

Notice and Explanation of District Leadership Changes

Elected at Convention

District President: Rev. Michael Mohr
1st Vice-President: Rev. Michael Burdick
2nd Vice-President: Rev. Mark Eddy

As of February 17, 2026

District President: Rev. Mark Eddy
1st Vice-President: Rev. Jason Braaten
2nd Vice-President: Rev. Karl Eckhoff

At the 61st Regular Convention of the Central Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod held July 13–15, 2025, the above were elected to serve three-year terms in their respective offices by the district voting delegates. Seven months later, the leadership of the district has changed significantly, and this change requires an explanation to our pastors, church workers, and congregations.

On Wednesday, January 28, 2026, District President Mohr was arrested on criminal charges by federal law enforcement. Prior to being held in custody, Mohr was given the opportunity to speak with First Vice-President Burdick and in keeping with district governance temporarily transferred the duties of district president. On Monday morning when the first special session of the Board of Directors met, Rev. Burdick notified the Board that in light of the anticipated duration and demands of the office, he asked to resign from the position of First Vice-President. This resignation removed him from the Board of Directors and elevated Second Vice-President Eddy to First Vice-President and in turn, Acting District President.

With Rev. Burdick vacating his position, the Central IL District Bylaws (2.15(b)) state, “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...” Rev. Burdick represented the Eastern Region, so the second-place nominee at the convention for the Eastern Region was Rev. Jason Braaten of Immanuel – Tuscola. He was then appointed as Vice-President for that region by the Acting District President.

When Mohr resigned from his position and as a member of the LCMS roster, Acting District President Eddy succeeded Mohr as District President and vacated the office of First Vice-President. This resulted in Rev. Braaten serving as First Vice-President and a second appointment according to Bylaw 2.15(b) (cited above) of the third-place nominee for the Western Region, Rev. Karl Eckhoff of Christ - Peoria. This final succession and appointment were ratified by the Board of Directors on February 17, 2026, at a second special session of the Board.

While this situation required careful interpretation of our governing documents, the Board acted in accordance with district bylaws, in consultation with Synod and legal counsel. We thank all who have reached out to offer support and wisdom as well as to all who have granted patience as the Board worked through these processes. We remain committed to serving Christ and His Church faithfully in this district, and it is by grace alone that we serve our people and the congregations of the Central Illinois District.