

1    **RESOLUTION: 1-01 (President’s Report – Convention Workbook, pp 22-27)**

2    **SUBJECT:**     TO ESTABLISH THE CONVENTION THEME OF “ROOTED IN CHRIST,  
3                            ABOUNDING IN THANKSGIVING”

4    **WHEREAS,**     “Rooted in Christ, Abounding in Thanksgiving” (Colossians 2:6-7) has been chosen  
5                            as the theme of this 62<sup>nd</sup> Convention of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran  
6                            Church – Missouri Synod; AND

7    **WHEREAS,**     For over one hundred and ten years, the men and women of our beloved South  
8                            Dakota District have beheld and experienced the great blessings of our faithful  
9                            God; AND

10   **WHEREAS,**     The devotions, essay, and many reports of the convention will reflect upon these  
11                            blessings extended to the congregations, schools, and ministries of the District;  
12                            AND

13   **WHEREAS,**     Our convention theme will also shape our ministry in the South Dakota District for  
14                            the next three years; THEREFORE BE IT

15   **RESOLVED:**    That “Rooted in Christ Abounding in Thanksgiving” be the overall theme and the  
16                            underlying spirit of this convention.

17

18

Respectfully Submitted,

19

20

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

21

22

23

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reverend Marcus Ring

24

25

\_\_\_\_\_  
DCE Joshua Schmitt

26

27

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

28

29

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Geoff Street

30

1     **RESOLUTION: 1-02**  
2

3     **SUBJECT:**     TO RECOGNIZE INDIVIDUALS AND WELCOME THEM INTO THE SOUTH  
4                     DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LCMS  
5

6     **WHEREAS,**     During the triennium following the 2018 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of The South Dakota  
7                     District, the following individuals became rostered members of The Lutheran  
8                     Church – Missouri Synod – Ministers of Religion – Ordained;  
9

<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Samuel Handschke	Colin Ford	Jonah Domenichelli	Jacob Smith
Michael Keller	Kevin Koester	Kurt Laskowsky	
Andrew Wolfgram	Bryan Meadows		
	Doug Slavens		

10    AND

11  
12    **WHEREAS,**     During the same triennium, the following individuals became rostered members of  
13                     The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod Ministers of Religion – Commissioned:  
14

<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Scot Dobbs		Jacquelyn Berg	Amanda Korthase
Rebecca Wiemer			

15  
16    AND

17  
18    **WHEREAS,**     The membership of the above individuals is held in The South Dakota District of  
19                     The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod; THEREFORE BE IT  
20

21    **RESOLVED:**     That this 62<sup>nd</sup> Convention of The South Dakota District recognize and welcome the  
22                     above individuals as partners in the Gospel; AND BE IT FINALLY  
23

24    **RESOLVED:**     That we pray God's richest blessings upon these workers that the Holy Spirit would  
25                     use them to extend God's kingdom here on earth.  
26

27                                     Respectfully Submitted,  
28

29  
30                                     \_\_\_\_\_  
31                                     Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman  
32

33                                     \_\_\_\_\_  
34                                     Reverend Marcus Ring  
35

36                                     \_\_\_\_\_  
37                                     DCE Joshua Schmitt  
38

39                                     \_\_\_\_\_  
40                                     Mrs. Bonnie Wagner  
41

42                                     \_\_\_\_\_  
43                                     Mr. Geoff Street

1     **RESOLUTION: 1-03**

2

3     **SUBJECT:**     TO APPROVE VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE SOUTH  
4                     DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
5                     REGARDING THE NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE DISTRICT  
6                     PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS.

7

8     **Background:** The 2018 Convention of the District adopted a resolution concerning a new  
9                     process for nominating the two Vice-Presidents of the District. The Synod's  
10                    Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) subsequently approved the process  
11                    (CCM Opinion 19-2901), found in section 5.05.d. of the District's Bylaws.  
12                    However, the 2018 District Convention failed to approve a new election process  
13                    for the Vice-Presidents, necessitated by the change in the nominating process.  
14                    The District Board of Directors approved an election process in their December  
15                    2019 meeting, and subsequently presented the proposed election process to the  
16                    CCM for their prior approval. In the CCM's review of the proposed election  
17                    process, which they ultimately did approve (CCM Opinion 20-2953), they found  
18                    other needed revisions to Bylaw 5.05, which are included here for approval by the  
19                    Convention.

20

21     **WHEREAS,**     The 2018 Convention of the District approved a new process for nominating Vice-  
22                     Presidents, but did not approve a new election process; AND

23

24     **WHEREAS,**     The Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) of the Synod approved the new  
25                     process of nominating, and later, pre-approved the new process for electing the  
26                     Vice-Presidents and several other changes to section 5.05 of the District's Bylaws;  
27                     AND

28

29     **WHEREAS,**     These suggested amendments concerning the nomination and election processes  
30                     for District President and Vice-Presidents, having been granted prior approval by  
31                     the CCM, may now be considered by the District in Convention, and, if adopted,  
32                     are in effect for the current Convention (cf. CCM Opinion 19-2901: "These then  
33                     could be adopted by the convention prior to the election of the vice-presidents of  
34                     the district."). THEREFORE LET IT BE

35

36     **RESOLVED:**    That section 5.05 of the Bylaws of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran  
37                     Church—Missouri Synod be amended and adopted as follows:

38

39     [PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING]

40

41     [BRACKETS ARE USED FOR EXPLANATIONS ONLY; THIS MATERIAL IS NOT PART OF THE  
42                     AMENDMENTS.]

43

44     5.05             Nominations and Election of President and Vice-Presidents

45                     a. Nominations for the Office of President of the District shall be made in the following  
46                     manner:

47                     1. Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate one ordained minister  
48                     from the clergy roster of the Synod as a candidate for President.

49                     2. The Secretary of the District shall mail to each voting congregation of the  
50                     District ballots for nominating these candidates.



90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120  
121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126  
127  
128  
129  
130  
131  
132  
133  
134  
135  
136  
137  
138

d. Nominations for Vice-Presidents

1. Each congregation shall be entitled to nominate one ordained minister from the clergy of the District as a candidate for Vice-Presidents.
2. The Secretary of the District shall mail to each voting congregation of the District ballots for nominating these candidates.
3. Each nominating ballot shall be signed by the President and the Secretary of the voting congregation and shall be sent to the Secretary of the District not later than two months prior to the opening date of the Convention.
4. The Secretary of the District together with the chairman of the committee on Nominations shall tabulate the nominations and report to the convention by means of the convention's manual the names of the ordained ministers who have received least five nominating votes for the office of Vice-President.

e. Candidates for the Office of Vice-president

1. Candidates for the Office of Vice-President shall be in each instance the four ordained ministers receiving the highest number of votes in nominating ballots of the congregations.
2. The secretary of the District shall notify each candidate and shall secure his approval in writing within 10 days, for inclusion of his name on the convention ballot and indicate willingness to serve if elected.
3. In the event of a tie for the fourth position among the candidate, all names involved in the tie shall be listed as candidates.
4. The Secretary of the District shall publish in the convention manual brief biographies of the four candidates for Vice-Presidents giving adequate information on each candidate.
5. The Secretary of the District shall publish in the Convention Manual brief biographies of the four candidates for Vice-President giving adequate information on each candidate. This report shall contain such pertinent information as age, residence, number of years in the District, present position, District or Synodical offices previously held, year of ordination, former pastorates, involvement in community, government, or inter-church affairs, and any other specific experience and qualification for the office.
6. The Convention shall have the right to alter each slate at the proper time by amendment. Any delegate making a nomination from the floor shall have secured prior written consent of the candidate whom he wishes to nominate. Such delegate shall immediately submit to the Secretary of

139 the District this document and written pertinent information concerning his  
140 nominee as detailed in 5.05 e.5.

141 f. Election of Vice-Presidents

- 142
- 143 1. Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one candidate for  
144 First Vice-President.
  - 145
  - 146 2. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be  
147 declared elected.
  - 148
  - 149 3. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate  
150 with the lowest votes is removed for the next ballot. This will  
151 continue until a candidate receives a majority.
  - 152
  - 153 4. The Ballot for Second Vice-President will be comprised of the Vice-  
154 President candidates who were not elected to First Vice-President.
  - 155
  - 156 5. Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one candidate for  
157 Second Vice-President.
  - 158
  - 159 6. The candidate receiving a majority of votes cast shall be declared  
160 elected.
  - 161
  - 162 7. If no candidate receives a majority of votes cast, the candidate with  
163 the lowest votes is removed for the next ballot. This will continue  
164 until a candidate receives a majority.
  - 165

166 [HERE FOLLOWS THE FORMER PROCESS OF ELECTING VICE-PRESIDENTS, BUT WHICH  
167 PROCESS IS NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE NEW (PROPOSED) PROCESS OF NOMINATING THE  
168 VICE-PRESIDENTS IN 5.05.d. IT THEREFORE NEEDS TO BE REMOVED.]

169 ~~d. — Election of Vice-Presidents~~

- 170 ~~4. After the election of the President, the Judge of Elections shall call for~~  
171 ~~nominations for District Vice-Presidents. He shall distribute blank ballots on~~  
172 ~~which each voting ordained minister and each voting lay delegate shall write the~~  
173 ~~name of an ordained minister who is a member of a voting congregation in the~~  
174 ~~District. After the result of the nominating ballot has been announced, the~~  
175 ~~Convention decides the number of candidates to be placed on the election~~  
176 ~~ballot. A minimum of two candidates must be on the election ballots for Vice-~~  
177 ~~Presidents. Ballots shall then be distributed and the election of the Vice-~~  
178 ~~Presidents shall proceed without delay.~~

179  
180  
181  
182  
183  
184  
185  
186

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

---

Reverend Marcus Ring

To the 62<sup>nd</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod  
December 5-7, 2021

187  
188  
189  
190  
191  
192  
193  
194  
195  
196

---

DCE Joshua Schmitt

---

Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

---

Mr. Geoff Street

1     **RESOLUTION: 1-04**

2  
3     **SUBJECT:**     TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE IV (“MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING  
4                     PRIVILEGE”) OF THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE SOUTH  
5                     DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
6

7     **Background:** The 2019 Convention of the Synod adopted a number of amendments to the  
8                     Constitution of the Synod concerning the definition of membership in the Synod  
9                     and concerning the representation of congregations and parishes at meetings of  
10                    the Synod and the Districts by voting and advisory delegates.  
11

12    **WHEREAS,**     Article V of the Constitution of the Synod defines membership in the Synod as held  
13                     by “congregations and individuals, ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of  
14                     religion—commissioned, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church who confess and  
15                     accept the confessional basis of Article II;” AND  
16

17    **WHEREAS,**     Articles IX and XII.10 of the Constitution of the Synod define representation at  
18                     meetings of the Synod and the Districts; AND  
19

20    **WHEREAS,**     References to pastors being voting members must reflect their being individual  
21                     members that vote only on account of their being the pastoral delegates of member  
22                     congregations; AND  
23

24    **WHEREAS,**     Article XII.10.B. of the Constitution of the Synod now allows congregations of multi-  
25                     congregation parishes other than the one to which the voting lay delegate belongs  
26                     to send an advisory lay delegate to the district convention; AND  
27

28    **WHEREAS,**     The following proposed amendments have received prior approval by the  
29                     Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) of the Synod (Opinion 20-2953A);  
30                     THEREFORE BE IT  
31

32    **RESOLVED:**    That Article IV (“Membership and Voting Privilege”) of the Articles of Incorporation  
33                     of The     South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be  
34                     amended and adopted as follows

35    [PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING]  
36  
37

38                     **ARTICLE IV   MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING PRIVILEGE**

39                     A. Membership: The membership of this corporation is comprised of the  
40                     congregations and the ordained and commissioned ministers of religion of The  
41                     Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who have affiliated with this District.  
42

43                     B. Voting Members: At the meetings of the District, every congregation or parish  
44                     is entitled to two votes: one cast by one of its called and installed pastors ~~the~~  
45                     ~~pastor~~ and the other by the voting lay delegate. These delegates shall be  
46                     accredited, in accord with the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran  
47                     Church—Missouri Synod and the District.  
48

49                     C. Advisory Delegates: All nonvoting ordained and commissioned ministers who  
50                     are individual members of the Synod within the District shall serve as advisory  
51                     delegates. Each congregation in a multi-congregation parish that does not

To the 62<sup>nd</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
December 5-7, 2021

52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74

supply the voting lay delegate may be represented by an advisory lay delegate.  
Advisory delegates are entitled to voice and vote on a floor committee, if  
appointed, and to voice in the District Convention. Individual members of the  
Synod who qualify to be advisory delegates are expected to attend the District  
Conventions, unless excused in accordance with the Bylaws.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

---

Reverend Marcus Ring

---

DCE Joshua Schmitt

---

Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

---

Mr. Geoff Street

1     **RESOLUTION: 1-05**

2  
3     **SUBJECT:**     TO APPROVE VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS OF THE SOUTH  
4                     DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD,  
5                     ESPECIALLY THOSE CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT AND  
6                     AMENDING THE BYLAWS

7  
8     **RATIONALE:**   The Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) of the Synod reviewed the  
9                     Bylaws of the District three times in the last triennium and found various items to  
10                    clarify or improve, including, but not limited to:

- 11  
12                    1) Adding a greater emphasis on the ecclesiastical supervision work of the  
13                    District President over against his administrative work (CCM Opinion 20-  
14                    2953); and  
15  
16                    2) District Bylaw VI (“Amendments”) must be updated to reflect a change in  
17                    LCMS Bylaw 7.1.2., due to 2019 Synod Convention action. This change  
18                    regards                    times                    when                    the  
19                    Synod in Convention makes changes in such a way that the Bylaws of the  
20                    District must be adjusted, generally in an obvious way, into compliance. An  
21                    example would be the fairly recent change of circuit *counselor* to circuit *visitor*.  
22                    For such changes to the District’s Bylaws, the District’s Board of Directors  
23                    would be able to submit such “expressly directed” amendments to the District  
24                    Bylaws for approval by the CCM, and subsequently adopt them, without  
25                    waiting for the District Convention or involving the Convention in routine and  
26                    obligatory amendments to the District Bylaws.

27  
28                    Finally, since women are allowed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Synod,  
29                    changes in terminology are recommended in several locations in the District Bylaws  
30                    to reflect gender neutrality regarding those who hold lay offices on the District’s  
31                    Board of Directors.

32  
33     **WHEREAS,**     It is the desire and the obligation of The South Dakota District to honor LCMS  
34                     convention resolutions and the resulting changes to the *Handbook of the Synod*,  
35                     including those that pertain to the governing documents of LCMS entities (LCMS  
36                     Bylaw 1.3.6, 2<sup>nd</sup> Restated Articles of Incorporation of The South Dakota District,  
37                     Article III.C); AND

38  
39     **WHEREAS,**     These suggested amendments have been adopted by the District Board of  
40                     Directors in their meeting of June 14, 2021, after having received prior approval by  
41                     the Synod’s Commission on Constitutional Matters (Opinion 20-2953A) in their  
42                     meeting of May 25, 2021 (LCMS Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3; 4.5.1.c); THEREFORE BE IT

43  
44     **RESOLVED:**   That the Bylaws of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
45                     Synod be   amended and adopted as follows

46     [PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING]

47  
48     [BRACKETS ARE USED FOR EXPLANATIONS ONLY; THIS MATERIAL IS NOT PART OF THE  
49     AMENDMENTS.]

50  
51

**I. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

52                    1.01 Membership

- 53 Members of the Board of Directors shall each be a member of a voting congregation  
54 of the District and shall be the following:
- 55 a. The President who shall be an ordained minister of the Synod.
- 56 b. Two Vice-Presidents who shall be ordained ministers of the ~~Synod~~ District.
- 57 c. The Secretary who shall be an ordained minister of the ~~Synod~~ District.
- 58 d. The Treasurer who shall be a ~~layman~~ layperson.
- 59 e. Two additional ~~laymen~~ laypeople from the District at Large.
- 60 1.03 Parish Limitations
- 61 a. No more than one member of a parish (parish defined as one or more  
62 congregations who are served jointly by a called pastor) shall serve as a member  
63 of the Board of Directors.
- 64 1.05 Succession to Office
- 65 a. All elected members of the Board of Directors, except the President, the First  
66 Vice-President, and the Treasurer, may succeed themselves to the same office  
67 only once after having served one full term.
- 68 b. The President, First Vice-President, and Treasurer are not limited as to tenure of  
69 office.
- 70 1.07 Vacancies
- 71 a. A vacancy on the Board of Directors occurs as soon as a member ceases to be  
72 a member of a voting congregation of the District; ~~or he no longer resides within~~  
73 ~~the geographic boundaries of the District.~~
- 74 b. Vacancies may be filled until the next regular election by the affirmative vote of a  
75 majority of the remaining Directors. A Director so appointed by the Board to fill  
76 the vacancy shall be appointed to the unexpired term of their predecessor in  
77 office.
- 78 1.11 Organization
- 79 a. The Board of Directors shall elect or appoint its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman  
80 and such other officers and committees of the Board as may be necessary.
- 81 1.15 General Duties
- 82 a. The property and affairs of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church –  
83 Missouri Synod, shall be managed by the Board of Directors which may exercise  
84 all the powers granted in its efforts to realize the objectives of this organization,  
85 subject to the Bylaws of said corporation, and the decision of its members at  
86 Convention or other meetings assembled.



- 124 a. The Office of President shall be a full-time position.
- 125 2.05 Duties (In keeping with the spirit of Articles XI and XII of the Constitution of the Synod,  
126 the following be regarded as the definition of the Office of District President:)
- 127 a. Administration The District President is the chief executive officer of the District.  
128 He shall be responsible for:
- 129 (1) Supervision and coordination, together with the Board of Directors, of the  
130 work of all committees and personnel of the District.
- 131 (2) Making and concurrence of all indebtedness of the District, in conjunction  
132 with the Treasurer.
- 133 (3) All conveyances of real estate, and the execution of all encumbrance, if any,  
134 of property owned by said corporation, and shall likewise release any and all  
135 mortgages and liens now existing or hereafter created in favor of said  
136 corporation, in conjunction with the Secretary.
- 137 b. ~~Counseling The District President should serve as counselor to the brethren in the~~  
138 ~~ministry to assist them in developing their professional, intellectual and spiritual life.~~
- 139 b. Ecclesiastical Supervision The District President shall, as further defined in the  
140 Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, provide evangelical supervision, counsel,  
141 and care for the members of the Synod in the District, especially by acquainting  
142 himself with the religious conditions of and arranging for official visits to the  
143 congregations of the District, and by supervising the doctrine, life and  
144 administration of office of the ordained and commissioned ministers of the District.
- 145 c. Creative Planning The District President shall keep abreast of developments  
146 affecting the church and recommend suitable action to meet the challenges of our  
147 day.
- 148 d. Representation ~~The District President should regard himself as the representative~~  
149 ~~spokesman of the constituency of The South Dakota District wherever and~~  
150 ~~whenever the opportunity presents itself, in order that the true image of church life~~  
151 ~~in the District may be given. shall represent the Synod in the District, as further~~  
152 ~~defined in Synod Bylaw 4.4.~~
- 153 e. He shall not serve a congregation as its Vacancy Pastor.

154

155 [A LARGE SECTION OF THE BYLAWS ARE HERE OMITTED, AS NO AMENDMENTS ARE CALLED  
156 FOR IN THIS PART OF THE BYLAWS.]

157

158 5.11 Committee on Nominations

- 159 a. The Committee on Nominations for each Convention in which an election is held  
160 shall be elected at the preceding Convention. The District President shall

161 recommend to the Convention a list of candidates for the Committee on  
162 Nominations consisting of four ordained ministers and five ~~laymen~~ laypeople.  
163 Additional candidates may be placed in nomination by the Convention. Of these  
164 candidates, the Convention shall elect by ballot two ordained ministers and three  
165 ~~laymen~~ laypeople.

166 b. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Nominations to recommend at least two  
167 candidates for each of the elective District offices, except as otherwise provided in  
168 these Bylaws. Qualifications of candidates as to age, occupation or profession,  
169 experience, and place of residence, shall be gathered by the Committee on  
170 Nominations and presented to the Convention. The Committee on Nominations  
171 shall obtain the consent of persons nominated for the various offices.

172 c. Vacancies on the Committee on Nominations shall be filled by alternates (in the  
173 respective classifications of pastors or ~~laymen~~ laypeople) in the order of the number  
174 of votes received by the nominees in the election of the Committee; or if none, by  
175 the Board of Directors.

176

#### 177 5.21 Committee on Elections

178 a. The District President shall appoint a Judge of Elections in the first business  
179 session of the Convention in which an election is to be held. It shall be the duty of  
180 the Judge of Elections to prepare ballots, conduct the balloting, count the votes  
181 cast, and report without delay the results of the voting to the Convention. The  
182 Judge of Elections shall have the right of the floor of the assembly whenever duties  
183 may demand, and shall have the privilege to appoint assistants.

184 b. All ballots, valid or void, shall be preserved by the Judge of Elections separately,  
185 according to the order of balloting, until the Convention is adjourned.

### 186 VI. AMENDMENTS

#### 187 6.01 How Made

188 a. Changes in, and additions to, these Bylaws may be made, provided they have  
189 received prior approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod,  
190 and provided they are –

191 (1) Not contrary to the Articles of Incorporation of the District, the Constitution and  
192 Bylaws of the Synod, or the Laws of the State of South Dakota;

193 (2) Presented in writing as an overture to the District Convention;

194 (3) Specified as Bylaw amendments and considered by a Convention Floor  
195 committee; and

196 (4) Adopted by a majority vote of the Convention.

197 b. Amendments arising in the course of a convention, or during the course of a  
198 convention being made to previously approved proposals, may be adopted by a

199 majority vote of the convention, provided the resolution is contingent on approval  
200 by the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended ~~bylaws~~ Bylaws  
201 become effective immediately upon, and only upon, approval of the Commission  
202 on Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not  
203 approve the adopted changes, the District Board of Directors may modify the  
204 amendments to comply with the Commission on Constitutional Matters'  
205 requirement, upon their two-thirds vote.

206 c. Changes in, and additions to, these Bylaws may also be adopted by a two-thirds  
207 majority of the District Board of Directors, when necessitated by amendments to  
208 the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise expressly directed by a resolution of  
209 the Synod in Convention. Such amendments shall have been ~~be~~ drafted by the  
210 Secretary of the District and approved in advance by Synod's Commission on  
211 Constitutional Matters.

212

213

Respectfully Submitted,

214

215

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

216

217

218

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reverend Marcus Ring

219

220

221

\_\_\_\_\_  
DCE Joshua Schmitt

222

223

224

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

225

226

227

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Geoff Street

228

229

1     **RESOLUTION: 1-06 Amended**

2

3     **SUBJECT:**     TO REALIGN THE CIRCUITS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

4     **WHEREAS,**     LCMS Bylaw 3.1.2(a) states: “An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two  
5     adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors  
6     on the basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent  
7     from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an aggregate confirmed  
8     membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000;” AND

9     **WHEREAS,**     LCMS Bylaw 5.1.1 states: “A visitation circuit is a network of congregations that  
10     ‘walks together’ for mutual care, support, advice, study, ecclesiastical  
11     encouragement, service, coordination, resources, and counsel—all for the sake of  
12     greater congregational participation in God’s mission;” AND

13    **WHEREAS,**     LCMS Bylaw 5.1.2 states: “Districts shall establish visitation circuits according to  
14    geographical criteria;” AND

15    **WHEREAS,**     The 2018 Convention of the South Dakota District resolved (Resolution 1-15) “that  
16    the District Board of Directors appoint a committee after the 2019 Synodical  
17    Convention to:

- 18                     • Consider demographic realities, travel, and ministry relationships  
19                     between congregations and within existing circuits; and
- 20                     • Bring a plan for circuit alignment for the South Dakota District to the  
21                     2021 Convention of the District that recommends visitation circuits  
22                     which fulfill the requirements to exist as electoral circuits;” AND

23    **WHEREAS,**     congregations review and adjust membership that result in reduced membership  
24    totals contributing to the reality of declining membership, especially in rural areas;  
25    AND

26    **WHEREAS,**     The unique population and geographical demographics of the state of South  
27    Dakota necessitates some large geographical areas to meet the above criteria;  
28    AND

29    **WHEREAS,**     Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Phillip is in a tri-point parish with St. Peter  
30    Lutheran Church of Midland and St. John Lutheran Church of Norris; AND

31    **WHEREAS,**     Zion Lutheran Church of Hamill and Christ Lutheran Church of Winner are in a tri-  
32    point parish with Trinity Lutheran Church of Reliance; AND

33    **WHEREAS,**     Zion Lutheran Church of Hamill, Christ Lutheran Church of Winner, Trinity  
34    Lutheran Church of Reliance, St. John Lutheran Church of Gregory, and Zion  
35    Lutheran Church of Chamberlain have an established common ministry  
36    relationship via The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) with Zion  
37    Lutheran Church of Presho, St. Paul Lutheran Church of Draper, Messiah Lutheran  
38    Church of Murdo, St. Peter Lutheran Church of Midland and St. John Lutheran  
39    Church of Norris; AND

40    **WHEREAS,**     The combined confirmed membership of the congregations in the Freeman Circuit:  
41    Circuit #6 exceeds the minimum requirement for an electoral circuit by a little more  
42    than 100 confirmed members; AND

43    **WHEREAS,**     Zion Lutheran Church of Hurley and 1<sup>st</sup> English Lutheran Church of Centerville  
44    share similar geographic and ministry demographics with the congregations of the  
45    Freeman Circuit: Circuit #6; THEREFORE BE IT

46    **RESOLVED:**    That The South Dakota District in Convention assign the following congregations  
47    as follows:

48  
49  
50  
51  
  
52  
53  
54  
55  
  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69

- Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Philip, Zion Lutheran Church of Hamill, Christ Lutheran Church of Winner, St. John Lutheran Church of Gregory, and Zion Lutheran Church of Chamberlain to the Pierre Circuit: Circuit #3
- Risen Savior Lutheran Church of Tea, Zion Lutheran Church of Hurley and 1<sup>st</sup> English Lutheran Church of Centerville to the Freeman Circuit: Circuit #6

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

---

Reverend Marcus Ring

---

DCE Joshua Schmitt

---

Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

---

Mr. Geoff Street

- 1     **RESOLUTION: 1-07 Amended**  
2
- 3     **SUBJECT:**     TO ALLOW GRANTS FROM THE DISTRICT ASSISTANCE FUND TO CHURCH  
4                     WORKERS TO PAY DOWN STUDENT LOANS  
5
- 6     **WHEREAS,**     For many years prior to 1970 the South Dakota District operated a “self-supporting  
7                     rotating fund” for pastors to be able to buy a car; AND  
8
- 9     **WHEREAS,**     At the 1970 South Dakota District Convention this fund was changed to allow not  
10                    only car loans but other types of loans because “the need for financial assistance  
11                    has arisen in the past for newly ordained pastors just out of the seminaries, as well  
12                    as pastors present within the district, in areas other than funds to purchase a car;  
13                    and the Board of Directors feels that in many of these cases it has a moral  
14                    obligation to assist these pastors in need of funds”<sup>1</sup>; AND  
15
- 16    **WHEREAS,**     The 1970 Convention gave the responsibility for the operation of the fund to the  
17                    Board of Directors which has expanded those eligible for the funds to include  
18                    “pastors, teachers, and executive staff of the District”<sup>2</sup>; AND  
19
- 20    **WHEREAS,**     Over time the needs of pastors and church workers have changed. The 1970  
21                    resolution spoke of the challenge for pastors “in need of financial assistance....  
22                    can seldom afford the expense of a commercial high interest loan.” For the last few  
23                    years and up to the present moment it has not been the greatest challenge for  
24                    church workers to get loans. Over the last 20 years there has been little use of the  
25                    Assistance Fund with no more than a handful of loans at any one time; AND  
26
- 27    **WHEREAS,**     The greatest need for new graduates of any of our church work programs is now  
28                    student loan debt reduction; AND  
29
- 30    **WHEREAS,**     In 2000 the South Dakota District started a program to help with the challenge of  
31                    debt (Church Worker Educational Debt Assistance—CWEDA). Since its inception  
32                    the fund has helped about 20 families a year to reduce their educational debt; AND  
33
- 34    **WHEREAS,**     The District Assistance Fund has grown over the years through interest and loan  
35                    repayments to approximately \$200,000 of which less than 10% has been loaned  
36                    out recently; AND  
37
- 38    **WHEREAS,**     One of the resolutions from 1970 stated that “Additions to or deletions from this  
39                    fund other than from interest gains or gifts to the Fund can be made only by action  
40                    of the District Convention;” THEREFORE BE IT  
41
- 42    **RESOLVED:**     That the Board of Directors be granted permission by the 2021 South Dakota  
43                    District Convention to annually transfer a portion of the balance of the Assistance  
44                    fund to be used to supplement the Church Worker Educational Debt Assistance  
45                    grants; AND BE IT FINALLY  
46
- 47    **RESOLVED:**     That the Board of Directors continue to be “responsible for the development of  
48                    policies relating to the operation of the South Dakota District Assistance Fund, as  
49                    well as the procedures necessary to qualify for the grant of the loan”<sup>3</sup>, and that

---

<sup>1</sup> Memorial 5-02, page A-25, 1970 South Dakota District Convention

<sup>2</sup> Board of Directors of the South Dakota District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Guidelines (2020 revision), p. 17.

<sup>3</sup> 1970 Convention Resolution 5-02.

To the 62<sup>nd</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
December 5-7, 2021

50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69

they also are to set up policies determining how much of the Assistance Fund can be used for grants to church workers to pay down the ~~principal~~ *balance* on their student loans.

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reverend Marcus Ring

\_\_\_\_\_  
DCE Joshua Schmitt

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Geoff Street



To The 62<sup>nd</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
December 5-7, 2021

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

**RESOLUTION: 1-09 (Convention Workbook, pp. 22-27; 71-91)**

**SUBJECT:** TO ACCEPT THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT, TREASURER'S REPORT, AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

**WHEREAS,** The aforementioned reports and minutes have been submitted to the Convention; THEREFORE BE IT

**RESOLVED:** That we accept the Reports and Minutes of the above entities; AND BE IT FINALLY

**RESOLVED:** That we give thanks and praise to God for the dedicated service of these entities of our beloved South Dakota District.

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reverend Marcus Ring

\_\_\_\_\_  
DCE Joshua Schmitt

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Geoff Street

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54

**RESOLUTION: 1-10 Amended**

**SUBJECT:** TO ELIMINATE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN ELECTORAL AND VISITATION CIRCUITS AND THE COMMUNICANT MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT OF SAME

**WHEREAS,** LCMS Bylaw 3.1.2 (a) states: “An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors on the basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an aggregate confirmed membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000;” AND

**WHEREAS,** Bylaw 3.1.2(a) is the only place in the LCMS Constitution or Bylaws where communicant membership is taken into account; AND

**WHEREAS,** The Church is not to be measured by “communicant membership” for wherever the Gospel is preached in its truth and purity and the Sacraments administered according to Christ’s command, there is Christ present and there is the Church, even if there are only two or three gathered together in His name (AC VIII; *Christian Dogmatics*, Vol III, p 409; Mat 18:20); AND

**WHEREAS,** All congregations, regardless of numbers of communicant members, share equally in the authority and power of the Church, that is, the Office of the Keys, and are the possessors of the priesthood and all church power, even if there are only two or three believers in them (*Kirche und Amt*, Part One, Theses IV, VI, VII, Part Two, Thesis VII)

“As visible congregations that still have the Word and the sacraments essentially according to God’s Word bear the name “church” because of the true invisible church of sincere believers that is found in them, so also they possess the power [authority] that Christ has given to His whole church, on account of the true invisible church hidden in them, even if there were only two or three [believers]” (*Ibid*, Part 1, VII); AND

**WHEREAS,** All congregations, regardless of number of communicant members, are equally members of Synod and District, equally bound by the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod and District, equally obligated to fulfill the requirements of Synodical membership, equally asked to financially support the work of Synod and District, equally called upon to uphold the confessional position of the LCMS, and equally entitled to the benefits of Synodical membership, nor are there any communicant membership requirements stated for member congregations in Synod (LCMS Constitution, Article V, VI, VII, LCMS Bylaws, 1.3.1, 1.3.4, 1.3.4.1, 1.3.5, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, etc.); AND

**WHEREAS,** All member congregations of Synod, regardless of number of communicant members, are considered voting members of Synod (LCMS Constitution Article V, LCMS Bylaw 1.2.1 (y)); AND

**WHEREAS,** The requirement of at least 1,500 communicant members in an electoral circuit is inconsistent with our doctrine of the Church (see “whereas” #3, above); AND

**WHEREAS,** The requirement of at least 1,500 communicant members in an electoral circuit is becoming an increasing burden in many of our districts where, due to population and membership trends, electoral circuits of ever-increasing and burdensome

55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96

geographic size are required, as is acknowledged in Bylaw 3.1.2.1; AND

**WHEREAS,** The increasing geographic distances required to form electoral circuits of at least 1,500 communicant members is becoming an obstacle to efficient communication within such circuit, especially with the expectation that electors visit the congregations of the electoral circuit both to determine the sentiments of the congregations (Bylaw 3.1.2.2(a)) and to report individually to each congregation represented at convention (Bylaw 3.1.2.2(d)), which could require significant time and travel; AND

**WHEREAS,** Close personal and congregational relationships are formed within circuits that greatly promote the stated goals of Bylaw 5.1.1 and these relationships are disrupted whenever there are changes to the formation of the circuit; THEREFORE BE IT

**RESOLVED:** That the distinction between electoral and visitation circuits be eliminated and the Bylaws be amended to reflect this change by eliminating the words “electoral” and “visitation” in reference to the circuit; AND BE IT FURTHER

**RESOLVED:** That the communicant membership requirement for circuits be eliminated; AND BE IT FINALLY

**RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District in convention submit this Resolution to the 2023 Convention of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod for action

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reverend Marcus Ring

\_\_\_\_\_  
DCE Joshua Schmitt

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Geoff Street

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46

**RESOLUTION: 1-11**

**SUBJECT:** TO THANK GOD FOR THE SERVICE OF REVEREND DARREN OLSON AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT, ROOTED IN CHRIST FOR 9 YEARS

**WHEREAS,** Reverend Darren Olson began his service as executive secretary to the South Dakota District in June 2012; AND

**WHEREAS,** As executive secretary, Reverend Olson has continuously supervised and supported commissioned ministers, schools, and that he always served abounding in thanksgiving; AND

**WHEREAS,** Reverend Olson has accepted a call to serve as South Dakota District Missionary at Large and Chaplain to Sioux Falls Lutheran School; THEREFORE BE IT

**RESOLVED:** That we thank Reverend Olson for his faithful, dedicated service to the District and the support of the Church's mission over these past years; AND BE IT FINALLY

**RESOLVED:** That following the adoption of this resolution the assembly will show its appreciation to Reverend Darren Olson for his service and thanks to God for His blessings, by rising and singing the Common Doxology.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye, heav'nly hosts:  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen. (LSB #805)

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reverend Marcus Ring

\_\_\_\_\_  
DCE Joshua Schmitt

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Geoff Street