,000	11,500
Missions – Church planting	796	-
Missions – DFM	429	-
LWML – New Prison ministry	9,683	-
LCMS Foundation – Mission Church Startup	32,246	-
Total net assets with donor restrictions	$101,829	$ 85,118

NOTE 9 – NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS, Continued

Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes or by occurrence of other events specified by donors. For the year ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, net assets released were as follows:

	2022	2021
Church Planting	$ 2,007	$ -
Spanish Ministry	6,185	-
Prison Ministry	317	-
CEF Grant – Dave Ramsey	-	20,000
CEF Grants	540	10,371
Kleinschmidt Bequest	7,843	10,455
University – Champaign	-	17,179
Student Aid	104,498	113,432
Disaster Relief Equipment and Operations	1,347	1,347
LLF Endowment University Support	9,092	-
LWML – Student Interns	6,935	382
LWML – Latvia VBS translation	1,500	-
New CID Pastors & Teachers	5,500	3,500
Total	$145,764	$176,666

NOTE 10 – CAMP CILCA

Camp CILCA is a 501(c)(3) organization. The Central Illinois District-LCMS appoints one half of the members of the board of directors. Camp CILCA owns certain real estate and other assets which are encumbered by debt and would revert to the Central Illinois District-LCMS should the corporation cease to exist. There is no plan to dissolve the corporation.

NOTE 11 – RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Central Illinois District-LCMS rents space to the Church Extension Fund on a month to month basis. Currently, rent is $1,100 per month and covers the use of space and utilities by the Church Extension Fund in the district building. Rent income for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 was $13,200 and $13,200, respectively.

The following represents payments made to the District from the Church Extension Fund for the years ended December 2022 and 2021:

	2022	2021
Ministry Outreach Grants	$ -	$ 860
Board Grants	3,683	13,879
Bequest Grants	5,656	14,721
Rent and utilities	13,200	13,200
Water damage payment	-	-

The District had two outstanding loans with the Church Extension Fund on December 31, 2022 and three outstanding loans with the Church Extension Fund on December 31, 2021 with total balances due of $109,722 and $245,646, respectively.

NOTE 12 – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Central Illinois District-LCMS participates with other organizations affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Concordia Plan Services (the Plan). The Plan provides for benefits in a noncontributory defined-benefit pension plan covering substantially all full-time employees. The costs for the employer pension contributions for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 were $57,014 and $55,785, respectively.

Accumulated plan benefits information, as provided by consulting actuaries, has not been distinguished from the benefits of the other organizations participating in the multiemployer Plan and, accordingly, such information is not presented herein. The most recent available financial information for the Plan is as of December 31, 2021. The December 31, 2021 audited financial statements of the Concordia Retirement Plan reflected approximately $4,580 billion in net assets available for benefits and $4,432 billion of actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits. Therefore, the Plan was approximately 103% funded and is in the "Green Zone" for classification under the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA). The PPA considers Plans that are neither endangered nor critical to be in the "Green Zone" and are not required to take action. Plans considered endangered are "Yellow Zone" and critical are considered "Red Zone". Pension Plans in critical and endangered status are required to adopt a plan aimed at restoring the financial health of the Pension Plan.

The Plan also includes coverage for health insurance as well as disability and survivor benefits. The costs related to that plan for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 were $177,639 and $165,560, respectively.

NOTE 13 – PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT

A prior period adjustment was made to correct classification of the Monticello Church property that was recorded on the books of the District incorrectly at the time of purchase.

The following accounts were effected and adjusted:

	Previously Reported	Prior Period Adjustment	Reported 12/31/2022
Land	$ 30,023	($ 30,023)	$ -
Building	270,208	(270,208)	-
Accumulated Depreciation	(66,426)	66,426	-
Net Assets	2,067,704	(122,839)	1,944,865

NOTE 14 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Organization reviewed events for inclusion in the financial statements through November 17, 2023, the date through which subsequent events have been evaluated and the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD
CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT, INC.
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors of
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc.
Springfield, Illinois

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc., which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc. as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc. and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are

considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc.'s internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Central Illinois District, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Estes, Bridgewater & Ogden

Certified Public Accountants
Springfield, Illinois

September 2, 2022

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2021 and 2020

	2021	2020
Assets		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 468,141	$ 652,992
Accounts receivable	2,148	1,477
Interest receivable	1,668	857
Prepaid expense	13,246	131
Total Current Assets	485,203	655,457
OTHER ASSETS		
Restricted - Cash and cash equivalents	30,208	35,133
Staff housing loans receivable	137,195	157,226
Investments	516,992	216,990
Fixed assets – net	1,179,130	1,205,826
Total Other Assets	1,863,525	1,615,175
TOTAL ASSETS	**$2,348,728**	**$2,270,632**
Liabilities and Net Assets		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	$ 35,378	$ 42,336
Mortgage payable – current	11,741	21,220
Total Current Liabilities	47,119	63,556
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		
Mortgages payable – less current portion	233,905	276,220
Total Liabilities	281,024	339,776
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions:		
Investment In Plant	1,070,679	1,065,612
Board Designated	24,980	24,980
Undesignated	886,927	737,517
Total	1,982,586	1,828,109
With Donor Restrictions	85,118	102,747
Total Net Assets	2,067,704	1,930,856
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	**$2,348,728**	**$2,270,632**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2021
SUPPORT:			
District congregations	$1,693,053	$ -	$1,693,053
Gifts and grants	102,374	159,037	261,411
Total support	1,795,427	159,037	1,954,464
REVENUES:			
Building rent	28,800	-	28,800
Conferences/Convention	3,693	-	3,693
Reimbursements	14,528	-	14,528
Interest income	7,318	-	7,318
Total revenues	54,339	-	54,339
Net assets released from restrictions	176,666	(176,666)	-
Total support and revenue	2,026,432	(17,629)	2,008,803
EXPENSES:			
Direct Program Services:			
Preparing church workers	113,432	-	113,432
Missions & ministry	755,688	-	755,688
Program services – support	212,381	-	212,381
Total Program Services	1,081,501	-	1,081,501
Supporting Service Expenses:			
General Administration	282,503		282,503
Unallocated payments to related organization	507,951	-	507,951
Total Supporting Service Expenses	790,454	-	790,454
Total expenses	1,871,955	-	1,871,955
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	**154,477**	**(17,629)**	**136,848**
NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,828,109	102,747	1,930,856
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	**$1,982,586**	**$ 85,118**	**$2,067,704**

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES, Continued
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2020
SUPPORT:			
District congregations	$1,645,991	$ -	$1,645,991
Gifts and grants	150,448	190,906	341,354
Government grant – PPP	194,221	-	194,221
Total support	1,990,660	190,906	2,181,566
REVENUES:			
Building rent	80,909	-	80,909
Conferences/Convention	500	-	500
Interest income	5,190	-	5,190
Total revenues	86,599	-	86,599
Net assets released from restrictions	154,890	(154,890)	-
Total support and revenue	2,232,149	36,016	2,268,165
EXPENSES:			
Direct Program Services:			
Preparing church workers	120,142	-	120,142
Missions & ministry	774,466	-	774,466
Program services – support	193,264	-	193,264
Total Program Services	1,087,872	-	1,087,872
Supporting Service Expenses:			
General Administration	300,999	-	300,999
Unallocated payments to related organization	493,798	-	493,798
Total Supporting Service Expenses	794,797	-	794,797
Total expenses	1,882,669	-	1,882,669
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	**349,480**	**36,016**	**385,496**
NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,478,629	66,731	1,545,360
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	**$1,828,109**	**$ 102,747**	**$1,930,856**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	Preparing Church Workers	Missions & Ministry Services	Other Program Support	Total Program Services	Payments to Synod	Management and General	Total 2021
Unallocated payments to related organization	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 507,951	$ -	$ 507,951
Student Aid Scholarships	113,432	-	-	113,432	-	-	113,432
Board Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	5,633	5,633
Conferences, committees and convention	-	490	4,929	5,419	-	6,180	11,599
Depreciation	-	36,911	-	36,911	-	24,416	61,327
Insurance	-	22,157	797	22,954	-	4,911	27,865
Interest	-	3,837	-	3,837	-	-	3,837
Maintenance	-	2,954	4	2,958	-	7,515	10,473
Other expenses	-	896	2,037	2,933	-	198	3,131
Postage	-	229	88	317	-	987	1,304
Printing and publications	-	-	4,043	4,043	-	-	4,043
Professional and contractual services	-	14,382	990	15,372	-	10,044	25,416
Program costs	-	1,581	27,499	29,080	-	2,450	31,530
Salaries and benefits	-	607,061	144,750	751,811	-	190,677	942,488
Subsidies	-	33,000	20,000	53,000	-	-	53,000
Supplies	-	73	119	192	-	3,580	3,772
Telephone	-	3,283	600	3,883	-	4,813	8,696
Travel/Visitations	-	4,604	6,525	11,129	-	5,616	16,745
Utilities	-	24,230	-	24,230	-	15,483	39,713
Total Expenses	$ 113,432	$ 755,688	$ 212,381	$1,081,501	$ 507,951	$ 282,503	$1,871,955

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	Preparing Church Workers	Missions & Ministry Services	Other Program Support	Total Program Services	Payments to Synod	Management and General	Total 2020
Unallocated payments to related organization	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 493,798	$ -	$ 493,798
Student Aid Scholarships	120,142	-	-	120,142	-	-	120,142
Board Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Conferences, committees and convention	-	-	4,266	4,266	-	7,485	11,751
Depreciation	-	38,347	-	38,347	-	24,506	62,853
Insurance	-	25,292	563	25,855	-	6,023	31,878
Interest	-	7,963	-	7,963	-	-	7,963
Maintenance	-	9,041	136	9,177	-	13,056	22,233
Other expenses	-	2,012	895	2,907	-	-	2,907
Postage	-	247	87	334	-	-	334
Printing and publications	-	-	3,736	3,736	-	1,105	4,841
Professional and contractual services	-	14,114	11,317	25,431	-	9,824	35,255
Program costs	-	2,872	2,940	5,812	-	1,702	7,514
Salaries and benefits	-	585,921	141,315	727,236	-	207,192	934,428
Subsidies	-	59,490	20,000	79,490	-	-	79,490
Supplies	-	183	468	651	-	4,237	4,888
Telephone	-	3,340	500	3,840	-	4,883	8,723
Travel/Visitations	-	1,909	7,041	8,950	-	3,807	12,757
Utilities	-	23,735	-	23,735	-	17,179	40,914
Total Expenses	$ 120,142	$ 774,466	$ 193,264	$1,087,872	$ 493,798	$ 300,999	$1,882,669

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Central Illinois District, Inc.

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

For the Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

	2021	2020
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets	$136,848	$385,496
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by (used for) operating activities:		
Depreciation expense	61,327	62,853
(Increase) decrease in assets:		
Accounts receivable	(1,482)	4,028
Staff loan receivable	20,031	18,060
Prepaid expenses and deposits	(13,115)	1,104
Increase (decrease) in liabilities:		
Accounts payable	(6,958)	6,471
Deferred revenues	-	(275)
Net cash provided by (used for) operating activities	196,651	477,737
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Principal payments	(51,794)	(77,806)
Loan forgiveness	-	(10,000)
Net cash provided by (used for) financing activities	(51,794)	(87,806)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Fixed asset acquisitions	(34,631)	-
Purchase of investments	(300,002)	(2)
Net cash provided by (used for) investing activities	(334,633)	(2)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	**(189,776)**	**389,929**
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	688,125	298,196
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – END OF YEAR	**$498,349**	**$688,125**
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:		
Cash and cash equivalents:		
Restricted	$468,141	$652,992
Unrestricted	30,208	35,133
Total cash and cash equivalents	$498,349	$688,125
Cash paid for interest	$ 3,837	$ 7,963

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (Central Illinois District-LCMS) is a charitable exempt organization organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and was established to provide ministry and other support services to member congregations and to provide missions support to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The Central Illinois District-LCMS 's programs are supported primarily by member church congregations.

The financial statements of the Central Illinois District-LCMS have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

The significant accounting policies followed by the Central Illinois District-LCMS are described below to enhance the usefulness of the financial statements to the reader.

Basis of Accounting – The financial statements of the Central Illinois District-LCMS have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis of Presentation – The financial statements of the Association have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("US GAAP"), which require the Association to report information regarding its financial position and activities accordingly to the following net asset classifications:

> Net assets without donor restrictions – Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of the Association's management and the board of directors.
>
> Net assets with donor restrictions – Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors, and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of the Association or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, where by the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.
>
> Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the statement of activities.

Cash and Cash Equivalents – Cash consists solely of amounts used for current operations in a demand deposit.

Investments – Investments consist of certificates of deposit and a flexible savings account. They are carried at cost which is equal to market.

Income Taxes – The organization is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, Continued

Functional Expenses – The costs of providing program and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among program services, management and general, fundraising, occupancy and supporting services benefited. Such allocations are determined by management on an equitable basis.

Contribution Receivables – The Central Illinois District-LCMS receives the majority of its support from the district congregations it serves. For budgeting purposes, each district congregation submits a non-binding pledge on an annual basis. According to board policy, these pledges are informational only and no effort to collect the amounts would be made should a congregation experience financial hardship. Accordingly, no pledge receivables are recognized in the statements.

Fixed Assets – Fixed assets (greater than $500) are recorded at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. Management's policy is to recognize a full year of depreciation in the year the asset is acquired and no depreciation in the year of disposal. Depreciation expense was $61,327 for the year ended December 31, 2021. The prior year total was $62,853.

Use of Estimates – The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recorded in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE 2 – LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY

Financial assets available for general expenditure, that is, without donor or other restrictions limiting their use, within one year of December 31, 2021 and 2020 are:

	2021	2020
Financial assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	$468,141	$652,992
Accounts receivable, net	2,148	1,477
Investments	516,992	216,990
Total financial assets	987,281	871,459
Less financial assets held to meet donor-imposed restrictions:		
Purpose-restricted net assets (Note 8)	(61,141)	(87,757)
Amount available for general expenditures within one year	$926,140	$783,702

The organization's cash flows have variations during the year attributable to timing of payments from the congregation and donors. To manage liquidity, the organization structures its financial assets to be available as general expenses, liabilities and other obligations come due.

NOTE 3 – CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

Financial instruments, which potentially subject the organization to concentration of credit risk, include cash, accounts and staff loans receivable and investments. The organization places its temporary cash with credit-worthy, high quality financial institutions. Accounts receivable and notes receivable are principally with member churches and individuals within the Central Illinois District. The organization performs ongoing evaluations of the financial conditions of the member churches to ensure collection of outstanding balances.

Investments with the Central Illinois District – Church Extension Fund (CEF) of $516,992 are not SIPC or FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts, and repayment of principal and interest is dependent upon the general financial condition of CEF. Management has reviewed the financial condition of the CEF and is satisfied that deposits are secure despite lack of regulatory insurance coverage.

NOTE 4 – INVESTMENTS

Investments consisted of the following for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020:

	December 31, 2021		December 31, 2020	
	Cost	Market	Cost	Market
Central Illinois District				
Church Extension Fund:				
Certificates of Deposit, Rates: 1.5% - 1.85%	$516,252	$516,252	$216,252	$216,252
Flexible Account	740	740	738	738
Total	$516,992	$516,992	$216,990	$216,990

Investment income includes interest income earned on the above investments and loans receivable. Interest income for the years December 31, 2021 and 2020 were $7,318 and $5,190, respectively.

NOTE 5 – FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets consisted of the following for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020:

	2021	2020
Land	$ 296,751	$ 296,751
Land improvements	120,602	120,602
Office buildings/Campus Centers/Other	3,261,033	3,226,402
Furniture and equipment	424,535	424,535
Total property and equipment	4,102,921	4,068,290
Accumulated depreciation	(2,923,791)	(2,862,464)
Fixed Assets – Net	$1,179,130	$1,205,826

NOTE 6 – LOANS PAYABLE

1) In March 2012, the Central Illinois District-LCMS obtained a loan for $294,224 for the purchase of property in Monticello, Illinois. The mortgage is with the Central Illinois District-Church Extension Fund (CEF) and the interest rate is 5.00% with a monthly payment of $867.89. The mortgage is due and payable on March 30, 2038. The balance at December 31, 2021 is $108,451.

   The following is the repayment schedule of principal and interest:

	Principal	Interest
2022	$ 6,680	$ 4,935
2023	6,983	4,313
2024	7,300	3,981
2025	7,632	3,633
2026	7,978	3,270
2027-2031	45,667	10,303
2032-2034	26,211	1,169
	$108,451	$ 31,604

2) The Central Illinois District-LCMS signed a promissory note dated March 9, 2018 for the purchase of a house on 130 Pinehurst Drive, Springfield Illinois, for Pastor Schurb. The Pastor put a down payment of $60,000 towards the property at purchase. The Central Illinois District-LCMS makes the monthly payments and is reimbursed each month. The loan is for 25 years and is due March 9, 2043 and the interest rate is 4.5%. Scheduled monthly payments are $581.12. The balance at December 31, 2021 is $76,915.

   The following is the repayment schedule of principal and interest:

	Principal	Interest
2022	$ 3,586	$ 3,388
2023	3,750	3,223
2024	3,923	3,051
2025	4,103	2,871
2026	4,291	2,682
2027-2031	24,601	10,267
2032-2036	30,796	4,072
2037-2041	1,865	15
	$ 76,915	$ 29,569

NOTE 6 – LOANS PAYABLE, Continued

3) In March 2019, the Central Illinois District-LCMS obtained a loan for $85,000 for the purchase of property in Carbon Cliff, Illinois for Pastor Dominguez. The Central Illinois District-LCMS makes the monthly payments and the Pastor reimburses on a monthly basis. The loan was for $85,000 and the interest rate is 4.50%. The monthly scheduled payment is $395.08 commencing March, 2019 for twenty-five years and payable February 2044. The balance at December 31, 2021 is $60,280.

   The following is the repayment schedule of principal and interest:

	Principal	Interest
2022	$ 2,071	$ 2,670
2023	2,166	2,575
2024	2,265	2,476
2025	2,369	2,372
2026	2,478	2,263
2027-2031	14,207	9,497
2032-2036	17,785	5,920
2037-2041	16,939	1,562
	$ 60,280	$ 29,335

4) In August 2017, the Central Illinois District-LCMS obtained a loan for $50,000 for the parking lot repavement at the District office. The mortgage is with the CID-CEF (CEF) and the interest rate is 4.45% per annum. The note is due August 30, 2022. Principal and interest payments of $10,111.52 are payable in five equal annual installments.

   This loan was paid off during the year.

NOTE 7 – CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND, INC.

In 2003, the Central Illinois District Endowment Fund, Inc. (Endowment Fund) was created to manage invested funds. Endowment Fund is governed by a board of trustees independent of Central Illinois District. Inasmuch as disbursements from Endowment Fund can be for purposes and programs administered by Central Illinois District, Central Illinois District is represented at Endowment Fund meetings in a non-voting capacity. Should Endowment Fund dissolve, the assets of the Fund would be distributed to Central Illinois District, if extant, or else to Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

NOTE 8 – NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets without donor restrictions are considered undesignated as to use unless a restriction has been placed by the donor. For reporting purposes, management has identified certain net assets to be used for specific purposes. These net assets are termed "board designated" for the specific purpose. At December 31, 2021, $1,070,679 of net assets without donor restrictions were designated as Net Investment In Plant and represents the book value of fixed assets held by the organization reduced by the outstanding liabilities against those assets.

In 2013, funds received of $53,826 were designated by the board for special projects. Board designated net assets for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 were $24,980and $24,980, respectively.

NOTE 9 – NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets with donor restrictions were solicited for or designated for a specific use by the donor and are listed in the following table:

	Balance December 31, 2021	Balance December 31, 2020
Cemetery Fund	$ 8,198	$ 8,198
Kleinschmidt Bequest	7,843	18,298
University – Champaign	2,799	19,978
Student Aid	14,885	6,213
LWML – Latvia VBS Translation	5,000	5,000
Disaster Relief Equipment and Operations	11,927	10,724
CEF Grants	540	2,311
LLF Endowment – University Support	5,783	-
LWML – Student Interns	15,407	15,789
LWML – Connect to Disciple	1,236	1,236
New CID Pastors & Teachers	11,500	15,000
Total net assets with donor restrictions	$ 85,118	$102,747

Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes or by occurrence of other events specified by donors. For the year ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, net assets released were as follows:

	2021	2020
CEF Grant – Dave Ramsey	$ 20,000	$ -
CEF Grants	10,371	3,689
Kleinschmidt Bequest	10,455	-
University – Champaign	17,179	-
Student Aid	113,432	120,142
Disaster Relief Equipment and Operations	1,347	1,347
Soldiers of the Cross	-	28,500
LWML – Student Interns	382	1,211
New CID Pastors & Teachers	3,500	-
Total	$176,666	$154,889

NOTE 10 – CAMP CILCA

Camp CILCA is a 501(c)(3) organization. The Central Illinois District-LCMS appoints one half of the members of the board of directors. Camp CILCA owns certain real estate and other assets which are encumbered by debt and would revert to the Central Illinois District-LCMS should the corporation cease to exist. There is no plan to dissolve the corporation.

NOTE 11 – RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Central Illinois District-LCMS rents space to the Church Extension Fund on a month to month basis. Currently, rent is $1,100 per month and covers the use of space and utilities by the Church Extension Fund in the district building. Rent income for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 was $13,200.

The following represents payments made to the District from the Church Extension Fund for the years ended December 2021, and 2020:

	2021	2020
Ministry Outreach Grants	$ 860	$ 5,000
Board Grants	13,879	20,934
Bequest Grants	14,721	12,850
Rent and utilities	13,200	13,200
Water damage payment	-	10,632

The District had three outstanding loans with the Church Extension Fund on December 31, 2021 and four outstanding loans with the Church Extension Fund on December 31, 2020 with total balances due of $245,646 and $277,640, respectively. The Church Extension Fund board approved principal payment forgiveness for $10,000 on one loan for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020.

NOTE 12 – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Central Illinois District-LCMS participates with other organizations affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Concordia Plan Services (the Plan). The Plan provides for benefits in a noncontributory defined-benefit pension plan covering substantially all full-time employees. The costs for the employer pension contributions for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 were $55,785 and $55,003, respectively.

Accumulated plan benefits information, as provided by consulting actuaries, has not been distinguished from the benefits of the other organizations participating in the multiemployer Plan and, accordingly, such information is not presented herein. The most recent available financial information for the Plan is as of December 31, 2020. The December 31, 2020 audited financial statements of the Concordia Retirement Plan reflected approximately $4.062 billion in net assets available for benefits and $4.253 billion of actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits. Therefore, the Plan was approximately 95% funded and is in the "Green Zone" for classification under the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA). The PPA considers Plans that are neither endangered nor critical to be in the "Green Zone" and are not required to take action. Plans considered endangered are "Yellow Zone" and critical are considered "Red Zone". Pension Plans in critical and endangered status are required to adopt a plan aimed at restoring the financial health of the Pension Plan.

The Plan also includes coverage for health insurance as well as disability and survivor benefits. The costs related to that plan for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 were $165,560 and $169,801, respectively.

NOTE 13 – RISKS & UNCERTAINTIES

Beginning around March 2020, The Covid-19 virus has been declared a global pandemic as it continues to spread rapidly. Business continuity, Organization programs, and funding sources could be severely impacted for months or beyond as governments and their citizens take significant and unprecedented measures to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic. Management is carefully monitoring the situation and evaluating its options during this time. No adjustments have been made to these financial statements as a result of this uncertainty.

NOTE 14 – PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM LOAN

On April 15, 2020, the Organization received loan proceeds in the amount of $194,221 under the Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP"). The PPP, established as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"), provides for loans to qualifying businesses for amounts up to 2.5 times of the average monthly payroll expenses of the qualifying business. The loan is forgivable after twenty four weeks as long as the borrower uses the loan proceeds for eligible purposes, including payroll, benefits, rent and utilities, and maintains its payroll levels. The amount of loan forgiveness will be reduced if the borrower terminates employees or reduces salaries during the twenty four week period. The unforgiven portion of the PPP loan is payable over two years at an interest rate of 1%, with a deferral of payments for the first six months. The Organization used the proceeds consistent with the PPP loan guidelines and received forgiveness February 12, 2021.

NOTE 15 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Organization reviewed events for inclusion in the financial statements through September 2, 2022, the date through which subsequent events have been evaluated and the date the financial statements were available to be issued.