

- 1 **OVERTURE: 1-01**
2
3 **SUBJECT: TO CELEBRATE AND LIVE OUT THE “GOD’S GOSPEL: SALVATION POWER” THEME**
4
5 **WHEREAS,** The theme of this 63RD Convention of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church –
6 Missouri Synod – *God’s Gospel: Salvation Power* (Romans 1:16-17) -- has been chosen to
7 highlight that we, as a District comprised of 105 congregations, have the blessed status as God’s
8 redeemed people only by the power of the Gospel; AND
9
10 **WHEREAS,** The Word of God makes it clear that it is the work of the Holy Spirit to turn unregenerate people
11 from their sin and to bring them to faith through the Gospel (2 Thess. 2:14, Rom. 1:17; Rom.
12 10:17; 1 Pet. 1:23, 25; Eph. 1:13, et al.); AND
13
14 **WHEREAS,** Our Savior spoke of His disciples of every age as people whom He would employ as His
15 “witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8);
16 AND
17
18 **WHEREAS,** God’s Word continues to impress upon His Church that “now is the favorable time; behold, now
19 is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2); AND
20
21 **WHEREAS,** There are countless opportunities in the rural, small town, and city settings of South Dakota to
22 impact our neighbors through words of Gospel witness and deeds of love; AND
23
24 **WHEREAS,** According to the U.S. Religion Census website (www.usreligioncensus.org), that of the 886,667
25 residents of South Dakota (2020 Census), 55.38% (or 491,026 people) are “adherents” of a
26 religion, while 395,641 South Dakotans have no religious affiliation; AND
27
28 **WHEREAS,** The “Objectives” of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as stated in its Constitution (Article
29 III. 1-2) recognizes the priorities of: 1) conserving and promoting the unity of the true faith; and,
30 2) strengthening congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to
31 the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extending that Gospel witness
32 into all the world; THEREFORE BE IT
33
34 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation, ministry, and school of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran
35 Church—Missouri Synod emphasize, on the basis of God’s inspired Word, that being witnesses
36 is not something we must do under the Law of God, but rather being witnesses is a matter of
37 who we are under the Gospel and the Grace of God; AND BE IT FURTHER
38
39 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation, ministry, and school of the District be encouraged to explore various
40 ways that congregations, ministries, schools, and individuals may be more intentional in their
41 lives as witnesses (with the help of such resources as the Synod’s *Every One His Witness*
42 materials, e.g.), AND BE IT FINALLY
43
44 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District, through its Mission and Ministry Council and District staff, and
45 led by the *God’s Gospel: Salvation Power* theme, provide encouragement and resources that
46 will better equip congregations, ministries, schools and individuals in their lives and service as
47 bold, unashamed witnesses.
48

49 Respectfully Submitted,
50

51
52

The Board of Directors of
53 The South Dakota District LCMS

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

1 **OVERTURE: 1-02**

2
3 **SUBJECT: TO RECOGNIZE INDIVIDUALS AND WELCOME THEM INTO THE SOUTH DAKOTA**
4 **DISTRICT OF THE LCMS**

5
6 **WHEREAS,** During the triennium following the 2021 62nd Convention of The South Dakota District, the
7 following individuals became rostered members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
8 – Ministers of Religion – Ordained;

9

<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Ray Anderson	Dennis Mercer	Joseph Greenmyer	Thomas Penrod
Thomas Mueller			

10 AND

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

14

<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Michael Leapley	Sierra Geistfeld	Kristi Prouty	
Leanne Holdorf		Jade Fjelstad	

15 AND

16
17
18 **WHEREAS,** The membership of the above individuals is held in The South Dakota District of The
19 Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod; THEREFORE BE IT

20
21 **RESOLVED:** That this 63rd Convention of The South Dakota District recognize and welcome the above
22 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 use
25 them to extend God’s kingdom here on earth.

26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Steven Weispfennig, Chairman

Reverend David Otten

DCE Elizabeth Peters

Mr. Adam Schulz

Mr. Scot Eisenbraun

1 **OVERTURE: 1-03**

2
3 **SUBJECT: TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT**
4 **OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD CONCERNING THE EXECUTIVE**
5 **OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT**

6
7 **RATIONALE:**

8 In 2022, during a time of vacancy in the Executive Secretary’s position, the District’s Board
9 of Directors divided the former Executive Secretary’s position into the District’s two current
10 Executive Officer positions: one is full-time (the Assistant to the President), and the other
11 is part-time (the Education Executive). The ministry descriptions for these two current
12 positions are included in the Administration section of the Convention Workbook. But, in
13 summary, these officers assist the District President in the District’s work in areas such as
14 subsidized ministries, missions, stewardship, and education. The current Executive Office
15 known as “Assistant to the President” replaces most of the duties of the former position in
16 the District known as “Executive Secretary.” The current Executive Office titled “Education
17 Executive” is new. This office is responsible for providing resources, direction, and
18 encouragement to the faculties and staffs of the LCMS schools in the South Dakota District.
19 Having the knowledge and ability to assist in the calling of commissioned ministers and
20 being well-versed in school legislation and regulations makes the Education Executive
21 position in the District extremely valuable to our schools and their leaders.

22
23 This change in District administration, implemented by the Board of Directors, has led to
24 the necessity of updating certain Bylaws of the District. The amendments being proposed
25 here will allow for greater flexibility in staffing in the District. And they will allow for greater
26 attention to areas calling for greater expertise, such as is being done with the current
27 Education Executive position.

28
29 **WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the Synod, Article XII (Districts of the Synod and Their Regulation),
30 says in section 12, “The districts are independent in the administration of affairs which concern
31 their district only, it being understood, however, that such administration shall always serve the
32 interests of the Synod.”; AND

33
34 **WHEREAS,** The District’s Board of Directors has found it beneficial to serve the interests of the Synod
35 in this place by employing up to two Executive Officers to assist the District President in
36 his work, especially in the areas of subsidized ministries, missions, and education; AND

37
38 **WHEREAS,** Assigning an Executive Officer the added responsibility of ensuring that “Biblical principles
39 of stewardship are promoted throughout the District,” fulfills Synod Bylaw 4.6.1, which says
40 that “each district shall elect or appoint a committee, board, or individual responsible for
41 stewardship.”; THEREFORE BE IT

42
43 **RESOLVED:** That the Bylaws of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be
44 amended and adopted as follows, contingent on approval by the Synod’s Commission on
45 Constitutional Matters:

46 [~~PRESENT/PROPOSED~~ WORDING]

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

50

51 1.25 Responsibility [of the Board of Directors]

- 52 a. The Board of Directors shall be responsible to the District for its official actions and shall
53 render a report of its activities to the District Convention or as often as the District may call
54 upon it to do so.
- 55 b. The Board of Directors shall consult and plan with the ~~Executive Secretary~~ Executive
56 Officers regarding all matters of program development, especially in the areas of District
57 subsidized ministries, missions, stewardship and education, and with the Business
58 Manager regarding financial development.
- 59 c. The setting of the budget shall be done by the Board of Directors taking into consideration
60 the recommendations of the Planning Process of the District.

61

62

III. ~~EXECUTIVE SECRETARY~~ EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

63

3.01 ~~Appointment and Responsibility~~ Accountability

- 64 a. Executive Officers may be appointed by the Board of Directors to assist the District
65 President in the work of the District, particularly in the areas of District subsidized ministries,
66 missions, stewardship, and education. These Executive Officers shall be accountable to
67 the Board and supervised by the District President. The Executive Secretary of the Board
68 is appointed by the Board of Directors with the approval of the then District President, to be
69 its Executive Officer, and as such shall be under its supervision. The Board of Directors
70 shall provide him them with a job descriptions and guidelines of his their duties.

71

3.03 ~~Term of Office~~ Terms of Office

- 72 a. His Their terms of office shall be for three years, reckoned from the time of the meeting of
73 the Board of Directors at which they are appointed. The appointments are to be made within
74 six months the first regular meeting of the Board of Directors, following an election a regular
75 Convention of the District.
- 76 b. There are no term limits for the Executive Officers, but they are to go through the process
77 of re-appointment each triennium following their initial appointment.
- 78 c. If there are vacancies in these offices, the Board of Directors may fill them as they see fit.

79

80

Respectfully Submitted,

81

82

83

Board of Directors
The South Dakota District LCMS

1 **OVERTURE: 1-04**
2

3 **SUBJECT: TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT**
4 **OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD CONCERNING ELECTIONS HELD**
5 **AT THE DISTRICT CONVENTION**

6 **RATIONALE:** At the 2021 District Convention, some changes were made to the Bylaws of the District
7 reflecting the policy of the Synod that women may serve on Boards of Directors of Districts
8 and the Synod (2021 District Res. 1-05). Simple amendments, such as changing “layman”
9 to “layperson,” were made to the Bylaws in order to use language that makes this more
10 clear. But in the Election Procedure section of the Bylaws, it was discovered that two
11 references to this layman/layperson or laymen/laypeople distinction were missed by the
12 last convention. The adoption of this resolution will correct those errors.

13 Additionally, at the last Synod Convention (2023), clarity was given to election procedures
14 for District offices, including for elections other than for President, Vice-Presidents, and
15 Circuit Visitors (2023 Synod Res. 9-02, Section H). That proposed clarification is found in
16 the 5.09 section of the District’s Bylaws (found on the second page of this resolution).

17 **WHEREAS,** It is the desire and the obligation of the The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—
18 Missouri Synod to honor LC-MS convention resolutions and the resulting changes to the
19 *Handbook of the Synod*, including those that pertain to the governing documents of LCMS
20 entities (LCMS Bylaw 1.3.6, 2nd Restated Articles of Incorporation of The South Dakota
21 District, Article III.C); AND

22 **WHEREAS,** Where errors are discovered, they should be corrected, since we are to conduct ourselves
23 “decently and in order” (I Cor. 14:40); THEREFORE BE IT

24 **RESOLVED:** That the Bylaws of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be
25 amended and adopted as follows, contingent on approval by the Synod’s Commission on
26 Constitutional Matters:

27 [PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING]

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

30 **V. ELECTION PROCEDURE**

31 5.01 Time of Election and Term of Office

32 a. The President, Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the two ~~laymen~~
33 laypeople on the Board of Directors shall be elected in the District Convention.

34 b. All officers and members of the Board of Directors shall serve for terms of three years
35 or until their successors shall have qualified.

36 [There is no 5.02.]

37 5.03 Order of Election

38 a. The order for electing District officers shall be as follows:

39 1. President

40 2. Vice-Presidents

41 3. Secretary

42 4. Treasurer

- 43 5. Two ~~Laymen~~ Laypeople for Board of Directors
- 44 6. Circuit Visitors
- 45 7. District Member of Synodical Nominating Committee (as required)
- 46 8. Other committees (as necessary).

47

48 [The other bylaws in this section concern the nomination and election of the President, Vice-
49 Presidents, and Circuit Visitors, which bylaws require no changes.]

50

51 5.09 Elections of Other Officers

- 52 a. Elections of all officers other than District President, Vice-Presidents, and Circuit
53 Visitors shall be from the slate of candidates developed by the Committee on
54 Nominations or as otherwise specified.
- 55 b. Names of candidates are to be placed on the slate in alphabetical order without
56 distinctive marks, subject to approval by the Convention. Additional candidates may
57 be placed in nomination by the Convention, such nominations to include the written
58 consent of the nominee to serve.
- 59 c. A majority of all votes cast (disregarding voided ballots) shall be required to elect.
- 60 ~~d. In the event that no candidate receives the required majority vote, balloting shall~~
61 ~~continue until there is an election, in which case the candidate(s) receiving the smallest~~
62 ~~number of votes shall be eliminated from the balloting in each instance.~~
- 63 d. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving
64 the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast
65 shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent
66 or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute
67 the ballot.
- 68 e. There shall be no balloting during recess or after adjournment.

69

70

Respectfully Submitted,

71

72

73

74

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE: 1-05**
2
- 3 **SUBJECT: SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT TO RATIFY CONGREGATIONAL VOTE TO RESCIND**
4 **1976 DISTRICT CONVENTION RES. 3-03 REGARDING THE LUTHERAN WITNESS**
5
- 6 **RATIONALE:** A 1976 District Convention resolution (3-03) required that “...each congregation should be
7 billed for its share of the *Lutheran Witness* blanket subscription” and that “the blanket
8 subscription of our entire District be continued until a District Convention declines to
9 continue it.” The congregations of The South Dakota District have dutifully provided the
10 *Lutheran Witness* to their households since that time. However, the cost for a subscription
11 to the *Lutheran Witness* has risen dramatically in recent years, from \$11.25/subscription
12 for 2022, to \$17.21/subscription for 2023, and close to \$20/subscription for 2024. The
13 District’s Board of Directors regard this increase as a financial challenge for many
14 congregations. And they felt there was too much time until the next District Convention to
15 change the policy by means of the usual method of conducting business: by convention
16 action. Therefore, in their September 2023 meeting, the Board asked the District President
17 to request a vote by the congregations of the District on whether to rescind the blanket
18 subscription policy. This novel action of putting such a matter to a vote of congregations
19 was based on Articles XII.2, XII.6, and XI.B.8 of the Synod’s Constitution.
20
- 21 After District President Sailer put the vote to the congregations in the last quarter of 2023,
22 seventy-five of the District’s 106 congregations participated in the vote, with fifty-four
23 congregations voting “yes” (to rescind 1976 Convention Res. 3-03) and with twenty-one
24 congregations voting “no.” The vote to rescind passed by a 72% majority.
25
- 26 In addition to that strong congregational vote to rescind the 1976 resolution, the Board of
27 Directors believes that the adoption of this resolution will officially uphold the requirement
28 of 1976 Convention Res. 3-03 that “the blanket subscription of our entire District be
29 continued until a District Convention declines to continue it.”
30
- 31 **WHEREAS,** The 1976 South Dakota District Convention (Res. 3-03) had required that each District
32 congregation should be billed for its share of the *Lutheran Witness* subscription; AND
- 33 **WHEREAS,** The same resolution also required that this “blanket subscription” policy was to continue
34 until “a District Convention declined to continue it”; AND
- 35 **WHEREAS,** A congregational vote in 2023, put forward by the District President between District
36 conventions (per Synod Constitution Articles XI and XII), determined that the policy should
37 be rescinded, having passed by a 72% majority; THEREFORE BE IT
- 38 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District in convention ratify the congregational vote of 2023 to
39 rescind the blanket subscription, thus honoring the decline-to-continue clause of 1976
40 District Convention Res. 3-03; AND BE IT FURTHER
- 41 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations of the District encourage their members to subscribe on their own
42 to the *Lutheran Witness*, the “official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,”
43 or to otherwise make the *Lutheran Witness* available to their members; AND BE IT
44 FINALLY
- 45 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations of the District be thanked and commended for having provided the
46 *Lutheran Witness* to their member households for nearly fifty years.
47
48
49
50

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

51
52
53
54
55
56

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

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

- OVERTURE: 1-06**
- SUBJECT: TO RESCIND 2003 DISTRICT CONVENTION RESOLUTION 1-04 CONCERNING THE TRIENNIAL DISTRICT PLANNING CONFERENCE**
- WHEREAS,** The Annual Planning Conference of the South Dakota District was instituted by the 54th Regular Convention of the District, in 1997, via adoption of Resolution 2-02, to assist the Board of Directors in planning the ministries of the District; AND
- WHEREAS,** 1997 Convention Resolution 2-02 also specified that the Annual Planning Conference was to involve the members of the Board of Directors of the District, the Circuit Counselors, a lay representative from each circuit, the Chairman of each ministry area, the District LWML President, the District LLL President, the District Personal Stewardship Counselor, and the District Executive Staff; AND
- WHEREAS,** The 56th Regular Convention of the District (2003 Res. 1-04) changed the frequency of the Planning Conference from being an annual event to a triennial event; AND
- WHEREAS,** 2003 District Convention Resolution 1-04 also mandated that the Triennial Planning Conferences are to be conducted in the “year when the Circuit Convocations are to be held,” that is, in the non-Convention year of the triennium (cf. Synod Bylaw 5.4.1); AND
- WHEREAS,** The same 2003 resolution stated in one of the resolved’s that “in the other two years conferences, circuits, congregations and individuals be encouraged to submit to our Board of Directors and/or the Program Area Chairmen mission and ministry opportunities”; AND
- WHEREAS,** Input into the planning and work of the ministries of the District can be sought from those entities in a variety of ways, including by the District staff, by Circuit Visitors in Winkels and in visits to congregations, and by committees established by the District (including the current Mission and Ministry Council); THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED:** That the requirement of conducting a Triennial Planning Conference in the non-Convention year, from the 2003 District Convention Res. 1-04, be rescinded.

Respectfully Submitted

The South Dakota District
Board of Directors

1 **OVERTURE: 1-07**

2
3 **SUBJECT: DISTRICT OFFICERS SERVING CONGREGATIONS AS ASSISTING PASTORS**

4
5 **WHEREAS,** In keeping with Article VII of the Augsburg Confession, where the Church is defined as
6 “the congregation of saints, in which the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments are
7 rightly administered;” AND

8
9 **WHEREAS,** The Church faces an urgent need for qualified men to serve congregations in accordance
10 with Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession which states: “no one should publicly teach
11 in the Church or administer the Sacraments unless he be regularly called;” AND

12
13 **WHEREAS,** There are offices that serve the South Dakota District that are required to be filled by men
14 who have been ordained; AND

15
16 **WHEREAS,** The call to serve in the pastoral office is the primary and most essential office in the
17 church, and service to the Synod in administrative offices are established to support the
18 work of the pastoral office; AND

19
20 **WHEREAS,** When the District in convention resolved to make the office of the president strictly full-
21 time in the 1970s, they could not imagine the travel and communication changes that
22 would come in the next decades; AND

23
24 **WHEREAS,** When the District in convention resolved to make the office of the President strictly full-
25 time, the District had 128 congregations, and 22,274 communicant members, while today
26 we have 105 congregations and 20,318 communicant members, so that today we are
27 both smaller and declining in number and utilize much faster and more robust
28 communication technology than fifty years ago; THEREFORE BE IT

29
30 **RESOLVED:** That the bylaws of the South Dakota District of the LCMS be amended to allow any
31 ordained men serving in offices of the District to also accept a call to serve a
32 congregation as an assisting pastor, not as a sole, senior pastor or associate pastor,
33 AND BE IT FURTHER

34
35 **RESOLVED:** That the prior convention resolution requiring the district president to serve in a strictly
36 full-time capacity be rescinded, AND BE IT FINALLY

37
38 **RESOLVED:** That given the gravity of the Office of Holy Ministry and the necessity of the effective
39 support from the District officers, serving a congregational call shall only be a voluntary
40 choice for ordained men serving in a District Office.

41
42 Respectfully Submitted

43
44
45 _____
Circuit 4 Circuit Forum

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

OVERTURE: 1-08

SUBJECT: SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT PRESIDENT TO BE A CALLED PASTOR IF DESIRED

WHEREAS, In the Rite of Ordination into the Holy Ministry (*LSB Agenda pg. 165*), the candidate responds in the affirmative to the public question, “Do you acknowledge that the Lord has called you through His Church into the ministry of Word and Sacrament?”; AND

WHEREAS, This response is for ordination of all pastors within our confession regardless of election to various offices; AND

WHEREAS, The candidate also promises within the Rite of Ordination that he will “perform the duties of your office in accordance with these Confessions, and that all your preaching and teaching and your administration of the Sacraments will be in conformity with Holy Scripture and with these Confessions?” (*LSB Agenda pg. 166*); AND

WHEREAS, Our Confessions speak of an official union, combining the administration of Word and Sacrament to a rightly ordered Call to a congregation; AND

WHEREAS, An elected South Dakota District President may have a burdened conscience due to his ordination vows, adherence to our Lutheran Confessions, and the prohibition of the South Dakota District’s bylaws; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the South Dakota District in regular Convention change her bylaws to permit an elected District President to either remain Called pastor or accept a Call as pastor to a congregation within our district if he so desires by changing Bylaw III. 2.01a to state, “The Office of the President ~~shall be a full-time position.~~ wherein he may also be a Called pastor to a congregation.”

Respectfully Submitted

SDD Circuit 2 Circuit Forum

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

OVERTURE: 1-09

SUBJECT: TO ALLOW ALL ORDAINED OFFICERS OF THE SD DISTRICT TO SERVE AS CALLED PASTORS TO A CONGREGATION

WHEREAS, In keeping with Article VII of the Augsburg Confession, where the Church is defined as “the congregation of saints, in which the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments are rightly administered;” AND

WHEREAS, There is a need for qualified men to serve congregations in accordance with Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession with states: “No one should publicly teach in the Church or administer the Sacraments unless he be regularly called”; AND

WHEREAS, At the 2021 District Convention, Synod President Matthew Harrison said, “We got challenges. We need more pastors. We’re working on that.” AND

WHEREAS, There are offices that serve the South Dakota District that are required to be filled by men who have been ordained; AND

WHEREAS, It is in keeping with the concept of Christian freedom; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That for such District Offices that require an ordained man to serve yet prohibit him from serving a congregation while holding the office, thus removing a worker from the harvest field of Matthew 9, the bylaws of the South Dakota District be changed to allow all ordained staff to serve a congregation in a part-time capacity if he receives and accepts such a call from a congregation; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That this part-time service to a congregation would not be mandatory for ordained men serving in a District office. Given the gravity of the Office of the Holy Ministry, such a congregational call ought not to be taken if doing so would negatively affect the officer’s duties to his district office or his service to a congregation.

Respectfully Submitted

Freeman Circuit (Circuit 6) of the South Dakota District

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

OVERTURE: 1-10

SUBJECT: TO PRIORITIZE HOLDING FUTURE DISTRICT EVENTS SUCH AS CONVENTIONS, PASTORS CONFERENCES AND PLANNING CONFERENCES IN LCMS CHURCHES OR LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, The South Dakota District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) values the importance of fostering a strong sense of community and fellowship among its members; AND

WHEREAS, Holding District Conventions in churches or Lutheran schools can provide a more spiritually enriching environment, conducive to worship, prayer, and theological reflection; AND

WHEREAS, Utilizing church and school facilities can help strengthen the connection between the district’s administrative activities and its congregational and educational ministries; AND

WHEREAS, Gathering in churches or Lutheran schools can serve as a witness to the broader community, showcasing the vibrant faith and commitment of the LCMS; AND

WHEREAS, Significant cost savings can be achieved by using church and school facilities, allowing for better allocation of district funds towards mission and ministry initiatives; AND

WHEREAS, Hosting District events in these settings can promote stewardship by making use of existing resources within the LCMS community, potentially reducing costs associated with external venues; AND

WHEREAS, Many existing church and school facilities have ample space to accommodate large gatherings, ensuring that the needs of all attendees are met; AND

WHEREAS, It was the example of our Synod to hold national conventions in churches until the conventions grew too large, but our district conventions can still be held in such facilities; AND

WHEREAS, Potential challenges such as accessibility, capacity, and technological requirements can be addressed by working closely with host sites to ensure that all logistical needs are met, THEREFORE BE IT;

RESOLVED: That the South Dakota District of the LCMS will prioritize holding future District events such as conventions, pastors’ conferences and planning conferences in LCMS Churches or Lutheran schools whenever feasible; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That the District will work collaboratively with District congregations and District schools to identify suitable locations and ensure that the necessary logistical arrangements are made.

Respectfully Submitted

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church and School
Black Hawk, SD

1 **OVERTURE: 1-11**
2

3 **SUBJECT: TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CONCORDIA HEALTH PLANS**
4

5 **WHEREAS,** Healthcare costs are increasingly burdensome to congregations and schools, AND
6

7 **WHEREAS,** Concordia Health Plans provides an invaluable service to the LCMS, AND
8

9 **WHEREAS,** The pool of workers available to enroll in CHP is relatively small, AND
10

11 **WHEREAS,** A larger pool of workers contributing to the overall plan should decrease costs, AND
12

13 **WHEREAS,** There are other church bodies with whom we agree in biblical morality and medical ethics,
14 AND

15
16 **WHEREAS,** Our doctrine permits us to cooperate in externals with other church bodies in non-doctrinal
17 matters, THEREFORE BE IT
18

19 **RESOLVED:** That the Synod in convention would change the Bylaws so that Synod Board of Directors
20 and Concordia Health Plans can work with other church bodies to increase collective
21 worker enrollment in order to decrease overall cost and ensure sustainability, AND BE IT
22 FURTHER
23

24 **RESOLVED:** That the Synod in convention would appoint a task force to submit recommendations and
25 considerations for reducing the cost at next convention, including the possibility of
26 combining with other church bodies with whom we agree in biblical morality and medical
27 ethics, AND BE IT FURTHER
28

29 **RESOLVED:** That the Synod Board of Directors would seek out other church bodies who align with us
30 in externals to this end, AND BE IT FINALLY
31

32 **RESOLVED:** That the LCMS would retain a majority representation on the CHP Board.
33

34 Respectfully Submitted

35
36 _____
37 Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD
38

- 1 **OVERTURE: 1-12**
2
3 **SUBJECT: TO THANK THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT AND TO CONFER**
4 **THE TITLE OF “PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT”**
5
6 **WHEREAS,** The Reverend Dr. Scott C. Sailer has provided our District with faithful pastoral
7 leadership as District President for the past ten years; AND
8
9 **WHEREAS,** The District President has reflected upon the “God’s Gospel: Salvation Power” theme in
10 his convention report; AND
11
12 **WHEREAS,** The District President has provided invaluable pastoral leadership in his articles in the
13 Lutheran Witness and the District President’s E-Mail Newsletter, in his visitations and
14 preaching in many congregations for special occasions, and in his presence and
15 participation in many District functions; AND
16
17 **WHEREAS,** President Sailer has announced his retirement following the installation of our next
18 District President; THEREFORE BE IT
19
20 **RESOLVED:** That we thank the Reverend Dr. Scott C. Sailer for his faithful pastoral leadership; AND
21 BE IT FURTHER
22
23 **RESOLVED:** That this convention confer upon the Reverend Dr. Scott C. Sailer the title of “President
24 Emeritus of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod”; AND
25 BE IT FURTHER
26
27 **RESOLVED:** That we give thanks to God for His servant the Reverend Dr. Scott C. Sailer; AND BE IT
28 FINALLY
29
30 **RESOLVED:** That following the adoption of this Resolution the assembly will rise and sing the last
31 verse of the hymn, “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness” (LSB#563)

32
33 “Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
34 Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
35 For me, and all Thy hands have made,
36 An everlasting ransom paid.”
37

38 Respectfully Submitted,
39

40 _____
41 Reverend Steve Weispfennig, Chairman
42

43 _____
44 DCE Liz Peters
45

46 _____
47 Reverend David Otten
48

49 _____
50 Mr. Adam Schulz
51

52 _____
53 Mr. Scot Eisenbraun
54

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

1 **OVERTURE: 2-01**

2
3 **SUBJECT: LCMS SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT TO CONTINUE TOGETHER IN MISSION (TIM)**
4 **SUPPORT AND TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONAL INVOLVEMENT THEREIN**
5

6 **RATIONALE:**

7 Since the 53rd Convention of The South Dakota District (1994), the District in Convention has adopted
8 resolutions to partner with missionaries in a variety of mission fields. The initial District Convention
9 resolution, Resolution 1-02 (1994), resolved that the financial gifts given to Together In Mission (TIM) by
10 District congregations were to be “over and above” each congregation’s regular offerings for Synod and
11 District mission support. By District Convention action, those missionaries or projects receiving support
12 from District congregations through Together In Mission since 1994 have been:

- 14 • Amy Kashenov serving in Kazakhstan (1994-2012)
- 15 • Global Seminary Initiative, seminaries in Tanzania, Africa and Novosibirsk, Russia (2013-14)
- 16 • Rev. Dr. Alan Ludwig, instructor at the Lutheran seminary in Novosibirsk, Russia (2015-2018)
- 17 • Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, serving in Southeast Asia and Rev. David Warner, serving in Spain (2018-
18 2021)
- 19 • Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, Southeast Asia, and Rev. Dr. Corey Rajek, serving in Eurasia (2021-
20 2025).

21
22 Then, late in 2023, the District President, at the Board of Directors’ urging (and apart from District
23 Convention action), put to the congregations the opportunity to support, via TIM, other missionaries from
24 South Dakota sent to overseas mission fields in the past triennium. By a majority vote (72-3), the measure
25 was adopted. At the time, Rev. Samuel Bobby was serving in Latvia, and Revs. Jordon Andreasen and
26 Jonah Domenichelli, had received notice of calls to Romania and Germany, respectively. The two,
27 subsequently, accepted the calls. All three – Missionaries Bobby, Andreasen, and Domenichelli – began
28 receiving TIM support from South Dakota, toward the end of the past triennium. Meanwhile, Rev. Dr. Cory
29 Rajek’s TIM support ended after the District’s 2023 fiscal year, because he became the Executive Director
30 of the Office of International Mission of the LCMS.

31
32 For the coming triennium, convention delegates are asked to consider renewing the LCMS South Dakota
33 District’s commitment to support God’s mission efforts abroad through the TIM program.

34
35 **WHEREAS,** God’s mission (the *Missio Dei*, which belongs to Him and His love for the world) centers in
36 the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16-17); AND

37
38 **WHEREAS,** Just as God the Father sent (*apostello*) His Son Jesus into the world, Jesus sends all
39 believers into the world to “seek and to save the lost” (John 20:21-23; Luke 19:10); AND

40
41 **WHEREAS,** The Lord continues to call His Church from among the nations around the world to work
42 mutually in sending and receiving “laborers for the harvest” until that day when our Lord’s
43 mission is complete (Ephesians 4:1-7; Matthew 9:35-10:1); AND

44
45 **WHEREAS,** In Article 3.2, “Objectives” of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Constitution,
46 it states that the Synod shall “strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold
47 witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
48 and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;” AND

49
50 **WHEREAS,** Continued support by District congregations of a Together In Mission project is faithful to
51 Christ’s desire for His Church and to the Synod’s stated objectives; THEREFORE BE IT
52

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

- 53 **RESOLVED:** That the District in convention affirm and ratify the 2023 vote by congregations of the
54 District to add to its TIM offering recipients those pastors from South Dakota who accepted
55 calls to overseas mission work, late in the past triennium; AND BE IT FURTHER
56
- 57 **RESOLVED:** That the District in convention express its thanks to God for blessing the mission work of
58 the last triennium's (Dec. 2021 – Feb. 2025) Together In Mission recipients: Rev. Dr. Daniel
59 Jastram, missionary to Southeast Asia; Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek, Rev. Samuel Bobby, Rev.
60 Jordon Andreasen, and Rev. Jonah Domenichelli, missionaries to Eurasia; AND BE IT
61 FURTHER
62
- 63 **RESOLVED:** That the District congregations adopt Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, missionary to Southeast
64 Asia, and missionaries to Eurasia: Rev. Jordon Andreasen (Romania), Rev. Samuel Bobby
65 (Latvia), and Rev. Jonah Domenichelli (Germany), as the recipients of the District's TIM
66 offerings, in equal measure, for the 2025-2028 triennium; AND BE IT FURTHER
67
- 68 **RESOLVED:** That should other missionaries from South Dakota be called to overseas LCMS missionary
69 service in the next triennium, they, too, will receive an equal share of the District's TIM
70 support for the balance of the triennium; AND BE IT FURTHER
71
- 72 **RESOLVED:** That should any of these missionaries retire from active missionary service or return from
73 the mission field before 2028, the balance of the TIM offerings will go in equal measure to
74 the missionaries still remaining in the field. If all of these workers should retire or return
75 from the mission field before our next convention, the South Dakota District's Board of
76 Directors will determine which missionary or missionaries will receive our congregations'
77 TIM offerings for the remainder of the triennium; AND BE IT FURTHER
78
- 79 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation of The South Dakota District, regardless of size, be encouraged
80 to partner with the other District congregations by 1) remembering the work of missionaries
81 Jastram, Bobby, Andreasen, and Domenichelli in their corporate and individual prayers
82 and 2) by providing an annual commitment to TIM over and above their regular support of
83 Synod and District missions; AND BE IT FINALLY
84
- 85 **RESOLVED:** That the District President and the Assistant to the President work with the Office of
86 International Mission of the LCMS to arrange for possible FOROs (Spanish for *forum*) in
87 the Eurasia mission field, in the coming triennium, to give members of South Dakota District
88 congregations the on-site opportunity to learn and serve and to encourage our missionaries
89 and their families (cf. 2023 Synod Res. 2-07A).
90

91
92 Respectfully Submitted,
93
94

95
96 _____
97 The Board of Directors of
98 The South Dakota District LCMS
99
100
101

1 **Overture: 2-02**

2
3 **SUBJECT: TO CONTINUE THE MISSION AND MINISTRY COUNCIL FOR THE SUPPORT OF**
4 **WORKERS AND MINISTRIES**

5
6 **BACKGROUND:**

7 Over the years, the South Dakota District has utilized various committee structures for
8 providing resources to the ministries and workers within the District. For example, the
9 Service Area format was in place from 2006 through 2021 (cf. 2006 Res. 1-34); those
10 Service Areas were identified as Outreach, Parish Services, and Young Adult and Youth.

11 While the Service Area structure provided many blessings in the 15 years of its existence,
12 the types, sources, and delivery of ministry resources for church workers, congregations,
13 and schools changed dramatically in this electronic age. Our workers often find it more
14 convenient to turn to the internet for resources than to rely on and wait for resources
15 produced by the District. Moreover, recruiting our already busy church workers for service
16 on the committees of our District has grown more challenging.

17 Therefore, at the 2021 Convention of the District, the Service Area structure was
18 “suspended for the 2022-2025 triennium,” and in its place a “Mission and Ministry Council”
19 comprised of representatives from every circuit in the District was authorized for the 2021-
20 2025 triennium (cf. 2021 Res. 2-04). At this time, the Mission and Ministry Council has 10
21 members (8 laypeople, 1 commissioned minister, and 1 ordained minister) and 4 advisory
22 members (the District President, 1st Vice-President, the Assistant to the President, and the
23 District’s Education Executive). The Council is chaired by one of the laypersons and is
24 “supervised” by the Assistant to the President. Members are appointed by the District
25 President and 1st Vice-President.

26 Since it began operating in December of 2022, the Mission and Ministry Council has helped
27 to organize the P.A.S.S. It On! congregational resource workshops in November 2023 and
28 November 2024, and a Men’s Retreat, held in December 2023, in Brookings, and another
29 held in the Black Hills, the summer of 2024.

30 **WHEREAS,** In the past triennium, the Mission and Ministry Council structure of providing support and
31 ministry resources has resulted in providing a variety of helpful events that have brought
32 together church workers and church members for fellowship, education, and equipping for
33 service; AND

34 **WHEREAS,** The involvement and interaction of laypersons and church workers on the Council has been
35 particularly dynamic, yielding fresh ideas for Christian growth and service; AND

36 **WHEREAS,** Per Resolution 2-04 2021, the Mission and Ministry Council and Board of Directors have
37 been charged to bring a plan for ongoing structure to provide support and ministry
38 resources, the Board of Directors of the LCMS South Dakota District recommends
39 continuing the Mission and Ministry Council concept for the 2025-2028 triennium;
40 THEREFORE BE IT

41 **RESOLVED:** That the Mission and Ministry Council format be affirmed and that it be authorized by this
42 Convention of the District for continuation; AND BE IT FINALLY

43 **RESOLVED:** That the 63rd Regular Convention of the LCMS South Dakota District affirm these goals
44 for the work of the Mission and Ministry Council, as put forward in the original 2021 Res.
45 2-04:

46 1) Identify the pressing human and spiritual needs of our neighbors, especially
47 that of hearing the Gospel;

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

- 48 2) Identify the pressing personal and ministry needs of LCMS church workers
49 and the needs and opportunities of LCMS congregations, schools, and other
50 ministries in South Dakota;
- 51 3) Prioritize the needs and plan ways to address those needs and opportunities;
- 52 4) Make provision to implement vehicles to address needs and opportunities
53 (e.g., assigning ad hoc committees, conducting workshops, producing
54 resources); and
- 55 5) Consider possible superior structures to provide support and ministry
56 resources to church workers and congregations, schools, and other
57 ministries.

58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67

Respectfully Submitted,

The South Dakota District
Board of Directors

1 **OVERTURE: 2-03**

2 **SUBJECT: TO CONTINUE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT (LCMS)**
3 **AND LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE (IOWA)**

4
5 **HISTORY:**

6 In 2018, Lutheran Family Service of Iowa (LFS) approached the Board of Directors of the
7 South Dakota District about the possibility of working cooperatively in South Dakota. LFS
8 is a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. They are
9 owned by Missouri Synod congregations in Iowa and receive support from the Iowa East
10 and West Districts of the LCMS. They do not receive funding from any governmental
11 organization and so are free to practice our common Christian faith.
12

13 The District entered into an agreement with LFS in December 2019 for LFS (1) to be
14 available to consult with pastors and other church workers in the counseling work of the
15 parish, (2) to work with church workers and their families about issues that those individuals
16 and families are struggling with through telehealth counseling with counselors from LFS in
17 Iowa, and (3) to train people in South Dakota to help others in various areas such as Elder
18 Care, Dementia, Addictions, and Marriage challenges.
19

20 The 2021 South Dakota District Convention resolved “to expand this ministry by asking
21 God to open our eyes to whatever other good works “which God has prepared in advance,
22 that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10), and to “commit to LFS \$75,000 for 2022,
23 \$75,000 for 2023, and \$50,000 for 2024 to fund start-up costs and the operation of this
24 ministry”. Half of the money was to come “from gifts and bequests that the District has
25 received over the years and the other half would come from the congregations of the South
26 Dakota District as ‘an over and above’ giving similar to our present ‘Together in Mission
27 (TIM)’ gifts.”
28

29 In 2022 the District received \$54,192 for LFS from the congregations of the District, 2023-
30 -\$53,301, 2024 _____. The goal for 2025 would be \$50,000. It will take a concerted
31 effort on the part of all the congregations of the District to reach this goal.
32

33 This commitment would be similar to the one the District makes with the Synod concerning
34 TIM. For TIM the District pledges \$40,000 a year and would take that amount out of District
35 funds if the money doesn’t come in from congregations. Every year the congregations
36 have provided significantly more than that: 2022-\$71,759, 2023-\$75,849, 2024- . Every
37 dollar received for TIM is sent on to the Synod. In other words, we have not had to take
38 any money from District funds.
39

40 The pledge for LFS would be the same amount (\$40,000) with the same arrangement:
41 every dollar received would be sent on to LFS and if we don’t receive enough for the full
42 pledge the money will be taken from District funds.
43
44

45 **WHEREAS:** The South Dakota District (LCMS) has been in partnership with Lutheran Family Service
46 (Iowa) since 2019. Lutheran Family Service has provided counseling, adoption and other
47 services to individuals, church workers and their families, as well as congregations. The
48 SD District has provided financial and other support to LFS, AND
49

50 **WHEREAS:** This arrangement has grown over the years to include counseling offices on both sides of
51 South Dakota as well as tele-health which is accessible throughout the State, AND
52

53 **WHEREAS:** The need for these services continues to grow exponentially, THEREFORE BE IT

To The 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

- 54
55 **RESOLVED:** That the current partnership be continued for the next triennium, AND BE IT FURTHER
56
57 **RESOLVED:** That together we will seek to expand this ministry by asking God to open our eyes to
58 whatever good works “which God has prepared in advance, that we should walk in them”
59 (Ephesians 2:10), AND BE IT FURTHER
60
61 **RESOLVED:** That the money for this would primarily come from the congregations of the South Dakota
62 District as money pledged and given over and above the regular contributions given for the
63 work of District and Synod. This would be in a similar way as the South Dakota District
64 funds its commitment to “Together in Mission,” AND BE IT FINALLY
65
66 **RESOLVED:** That this partnership would regularly be evaluated by the District Board of Directors and
67 that the 2028 District Convention would reassess the partnership at that time.
68

69 Respectfully Submitted,
70

71 _____
72 South Dakota District
73 Board of Directors
74
75

- 1 **OVERTURE: 2-04**
2
- 3 **SUBJECT: TO ENCOURAGE WORKER WELLNESS AND IMPLEMENT A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR**
4 **ADDRESSING WORKER WELLNESS**
5
- 6 **WHEREAS,** Mankind is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26), and even in our fallen state God
7 continues to care and provide in great abundance (Isaiah 55:10 & Psalm 104:15-30); above
8 all the assurance of salvation through Jesus (John 3:16) so that we might share in His joy
9 for now and eternity (John 15:11) and that, as His people, we be well in body, mind, and
10 spirit (3 John 2-3); AND
- 11 **WHEREAS,** The devil, the world, and our sinful nature seek to rob and destroy the joy and health of all
12 people (John 10:10), including the men and women whom God has called into service as
13 ordained and commissioned ministers of the church by way of illness, discouragement,
14 disappointment, loneliness, and frustration, to the point that, according to reports by the
15 Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, 24 percent of church workers are diagnosed with
16 anxiety and depression and 40 percent have considered leaving the ministry due to
17 compounding stress; AND
- 18 **WHEREAS,** God, the One who gives many and various gifts, has blessed His world with people who
19 serve in a variety of vocations including health sciences and caregiving to serve our well-
20 being; AND
- 21 **WHEREAS,** 2021, District Convention Resolution 2-06 encouraged church workers and congregations
22 to “become familiar with and utilize the various tools and supports at their disposal to
23 restore, maintain, and increase their spiritual, emotional, relational, financial, vocational,
24 and physical wellness,” AND
- 25 **WHEREAS,** 2023 Synod Convention Resolution 1-06A directed the Council of Presidents to “prioritize
26 the matter of the wellness of church workers and their families through the development of
27 a strategic plan for worker care that can be disseminated to and replicated by the district
28 presidents,” AND
- 29 **WHEREAS,** 2023 Synod Convention Resolution 1-07 encouraged workers “to use the resources
30 available through Concordia Plan Services (such as the Employee Assistance Program)
31 or other similar programs not in conflict with our confession” and “congregations, circuit
32 visitors, and district presidents of the Synod be encouraged to support the mental well-
33 being of pastors and other professional church workers” and “each district of the Synod be
34 encouraged to make available a paid or volunteer district mental health advocate for
35 pastors and other professional church workers,” AND
- 36 **WHEREAS,** In extending a call to a worker the congregation obligates itself to support workers and
37 provide for them, including care for health and well-being; THEREFORE BE IT
- 38 **RESOLVED:** That church workers be encouraged to avail themselves of appropriate care to sustain and
39 regain spiritual, emotional, relational, financial, vocational, and physical wellness from
40 reputable agencies, such as mental health resources of Lutheran Family Service; AND BE
41 IT FURTHER
- 42
- 43 **RESOLVED:** That the District President, with the assistance of Lutheran Family Service and District
44 Parish Nurse Representative, develop and implement a strategic plan for worker care

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

45 congruent with recommendations of the Council of Presidents' strategic plan; AND BE IT
46 FURTHER

47 **RESOLVED:** That church workers and congregations become familiar with the common themes
48 surrounding the topic of worker wellness identified by Synod through worker surveys and
49 group discussions (<https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/church-worker-wellness>)
50 and utilize resources, tools, and supports in each area; AND BE IT FURTHER

51 **RESOLVED:** That congregations, ministry staff, and Winkels be encouraged to designate appropriate
52 time in meetings to discussion and planning for worker wellness; AND BE IT FINALLY

53 **RESOLVED:** That ordained and commissioned ministers, congregations, and Lutheran schools give
54 thanks to God for the work that has been done in these areas and for the many and various
55 ways that the Lord provides for the needs of body and soul for all His people, joining with
56 St. Paul in saying, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your
57 reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about
58 anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests
59 be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will
60 guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

1 **OVERTURE: 2-05**

2
3 **SUBJECT: TO BUILD A CULTURE OF CHURCH WORK FORMATION AND RECRUITMENT**

4
5 **WHEREAS,** Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to
6 the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest (Matt. 9:37-38); AND

7
8 **WHEREAS,** Since 1847 to the present day, the LCMS frequently adopted resolutions in Synod
9 conventions to form and recruit pastors, teachers, Directors of Christian Education,
10 deaconesses, and other commissioned church workers to preach, teach, and share the
11 Gospel of Jesus for eternal salvation in these full-time vocations; AND

12
13 **WHEREAS,** In the last five years, approximately twice as many LCMS pastors have exited the pastoral
14 office (by retirement, resignation, or death) as there are newly called and ordained pastors,
15 helping to create a shortage of pastors; AND

16
17 **WHEREAS,** Commissioned minister formation programs in our Synod’s universities, likewise, are not
18 producing enough graduates to keep up with the demand, helping to create a shortage of
19 commissioned ministers; THEREFORE, BE IT

20
21 **RESOLVED:** That the LCMS South Dakota District’s Executive Officers and District President, working
22 with the Mission and Ministry Council, make it a priority to provide resources and sponsor
23 events to assist congregations, schools, and church workers in intentional church work
24 formation and recruitment; AND BE IT FURTHER

25
26 **RESOLVED:** That all congregations in the District be encouraged to provide generous grants to church
27 work students from their congregations and circuits, and make other intentional efforts to
28 recruit and encourage their children, youth, and adults to consider a full-time church work
29 vocation; AND BE IT FURTHER

30
31 **RESOLVED:** That all pastors, Lutheran teachers, other commissioned church workers, and laity
32 intentionally encourage children and youth to consider a full-time church work vocation;
33 AND BE IT FURTHER

34
35 **RESOLVED:** That South Dakota District congregations and schools be encouraged to make use of the
36 *Set Apart to Serve (SAS)* resources (found at lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve) and the SAS
37 church work recruitment curriculum (produced by Concordia Publishing House) and
38 available for download at cph.org/set-apart-to-serve-school-resource-kit); AND BE IT
39 FINALLY

40
41 **RESOLVED:** That both District and congregation leaders intentionally address the compensation of
42 church workers, foster church worker wellness, and encourage love and appreciation for
43 all ordained and commissioned ministers in the District’s congregations and schools.

44
45 Respectfully Submitted,

46
47
48
49 _____
50 The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE** **2-06**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** **ADOPTION— ONE OF GOD’S WAYS TO BUILD HIS FAMILY**
4
5 **WHEREAS,** In the Old Testament several people were adopted: Moses by Pharoah’s daughter, Esther
6 by Mordecai. Also, in the Old Testament there are many passages encouraging God’s
7 people to look out for widows and orphans: “Father of the fatherless and protector of
8 widows is God in his holy habitation” (Psalm 68:5), and “He executes justice for the
9 fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing”
10 (Deuteronomy 10:18), AND
11
12 **WHEREAS,** In the New Testament already in the first chapter adoption is front and center as Joseph
13 adopts Jesus. Adoption is also one way God describes how he chooses his people. “They
14 are the Israelites, and to them belongs the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of
15 the law, the worship, and promises” (Romans 9:4). “But when the fullness of time had
16 come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who
17 were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are
18 sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Galatians
19 4:4-6). “He predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according
20 to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us
21 in the Beloved” (Ephesians 1:6-7), AND
22
23 **WHEREAS,** In Baptism God has adopted us to be his own and he calls us to invite more into his family
24 by teaching his Word, baptizing through his Word, and living as his people, AND
25
26 **WHEREAS,** There are thousands of children across this country who are waiting to be adopted, AND
27
28 **WHEREAS,** There are many with special circumstances who are also waiting: embryos, those with
29 disabilities, older children/young adults, THEREFORE IT BE
30
31 **RESOLVED:** That congregations, schools, and church workers study the issue of adoption, AND BE IT
32 FURTHER
33
34 **RESOLVED:** That the use of educational materials from Lutherans for Life be studied and promoted,
35 AND BE IT FURTHER
36
37 **RESOLVED:** That we support the work of the various Crisis Pregnancy Centers in South Dakota such
38 as the Alpha Center, Option 1, Black Hills Pregnancy Center (among others) AND BE IT
39 FINALLY
40
41 **RESOLVED:** That we promote the work of Lutheran Family Service (Iowa) and other Recognized Service
42 Organizations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who have been and continue to be
43 involved with adoption placement and support.
44
45

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

1 **OVERTURE:** 2-08

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO WALK TOGETHER AS A DISTRICT IN AFFIRMING OUR USE OF ONLY BREAD
4 AND WINE IN THE ELEMENTS IN THE LORD’S SUPPER, AND TO ASK THE CTCR
5 FOR GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF GLUTEN-FREE BREAD AND WINE IN WHICH THE
6 ALCOHOL HAS BEEN REMOVED
7

8 **WHEREAS,** Jesus Christ Himself instituted the Sacrament of the Altar, and He used bread and wine in
9 His Supper, as taught in question 351 of the 2017 Small Catechism, AND

10 **WHEREAS,** Many congregations have wrestled with the question of sacramentally using other liquids
11 made from grapes, AND

12 **WHEREAS,** Unfermented liquids such as grape juice were not available until the late 19th century when
13 the Reformed tradition developed a way to prevent fermentation so that they might be able
14 to receive Communion without alcohol, AND

15 **WHEREAS,** The Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, Article VII clearly confesses that when Jesus
16 said, “do this,” he meant using bread and wine in addition to the Words of Institution and
17 the act of distribution. “*Apart from this use, it is to be regarded as no Sacrament....*”¹ AND

18 **WHEREAS,** In response to new prohibition laws, the 1917 convention of the LCMS appealed to the
19 United States President Woodrow Wilson to allow the shipment of communion wine
20 through the US Postal Service because “it is one of our religious tenets, and a belief based
21 upon what we are convinced is a Biblical and hence a divine command, that in the
22 celebration of the Lord’s Supper nothing but wine, i.e., fermented grape juice, may be
23 used.” AND

24 **WHEREAS,** The 1998 LCMS Convention Resolution 3-16B and 2001 LCMS Convention Resolution 3-
25 16 both reaffirmed the use of bread and wine in the Sacrament of the Altar, AND

26 **WHEREAS,** The CTCR last published a study of the Lord’s Supper, including the appropriate elements
27 to use, in 1983, AND

28 **WHEREAS,** Since 1983 there are now new options available for churches to use, such as non-alcoholic
29 wine and gluten free bread, and while many churches have made use of these options, no
30 Synodical theological review has been conducted, THEREFORE BE IT

31 **RESOLVED:** That, in all our congregations and district celebrations of the Lord’s Supper, for the sake of
32 conscience and the certainty of blessings received in the Sacrament of the Altar, the South
33 Dakota District in convention insist upon walking together with our Synod in the reception
34 of Christ’s body and blood under the visible elements of bread and wine, rejecting all
35 substitutes, AND BE IT FINALLY

36 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District in convention urge the CTCR to study the matter of new
37 alternatives such as non-alcoholic wine and gluten free bread for Sacramental use in the
38 Lord’s Supper.

39 Respectfully Submitted,

40
41
42
43

Circuit 4 Circuit Forum

¹ Friedrich Bente, *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions : A Reader’s Edition of the Book of Concord*, 2006, 575–76.
Page | 124

- 1 **OVERTURE: 2-09**
2
3 **SUBJECT: TO AFFIRM THE USE OF TRUE WINE IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT**
4
5 **WHEREAS,** In the institution of His holy Supper, our Lord Jesus Christ used bread and wine (the term
6 “fruit of the vine” in Mathew 266:29 would have been understood in Jesus’ day as referring
7 to fermented wine,, and that fermented wine was used in the Lord’s Supper from the
8 earliest time in the Church is clear from 1 Corinthians 11:221 which states that some were
9 getting drunk from the cup) AND
- 10 **WHEREAS,** “As water and the application of water are a part of Baptism,, so bread and wine and their
11 reception are the earthly elements of the Lord’s Supper. As we do not venture to substitute
12 some other fluid for water in Baptism, so neither in the Lord’s Supper do we dare to
13 substitute aught for bread and wine.” (Pieper, F. 1953, *Christian Dogmatics*, Vol 3, pp 353-
14 354; St. Louis, Concordia Publishing House), AND
- 15 **WHEREAS,** In the Lutheran Confessions it is assumed that wine is used in the administration of the
16 Lord’s Supper (cf AC XII: “God attaches His Word of promise to the elements of the
17 Sacrament – water, wine, or bread – and gives and strengthens the faith of those receiving
18 them,” etc. (McCain, P.T. (Ed.). 2005, *Concordia, the Lutheran Confessions* (pp. 38-45).
19 St. Louis, Concordia Publishing House). AND
- 20 **WHEREAS,** “In order not to introduce an element of uncertainty into the Sacrament ... the dignity of the
21 Sacrament demands that we refrain from experimenting with all fluids of which it is not
22 certain whether they are, or still are, ‘fruit of the vine.’” (Pieper, F. 1935 *Christian*
23 *Dogmatics*, Vol 3 p 353, footnote 94). AND
- 24 **WHEREAS,** The 1983 CTCR Report *Theology and Practice of the Lord’s Supper*, states the
25 understanding of our church that only wine should be used in the administration of the
26 Lord’s Supper
- 27 All four accounts of the Lord's Supper speak of "the cup." The content of
28 this cup was most definitely wine... In the oft-cited pastoral circumstance
29 of an alcoholic communicant, the counsel of foregoing Communion for a
30 period of time or the action of diluting the wine with water (perhaps done
31 at the Lord's Supper itself) are preferable... The substitution of grape juice
32 raises the question of whether the Lord’s instruction is being heeded. AND
- 33 **WHEREAS,** There is some question and doubt regarding whether “non alcoholic” wine can be
34 considered true wine. AND
- 35 **WHEREAS,** We must be evangelical in our actions toward communicants who suffer from various
36 medical conditions that may make the drinking of even a small amount of alcohol difficult.
37 THEREFORE BE IT
- 38 **RESOLVED:** That pastors and congregations of the South Dakota District be reminded that only true
39 wine is to be used in the celebration of the Sacrament; AND BE IT FURTHER
- 40 **RESOLVED:** That pastors and congregations of the South Dakota District explore evangelical and
41 biblically/confessionally faithful ways of administering the Sacrament to Christians who
42 have an intolerance to alcohol; AND BE IT FINALLY

43

44

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

45 **RESOLVED:** That in all worship services held at District events such as conventions and conferences,
46 only wine be used in the celebration of the Sacrament.

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

Respectfully Submitted,

Freeman Circuit (Circuit 6) of the SD District

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-01**

2
3
4 **SUBJECT: TO CELEBRATE AND LIVE OUT THE “GOD’S GOSPEL: SALVATION POWER” THEME**

5
6 **WHEREAS,** The theme of this 63RD Convention of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church –
7 Missouri Synod – *God’s Gospel: Salvation Power* (Romans 1:16-17) -- has been chosen to
8 highlight that we, as a District comprised of 105 congregations, have the blessed status as God’s
9 redeemed people only by the power of the Gospel; AND

10
11 **WHEREAS,** The Word of God makes it clear that it is the work of the Holy Spirit to turn unregenerate people
12 from their sin and to bring them to faith through the Gospel (2 Thess. 2:14, Rom. 1:17; Rom.
13 10:17; I Pet. 1:23, 25; Eph. 1:13, et al.); AND

14
15 **WHEREAS,** Our Savior spoke of His disciples of every age as people whom He would employ as His
16 “witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8);
17 AND

18
19 **WHEREAS,** God’s Word continues to impress upon His Church that “now is the favorable time; behold, now
20 is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2); AND

21
22 **WHEREAS,** There are countless opportunities in the rural, small town, and city settings of South Dakota to
23 impact our neighbors through words of Gospel witness and deeds of love; AND

24
25 **WHEREAS,** According to the U.S. Religion Census website (www.usreligioncensus.org), that of the 886,667
26 residents of South Dakota (2020 Census), 55.38% (or 491,026 people) are “adherents” of a
27 religion, while 395,641 South Dakotans have no religious affiliation; AND

28
29 **WHEREAS,** The “Objectives” of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as stated in its Constitution (Article
30 III. 1-2) recognizes the priorities of: 1) conserving and promoting the unity of the true faith; and,
31 2) strengthening congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to
32 the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extending that Gospel witness
33 into all the world; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

34
35 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation, ministry, and school of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran
36 Church—Missouri Synod emphasize, on the basis of God’s inspired Word, that being witnesses
37 is not something we must do under the Law of God, but rather being witnesses is a matter of
38 who we are under the Gospel and the Grace of God; AND BE IT FURTHER

39
40 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation, ministry, and school of the District be encouraged to explore various
41 ways that congregations, ministries, schools, and individuals may be more intentional in their
42 lives as witnesses (with the help of such resources as the Synod’s *Every One His Witness*
43 materials, e.g.), AND BE IT FINALLY

44
45 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District, through its Mission and Ministry Council and District staff, and
46 led by the *God’s Gospel: Salvation Power* theme, provide encouragement and resources that
47 will better equip congregations, ministries, schools and individuals in their lives and service as
48 bold, unashamed witnesses.

49
50 Respectfully Submitted,

51
52 _____
53 Reverend Steven Weisfpennig, Chairman

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66

Reverend David Otten

DCE Elizabeth Peters

Mr. Adam Schulz

Mr. Scot Eisenbraun

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-02**

2
3 **SUBJECT: TO RECOGNIZE INDIVIDUALS AND WELCOME THEM INTO THE SOUTH DAKOTA**
4 **DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD**

5
6 **WHEREAS,** During the triennium following the 2021 62nd Convention of The South Dakota District, the
7 following individuals became rostered members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
8 – Ministers of Religion – Ordained;

9

<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Ray Anderson	Dennis Mercer	Joseph Greenmyer	Thomas Penrod
Thomas Mueller			

10 AND

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

14

<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Michael Leapley	Sierra Geistfeld	Kristi Prouty	
Leanne Holdorf		Jade Fjelstad	

15 AND

16
17
18 **WHEREAS,** The membership of the above individuals is held in The South Dakota District of The
19 Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod; THEREFORE BE IT

20
21 **RESOLVED:** That this 63rd Convention of The South Dakota District recognize and welcome the above
22 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 use
25 them to extend God’s kingdom here on earth.

26
27 Respectfully Submitted,

28
29
30 _____
31 Reverend Steven Weispfennig, Chairman

32
33 _____
34 Reverend David Otten

35
36 _____
37 DCE Elizabeth Peters

38
39 _____
40 Mr. Adam Schulz

41
42 _____
43 Mr. Scot Eisenbraun
44
45

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-03**

2
3 **SUBJECT: TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT**
4 **OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD CONCERNING THE EXECUTIVE**
5 **OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT**

6
7 **RATIONALE:**

8 In 2022, during a time of vacancy in the Executive Secretary’s position, the District’s Board
9 of Directors divided the former Executive Secretary’s position into the District’s two current
10 Executive Officer positions: one is full-time (the Assistant to the President), and the other
11 is part-time (the Education Executive). The ministry descriptions for these two current
12 positions are included in the Administration section of the Convention Workbook. But, in
13 summary, these officers assist the District President in the District’s work in areas such as
14 subsidized ministries, missions, stewardship, and education. The current Executive Office
15 known as “Assistant to the President” replaces most of the duties of the former position in
16 the District known as “Executive Secretary.” The current Executive Office titled “Education
17 Executive” is new. This office is responsible for providing resources, direction, and
18 encouragement to the faculties and staffs of the LCMS schools in the South Dakota District.
19 Having the knowledge and ability to assist in the calling of commissioned ministers and
20 being well-versed in school legislation and regulations makes the Education Executive
21 position in the District extremely valuable to our schools and their leaders.

22
23 This change in District administration, implemented by the Board of Directors, has led to
24 the necessity of updating certain Bylaws of the District. The amendments being proposed
25 here will allow for greater flexibility in staffing in the District. And they will allow for greater
26 attention to areas calling for greater expertise, such as is being done with the current
27 Education Executive position.

28
29 **WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the Synod, Article XII (Districts of the Synod and Their Regulation),
30 says in section 12, “The districts are independent in the administration of affairs which concern
31 their district only, it being understood, however, that such administration shall always serve the
32 interests of the Synod.”; AND

33
34 **WHEREAS,** The District’s Board of Directors has found it beneficial to serve the interests of the Synod
35 in this place by employing up to two Executive Officers to assist the District President in
36 his work, especially in the areas of subsidized ministries, missions, and education; AND

37
38 **WHEREAS,** Assigning an Executive Officer the added responsibility of ensuring that “Biblical principles
39 of stewardship are promoted throughout the District,” fulfills Synod Bylaw 4.6.1, which says
40 that “each district shall elect or appoint a committee, board, or individual responsible for
41 stewardship.”; THEREFORE BE IT

42
43 **RESOLVED:** That the Bylaws of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be
44 amended and adopted as follows, contingent on approval by the Synod’s Commission on
45 Constitutional Matters:

46 [~~PRESENT/PROPOSED~~ WORDING]

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

50
51 1.25 Responsibility [of the Board of Directors]

- 52 a. The Board of Directors shall be responsible to the District for its official actions and shall
53 render a report of its activities to the District Convention or as often as the District may call
54 upon it to do so.
- 55 b. The Board of Directors shall consult and plan with the ~~Executive Secretary~~ Executive
56 Officers regarding all matters of program development, especially in the areas of District
57 subsidized ministries, missions, stewardship and education, and with the Business
58 Manager regarding financial development.
- 59 c. The setting of the budget shall be done by the Board of Directors taking into consideration
60 the recommendations of the Planning Process of the District.

61

62 **III. ~~EXECUTIVE SECRETARY~~ EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

63 3.01 ~~Appointment and Responsibility~~ Accountability

- 64 a. Executive Officers may be appointed by the Board of Directors to assist the District
65 President in the work of the District, particularly in the areas of District subsidized ministries,
66 missions, stewardship, and education. These Executive Officers shall be accountable to
67 the Board and supervised by the District President. The Executive Secretary of the Board
68 is appointed by the Board of Directors with the approval of the then District President, to be
69 its Executive Officer, and as such shall be under its supervision. The Board of Directors
70 shall provide him them with a job descriptions and guidelines of his their duties.

71 3.03 ~~Term of Office~~ Terms of Office

- 72 a. His Their terms of office shall be for three years, reckoned from the time of the meeting of
73 the Board of Directors at which they are appointed. The appointments are to be made within
74 six months the first regular meeting of the Board of Directors, following an election a regular
75 Convention of the District.
- 76 b. There are no term limits for the Executive Officers, but they are to go through the process
77 of re-appointment each triennium following their initial appointment.
- 78 c. If there are vacancies in these offices, the Board of Directors may fill them as they see fit.

79

80

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

88

89

90

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Steven Weispfennig, Chairman

Reverend David Otten

DCE Elizabeth Peters

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

91
92
93
94
95
96

Mr. Adam Schulz

Mr. Scot Eisenbraun

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-04**

2

3 **SUBJECT: TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT**
4 **OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD CONCERNING ELECTIONS HELD**
5 **AT THE DISTRICT CONVENTION**

6

7 **RATIONALE:** At the 2021 District Convention, some changes were made to the Bylaws of the District
8 reflecting the policy of the Synod that women may serve on Boards of Directors of Districts
9 and the Synod (2021 District Res. 1-05). Simple amendments, such as changing “layman”
10 to “layperson,” were made to the Bylaws in order to use language that makes this more
11 clear. But in the Election Procedure section of the Bylaws, it was discovered that two
12 references to this layman/layperson or laymen/laypeople distinction were missed by the
13 last convention. The adoption of this resolution will correct those errors.

14

15 Additionally, at the last Synod Convention (2023), clarity was given to election procedures
16 for District offices, including for elections other than for President, Vice-Presidents, and
17 Circuit Visitors (2023 Synod Res. 9-02, Section H). That proposed clarification is found in
18 the 5.09 section of the District’s Bylaws (found on the second page of this resolution).

19

20 **WHEREAS,** It is the desire and the obligation of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—
21 Missouri Synod to honor LC-MS convention resolutions and the resulting changes to the
22 *Handbook of the Synod*, including those that pertain to the governing documents of LCMS
23 entities (LCMS Bylaw 1.3.6, 2nd Restated Articles of Incorporation of The South Dakota
24 District, Article III.C); AND

25

26 **WHEREAS,** Where errors are discovered, they should be corrected, since we are to conduct ourselves
27 “decently and in order” (1 Cor. 14:40); THEREFORE BE IT

28

29 **RESOLVED:** That the Bylaws of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be
30 amended and adopted as follows, contingent on approval by the Synod’s Commission on
31 Constitutional Matters:

32

33 [~~PRESENT/PROPOSED~~ WORDING]

34

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

37

38

39 **V. ELECTION PROCEDURE**

40 5.01 Time of Election and Term of Office

41 a. The President, Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the two ~~laymen~~
42 laypeople on the Board of Directors shall be elected in the District Convention.

43 b. All officers and members of the Board of Directors shall serve for terms of three years
44 or until their successors shall have qualified.

45 [There is no 5.02.]

46 5.03 Order of Election

47 a. The order for electing District officers shall be as follows:

48 1. President

49 2. Vice-Presidents

50 3. Secretary

51 4. Treasurer

52 5. Two ~~Laymen~~ Laypeople for Board of Directors

53 6. Circuit Visitors

54 7. District Member of Synodical Nominating Committee (as required)

55 8. Other committees (as necessary).

56

57 [The other bylaws in this section concern the nomination and election of the President, Vice-
58 Presidents, and Circuit Visitors, which bylaws require no changes.]

59

60 5.09 Elections of Other Officers

61 a. Elections of all officers other than District President, Vice-Presidents, and Circuit
62 Visitors shall be from the slate of candidates developed by the Committee on
63 Nominations or as otherwise specified.

64 b. Names of candidates are to be placed on the slate in alphabetical order without
65 distinctive marks, subject to approval by the Convention. Additional candidates may
66 be placed in nomination by the Convention, such nominations to include the written
67 consent of the nominee to serve.

68 c. A majority of all votes cast (disregarding voided ballots) shall be required to elect.

69 ~~d. In the event that no candidate receives the required majority vote, balloting shall~~
70 ~~continue until there is an election, in which case the candidate(s) receiving the smallest~~
71 ~~number of votes shall be eliminated from the balloting in each instance.~~

72 d. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving
73 the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast
74 shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent
75 or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute
76 the ballot.

77 e. There shall be no balloting during recess or after adjournment.

78

79 Respectfully Submitted,

80

81

82

83

Reverend Steven Weispfennig, Chairman

84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96

Reverend David Otten

DCE Elizabeth Peters

Mr. Adam Schulz

Mr. Scot Eisenbraun

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-05**

2
3 **SUBJECT: SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT TO RATIFY CONGREGATIONAL VOTE TO RESCIND**
4 **1976 DISTRICT CONVENTION RES. 3-03 REGARDING THE *LUTHERAN WITNESS***

5
6 **RATIONALE:** A 1976 District Convention resolution (3-03) required that "...each congregation should be
7 billed for its share of the *Lutheran Witness* blanket subscription" and that "the blanket
8 subscription of our entire District be continued until a District Convention declines to
9 continue it." The congregations of The South Dakota District have dutifully provided the
10 *Lutheran Witness* to their households since that time. However, the cost for a subscription
11 to the *Lutheran Witness* has risen dramatically in recent years, from \$11.25/subscription
12 for 2022, to \$17.21/subscription for 2023, and close to \$20/subscription for 2024. The
13 District's Board of Directors regard this increase as a financial challenge for many
14 congregations. And they felt there was too much time until the next District Convention to
15 change the policy by means of the usual method of conducting business: by convention
16 action. Therefore, in their September 2023 meeting, the Board asked the District President
17 to request a vote by the congregations of the District on whether to rescind the blanket
18 subscription policy. This novel action of putting such a matter to a vote of congregations
19 was based on Articles XII.2, XII.6, and XI.B.8 of the Synod's Constitution.

20
21 After District President Sailer put the vote to the congregations in the last quarter of 2023,
22 seventy-five of the District's one hundred and six congregations participated in the vote,
23 with fifty-four congregations voting "yes" (to rescind 1976 Convention Res. 3-03) and with
24 twenty-one congregations voting "no." The vote to rescind passed by a seventy two %
25 majority.

26
27 In addition to that strong congregational vote to rescind the 1976 resolution, the Board of
28 Directors believes that the adoption of this resolution will officially uphold the requirement
29 of 1976 Convention Res. 3-03 that "the blanket subscription of our entire District be
30 continued until a District Convention declines to continue it."

31
32 **WHEREAS,** The 1976 South Dakota District Convention (Res. 3-03) had required that each District
33 congregation should be billed for its share of the *Lutheran Witness* subscription; AND

34 **WHEREAS,** The same resolution also required that this "blanket subscription" policy was to continue
35 until "a District Convention declined to continue it"; AND

36 **WHEREAS,** A congregational vote in 2023, put forward by the District President between District
37 conventions (per Synod Constitution Articles XI and XII), determined that the policy should
38 be rescinded, having passed by a 72% majority; THEREFORE BE IT

39 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District in convention ratify the congregational vote of 2023 to
40 rescind the blanket subscription, thus honoring the decline-to-continue clause of 1976
41 District Convention Res. 3-03; AND BE IT FURTHER

42 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations of the District encourage their members to subscribe on their own
43 to the *Lutheran Witness*, the "official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,"
44 or to otherwise make the *Lutheran Witness* available to their members; AND BE IT
45 FINALLY

46 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations of the District be thanked and commended for having provided the
47 *Lutheran Witness* to their member households for nearly fifty years.

48
49
50

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59

60
61
62

63
64
65

66
67

68

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Steven Weispfennig, Chairman

Reverend David Otten

DCE Elizabeth Peters

Mr. Adam Schulz

Mr. Scot Eisenbraun

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-06**

2
3 **SUBJECT: TO RESCIND 2003 DISTRICT CONVENTION RESOLUTION 1-04 CONCERNING THE**
4 **TRIENNIAL DISTRICT PLANNING CONFERENCE**

5
6 **WHEREAS,** The Annual Planning Conference of the South Dakota District was instituted by the 54th
7 Regular Convention of the District, in 1997, via adoption of Resolution 2-02, to assist the
8 Board of Directors in planning the ministries of the District; AND

9
10 **WHEREAS,** 1997 Convention Resolution 2-02 also specified that the Annual Planning Conference was
11 to involve the members of the Board of Directors of the District, the Circuit Counselors, a
12 lay representative from each circuit, the Chairman of each ministry area, the District LWML
13 President, the District LLL President, the District Personal Stewardship Counselor, and the
14 District Executive Staff; AND

15
16 **WHEREAS,** The 56th Regular Convention of the District (2003 Res. 1-04) changed the frequency of the
17 Planning Conference from being an annual event to a triennial event; AND

18
19 **WHEREAS,** 2003 District Convention Resolution 1-04 also mandated that the Triennial Planning
20 Conferences are to be conducted in the “year when the Circuit Convocations are to be
21 held,” that is, in the non-Convention year of the triennium (cf. Synod Bylaw 5.4.1); AND

22
23 **WHEREAS,** The same 2003 resolution stated in one of the resolved’s that “in the other two years
24 conferences, circuits, congregations and individuals be encouraged to submit to our Board
25 of Directors and/or the Program Area Chairmen mission and ministry opportunities”; AND

26
27 **WHEREAS,** Input into the planning and work of the ministries of the District can be sought from those
28 entities in a variety of ways, including by the District staff, by Circuit Visitors in Winkels and
29 in visits to congregations, and by committees established by the District (including the
30 current Mission and Ministry Council); THEREFORE BE IT

31
32 **RESOLVED:** That the requirement of conducting a Triennial Planning Conference in the non-Convention
33 year, from the 2003 District Convention Res. 1-04, be rescinded. AND BE IT FINALLY

34
35 **RESOLVED:** The District Board of Directors may call a Planning Conference as it sees fit.

36
37
38 Respectfully Submitted,

39
40
41 _____
42 Reverend Steven Weispfennig, Chairman

43
44 _____
45 Reverend David Otten

46
47 _____
48 DCE Elizabeth Peters

49
50 _____
51 Mr. Adam Schulz

52
53 _____
54 Mr. Scot Eisenbraun

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-07 (Overtures 1-08, 1-09)**

2
3 **SUBJECT: DISTRICT OFFICERS SERVING CONGREGATIONS AS ASSISTING PASTORS**

4
5 **WHEREAS,** In keeping with Article VII of the Augsburg Confession, where the Church is defined as
6 "the congregation of saints, in which the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments are
7 rightly administered;" AND

8
9 **WHEREAS,** The Church faces an urgent need for qualified men to serve congregations in accordance
10 with Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession which states: "no one should publicly teach
11 in the Church or administer the Sacraments unless he be regularly called;" AND

12
13 **WHEREAS,** There are offices of the South Dakota District that are filled by ordained men; AND

14
15 **WHEREAS,** Prior to 1974 the District President served a congregation and was District President.
16 Since 1974 the District President has served full time; AND

17
18 **WHEREAS,** The District bylaws 2.05 e. is the only restriction to the District President; AND

19
20 **WHEREAS,** The call to serve in the pastoral office is the primary and most essential office in the
21 church, and service to the Synod in administrative offices are established to support the
22 work of the pastoral office; THEREFORE BE IT

23
24 **RESOLVED:** That the Bylaws of the South Dakota District of the LCMS be amended to allow any
25 ordained men serving in offices of the District to also accept a call to serve a
26 congregation as an assisting Pastor AND BE IT FURTHER

27
28 **RESOLVED:** That given the gravity of the Office of Holy Ministry and the necessity of the effective
29 support from the District officers, serving a congregational call may be a voluntary choice
30 for ordained men serving in a District Office. AND BE IT FINALLY

31
32 **RESOLVED:** That the Bylaw 2.05 e., which reads "*He shall not serve a congregation as its Vacancy*
33 *Pastor,*" be changed to "*He may serve as an assisting pastor.*"

34
35 Respectfully Submitted,

36
37
38 _____
39 Reverend Steven Weispfennig, Chairman

40
41 _____
42 DCE Liz Peters

43
44 _____
45 Reverend David Otten

46
47 _____
48 Mr. Adam Schulz

49
50 _____
Mr. Scot Eisenbraun

RESOLUTION: 1-10

SUBJECT: TO CONSIDER HOLDING FUTURE DISTRICT EVENTS SUCH AS CONVENTIONS, PASTORS CONFERENCES AND PLANNING CONFERENCES IN LCMS CHURCHES OR LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, The South Dakota District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) values the importance of fostering a strong sense of community and fellowship among its members; AND

WHEREAS, Holding District Conventions in churches or Lutheran schools can provide a more spiritually enriching environment, conducive to worship, prayer, and theological reflection; AND

WHEREAS, Utilizing church and school facilities can help strengthen the connection between the district's administrative activities and its congregational and educational ministries; AND

WHEREAS, Gathering in churches or Lutheran schools can serve as a witness to the broader community, showcasing the vibrant faith and commitment of the LCMS; AND

WHEREAS, Significant cost savings can be achieved by using church and school facilities, allowing for better allocation of District funds towards mission and ministry initiatives; AND

WHEREAS, Hosting District events in these settings can promote stewardship by making use of existing resources within the LCMS community, potentially reducing costs associated with external venues; AND

WHEREAS, Many existing church and school facilities have ample space to accommodate large gatherings, ensuring that the needs of all attendees are met; AND

WHEREAS, It was the example of our Synod to hold national conventions in churches until the conventions grew too large, but our district conventions can still be held in such facilities; AND

WHEREAS, Potential challenges such as accessibility, capacity, and technological requirements can be addressed by working closely with host sites to ensure that all logistical needs are met, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the South Dakota District Board of Directors will consider holding future District events such as conventions, pastors' conferences and planning conferences in LCMS Churches or Lutheran schools whenever feasible; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That the District will work collaboratively with District congregations and District schools to identify suitable locations and ensure that the necessary logistical arrangements are made.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Steven Weispfennig, Chairman

Reverend David Otten

54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62

DCE Elizabeth Peters

Mr. Adam Schulz

Mr. Scot Eisenbraun

RESOLUTION: 1-11

SUBJECT: TO STABILIZE THE COST OF BENEFITS OFFERED BY CONCORDIA PLAN SERVICES

WHEREAS, Concordia Plan Services (CPS) provides significant blessings to workers enrolled in their health, retirement, and disability plans; AND

WHEREAS, The cost of the Concordia Health Plan, Retirement Plan, and Disability Plan offered by CPS is a substantial expense borne by congregations, schools, and other ministries of the LCMS; AND

WHEREAS, The pool of workers available to enroll in the CPS benefit plans is relatively small; AND

WHEREAS, A larger pool of workers contributing to the health plan, retirement plan, and disability plan would provide the opportunity to spread expenses over a larger membership base and would increase the ability of Concordia Plan Services to negotiate with vendors; AND

WHEREAS, There are other church bodies with whom we agree in biblical morality and medical ethics; AND

WHEREAS, Our doctrine permits us to cooperate in externals with other church bodies in non-doctrinal matters; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Synod in convention would amend the Synod's Bylaws so that Concordia Plan Services can serve a wider population, by working with other church bodies to increase collective worker enrollment, in order to stabilize the overall cost of the benefits offered by CPS.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Steven Weispfennig, Chairman

Reverend David Otten

DCE Elizabeth Peters

Mr. Adam Schulz

Mr. Scot Eisenbraun

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-12**

2
3 **SUBJECT: TO THANK THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT AND TO CONFER**
4 **THE TITLE OF “PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT”**

5
6 **WHEREAS,** The Reverend Dr. Scott C. Sailer has provided our District with faithful pastoral
7 leadership as District President for the past ten years; AND

8
9 **WHEREAS,** The District President has reflected upon the “God’s Gospel: Salvation Power” theme in
10 his convention report; AND

11
12 **WHEREAS,** The District President has provided invaluable pastoral leadership in his articles in the
13 Lutheran Witness and the District President’s E-Mail Newsletter, in his visitations and
14 preaching in many congregations for special occasions, and in his presence and
15 participation in many District functions; AND

16
17 **WHEREAS,** President Sailer has announced his retirement following the installation of our next
18 District President; THEREFORE BE IT

19
20 **RESOLVED:** That we thank the Reverend Dr. Scott C. Sailer for his faithful pastoral leadership; AND
21 BE IT FURTHER

22
23 **RESOLVED:** That this convention confer upon the Reverend Dr. Scott C. Sailer the title of “President
24 Emeritus of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod”; AND
25 BE IT FURTHER

26
27 **RESOLVED:** That we give thanks to God for His servant the Reverend Dr. Scott C. Sailer; AND BE IT
28 FINALLY

29
30 **RESOLVED:** That following the adoption of this Resolution the assembly will rise and sing the last
31 verse of the hymn, “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness” (LSB#563)

32
33 “Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
34 Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
35 For me, and all Thy hands have made,
36 An everlasting ransom paid.”

37
38 Respectfully Submitted,

39
40 _____
41 Reverend Steve Weispfennig, Chairman

42
43 _____
44 DCE Liz Peters

45
46 _____
47 Reverend David Otten

48
49 _____
50 Mr. Adam Schulz

51
52 _____
53 Mr. Scot Eisenbraun

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-01**

2
3 **SUBJECT: LCMS SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT TO CONTINUE TOGETHER IN MISSION (TIM)**
4 **SUPPORT AND TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONAL INVOLVEMENT THEREIN**

5
6 **RATIONALE:**

7 Since the 53rd Convention of The South Dakota District (1994), the District in Convention
8 has adopted resolutions to partner with missionaries in a variety of mission fields. The
9 initial District Convention resolution, Resolution 1-02 (1994), resolved that the financial gifts
10 given to Together In Mission (TIM) by District congregations were to be “over and above”
11 each congregation’s regular offerings for Synod and District mission support. By District
12 Convention action, those missionaries or projects receiving support from District
13 congregations through Together In Mission since 1994 have been:

- 14 • Amy Kashenov serving in Kazakhstan (1994-2012)
- 15 • Global Seminary Initiative, seminaries in Tanzania, Africa and Novosibirsk, Russia
16 (2013-14)
- 17 • Rev. Dr. Alan Ludwig, instructor at the Lutheran seminary in Novosibirsk, Russia
18 (2015-2018)
- 19 • Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, serving in Southeast Asia and Rev. David Warner, serving in
20 Spain (2018-2021)
- 21 • Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, Southeast Asia, and Rev. Dr. Corey Rajek, serving in Eurasia
22 (2021-2025).

23
24
25 Then, late in 2023, the District President, at the Board of Directors’ urging (and apart from
26 District Convention action), put to the congregations the opportunity to support, via TIM,
27 other missionaries from South Dakota sent to overseas mission fields in the past triennium.
28 By a majority vote (72-3), the measure was adopted. At the time, Rev. Samuel Bobby was
29 serving in Latvia, and Revs. Jordon Andreasen and Jonah Domenichelli, had received
30 notice of calls to Romania and Germany, respectively. The two, subsequently, accepted
31 the calls. All three – Missionaries Bobby, Andreasen, and Domenichelli – began receiving
32 TIM support from South Dakota, toward the end of the past triennium. Meanwhile, Rev.
33 Dr. Cory Rajek’s TIM support ended after the District’s 2023 fiscal year, because he
34 became the Executive Director of the Office of International Mission of the LCMS.

35
36 For the coming triennium, convention delegates are asked to consider renewing the LCMS
37 South Dakota District’s commitment to support God’s mission efforts abroad through the
38 TIM program.

39
40 **WHEREAS,** God’s mission (the *Missio Dei*, which belongs to Him and His love for the world) centers in
41 the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16-17); AND

42
43 **WHEREAS,** Just as God the Father sent (*apostello*) His Son Jesus into the world, Jesus sends all
44 believers into the world to “seek and to save the lost” (John 20:21-23; Luke 19:10); AND

45
46 **WHEREAS,** The Lord continues to call His Church from among the nations around the world to work
47 mutually in sending and receiving “laborers for the harvest” until that day when our Lord’s
48 mission is complete (Ephesians 4:1-7; Matthew 9:35-10:1); AND

49
50 **WHEREAS,** In Article 3.2, “Objectives” of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Constitution,
51 it states that the Synod shall “strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold
52 witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
53 and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;” AND

- 54
55 **WHEREAS,** Continued support by District congregations of a Together In Mission project is faithful to
56 Christ's desire for His Church and to the Synod's stated objectives; THEREFORE BE IT
57
58 **RESOLVED:** That the District in convention affirm and ratify the 2023 vote by congregations of the
59 District to add to its TIM offering recipients those pastors from South Dakota who accepted
60 calls to overseas mission work, late in the past triennium; AND BE IT FURTHER
61
62 **RESOLVED:** That the District in convention express its thanks to God for blessing the mission work of
63 the last triennium's (Dec. 2021 – Feb. 2025) Together In Mission recipients: Rev. Dr. Daniel
64 Jastram, missionary to Southeast Asia; Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek, Rev. Samuel Bobby, Rev.
65 Jordon Andreasen, and Rev. Jonah Domenichelli, missionaries to Eurasia; AND BE IT
66 FURTHER
67
68 **RESOLVED:** That the District congregations adopt Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, missionary to Southeast
69 Asia, and missionaries to Eurasia: Rev. Jordon Andreasen (Romania), Rev. Samuel Bobby
70 (Latvia), and Rev. Jonah Domenichelli (Germany), as the recipients of the District's TIM
71 offerings, in equal measure, for the 2025-2028 triennium; AND BE IT FURTHER
72
73 **RESOLVED:** That should other missionaries from South Dakota be called to overseas LCMS missionary
74 service in the next triennium, they, too, will receive an equal share of the District's TIM
75 support for the balance of the triennium; AND BE IT FURTHER
76
77 **RESOLVED:** That should any of these missionaries retire from active missionary service or return from
78 the mission field before 2028, the balance of the TIM offerings will go in equal measure to
79 the missionaries still remaining in the field. If all of these workers should retire or return
80 from the mission field before our next convention, the South Dakota District's Board of
81 Directors will determine which missionary or missionaries will receive our congregations'
82 TIM offerings for the remainder of the triennium; AND BE IT FURTHER
83
84 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation of The South Dakota District, regardless of size, be encouraged
85 to partner with the other District congregations by 1) remembering the work of missionaries
86 Jastram, Bobby, Andreasen, and Domenichelli in their corporate and individual prayers
87 and 2) by providing an annual commitment to TIM over and above their regular support of
88 Synod and District missions; AND BE IT FINALLY
89
90 **RESOLVED:** That the District President and the Assistant to the President work with the Office of
91 International Mission of the LCMS to arrange for possible FOROs (Spanish for *forum*) in
92 the Eurasia mission field, in the coming triennium, to give members of South Dakota District
93 congregations the on-site opportunity to learn and serve and to encourage our missionaries
94 and their families (cf. 2023 Synod Res. 2-07A).
95
96

97 Respectfully Submitted,
98
99

100 _____
101 Reverend Greg Lehr, Chairman
102

103 _____
104 Commissioned Minister Hope Genzlinger
105

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

106

107

108

Reverend Chris Davis

109

110

111

Mr. Dave Peterson

112

113

114

Mr. Brad Schardin

115

116

117

118

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-02**

2
3 **SUBJECT: TO CONTINUE THE MISSION AND MINISTRY COUNCIL FOR THE SUPPORT OF**
4 **WORKERS AND MINISTRIES**

5
6 **BACKGROUND:**

7 Over the years, the South Dakota District has utilized various committee structures for
8 providing resources to the ministries and workers within the District. For example, the
9 Service Area format was in place from 2006 through 2021 (cf. 2006 Res. 1-34); those
10 Service Areas were identified as Outreach, Parish Services, and Young Adult and Youth.

11 While the Service Area structure provided many blessings in the 15 years of its existence,
12 the types, sources, and delivery of ministry resources for church workers, congregations,
13 and schools changed dramatically in this electronic age. Our workers often find it more
14 convenient to turn to the internet for resources than to rely on and wait for resources
15 produced by the District. Moreover, recruiting our already busy church workers for service
16 on the committees of our District has grown more challenging.

17 Therefore, at the 2021 Convention of the District, the Service Area structure was
18 “suspended for the 2022-2025 triennium,” and in its place a “Mission and Ministry Council”
19 comprised of representatives from every circuit in the District was authorized for the 2021-
20 2025 triennium (cf. 2021 Res. 2-04). At this time, the Mission and Ministry Council has 10
21 members (8 laypeople, 1 commissioned minister, and 1 ordained minister) and 4 advisory
22 members (the District President, 1st Vice-President, the Assistant to the President, and the
23 District’s Education Executive). The Council is chaired by one of the laypersons and is
24 “supervised” by the Assistant to the President. Members are appointed by the District
25 President and 1st Vice-President.

26 Since it began operating in December of 2022, the Mission and Ministry Council has helped
27 to organize the P.A.S.S. It On! congregational resource workshops in November 2023 and
28 November 2024, and a Men’s Retreat, held in December 2023, in Brookings, and another
29 held in the Black Hills, the summer of 2024.

30 **WHEREAS,** In the past triennium, the Mission and Ministry Council structure of providing support and
31 ministry resources has resulted in providing a variety of helpful events that have brought
32 together church workers and church members for fellowship, education, and equipping for
33 service; AND

34 **WHEREAS,** The involvement and interaction of laypersons and church workers on the Council has been
35 particularly dynamic, yielding fresh ideas for Christian growth and service; AND

36 **WHEREAS,** Per Resolution 2-04 (2021), the Mission and Ministry Council and Board of Directors have
37 been charged to bring a plan for ongoing structure to provide support and ministry
38 resources, the Board of Directors of the LCMS South Dakota District recommends
39 continuing the Mission and Ministry Council concept; THEREFORE BE IT

40 **RESOLVED:** That the Mission and Ministry Council format be affirmed and that it be authorized by this
41 Convention of the District for continuation; AND BE IT FINALLY

42 **RESOLVED:** That the 63rd Regular Convention of the LCMS South Dakota District affirm these goals
43 for the work of the Mission and Ministry Council, as put forward in the original 2021 Res.
44 2-04:

- 45 1) Identify the pressing human and spiritual needs of our neighbors, especially
46 that of hearing the Gospel;

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

- 47 2) Identify the pressing personal and ministry needs of LCMS church workers
48 and the needs and opportunities of LCMS congregations, schools, and other
49 ministries in South Dakota;
- 50 3) Prioritize the needs and plan ways to address those needs and opportunities;
- 51 4) Make provision to implement vehicles to address needs and opportunities
52 (e.g., assigning ad hoc committees, conducting workshops, producing
53 resources); and
- 54 5) Consider possible superior structures to provide support and ministry
55 resources to church workers and congregations, schools, and other
56 ministries.

57

58

Respectfully Submitted,

59

60

61

Reverend Greg Lehr, Chairman

62

63

64

Hope Genzlinger, Commissioned Minister

65

66

67

Reverend Chris Davis

68

69

70

Mr. Dave Peterson

71

72

73

Mr. Brad Schardin

74

75

76

77

78

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-03**

2 **SUBJECT: TO CONTINUE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT (LCMS)**
3 **AND LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE (IOWA)**

4
5 **HISTORY:**

6 In 2018, Lutheran Family Service of Iowa (LFS) approached the Board of Directors of the
7 South Dakota District about the possibility of working cooperatively in South Dakota. LFS
8 is a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. They are
9 owned by Missouri Synod congregations in Iowa and receive support from the Iowa East
10 and West Districts of the LCMS. They do not receive funding from any governmental
11 organization and so are free to practice our common Christian faith.

12
13 The District entered into an agreement with LFS in December 2019 for LFS (1) to be
14 available to consult with pastors and other church workers in the counseling work of the
15 parish, (2) to work with church workers and their families about issues that those individuals
16 and families are struggling with through telehealth counseling with counselors from LFS in
17 Iowa, and (3) to train people in South Dakota to help others in various areas such as Elder
18 Care, Dementia, Addictions, and Marriage challenges.

19
20 The 2021 South Dakota District Convention resolved “to expand this ministry by asking
21 God to open our eyes to whatever other good works “which God has prepared in advance,
22 that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10), and to “commit to LFS \$75,000 for 2022,
23 \$75,000 for 2023, and \$50,000 for 2024 to fund start-up costs and the operation of this
24 ministry”. Half of the money was to come “from gifts and bequests that the District has
25 received over the years and the other half would come from the congregations of the South
26 Dakota District as ‘an over and above’ giving similar to our present ‘Together in Mission
27 (TIM)’ gifts.”

28
29 In 2022 the District received \$54,192 for LFS from the congregations of the District, 2023-
30 -\$53,301, 2024 _____ . The goal for 2025 would be \$50,000. It will take a concerted
31 effort on the part of all the congregations of the District to reach this goal.

32
33 This commitment to LFS would be similar to the one the District makes with the Synod
34 concerning TIM. For TIM the District pledges \$40,000 a year and would take that amount
35 out of District funds if the money doesn’t come in from congregations. Every year the
36 congregations have provided significantly more than that: 2022-\$71,759, 2023-\$75,849,
37 2024- . Every dollar received for TIM is sent on to the Synod. In other words, we have
38 not had to take any money from District funds.

39
40 The pledge for LFS would be the same amount (\$40,000 annually) with the same
41 arrangement: every dollar received would be sent on to LFS and if we don’t receive enough
42 for the full pledge the money will be taken from District funds.

43
44 **WHEREAS;** The South Dakota District (LCMS) has been in partnership with Lutheran Family Service
45 (Iowa) since 2019. Lutheran Family Service has provided counseling, adoption and other
46 services to individuals, church workers and their families, as well as congregations. The
47 SD District has provided financial and other support to LFS, AND

48
49 **WHEREAS;** This arrangement has grown over the years to include counseling offices on both sides of
50 South Dakota as well as tele-health which is accessible throughout the State, AND

51
52 **WHEREAS;** The need for these services continues to grow exponentially, THEREFORE BE IT
53

To The 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

- 54 **RESOLVED:** That the current partnership be continued for the next triennium, AND BE IT FURTHER
55
56 **RESOLVED:** That together we will seek to expand this ministry by asking God to open our eyes to
57 whatever good works “which God has prepared in advance, that we should walk in them”
58 (Ephesians 2:10), AND BE IT FURTHER
59
60 **RESOLVED:** That the money for LFS would primarily come from the congregations of the South Dakota
61 District as money pledged and given over and above the regular contributions given for the
62 work of District and Synod. This would be in a similar way as the South Dakota District
63 funds its commitment to “Together in Mission,” AND BE IT FINALLY
64
65 **RESOLVED:** That this partnership with LFS would regularly be evaluated by the District Board of
66 Directors and that the 2028 District Convention would reassess the partnership at that time.
67

68 Respectfully Submitted,
69

70 _____
71 Reverend Greg Lehr, Chairman
72

73 _____
74 Hope Genzlinger, Commissioned Minister
75

76 _____
77 Reverend Chris Davis
78

79 _____
80 Mr. Dave Peterson

Mr. Brad Schardin

- 1 **RESOLUTION: 2-04**
2
- 3 **SUBJECT: TO ENCOURAGE WORKER WELLNESS AND IMPLEMENT A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR**
4 **ADDRESSING WORKER WELLNESS**
5
- 6 **WHEREAS,** Mankind is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26), and even in our fallen state God
7 continues to care and provide in great abundance (Isaiah 55:10 & Psalm 104:15-30); above
8 all the assurance of salvation through Jesus (John 3:16) so that we might share in His joy
9 for now and eternity (John 15:11) and that, as His people, we be well in body, mind, and
10 spirit (3 John 2-3); AND
- 11 **WHEREAS,** The devil, the world, and our sinful nature seek to rob and destroy the joy and health of all
12 people (John 10:10), including the men and women whom God has called into service as
13 ordained and commissioned ministers of the church by way of illness, discouragement,
14 disappointment, loneliness, and frustration, to the point that, according to reports by the
15 Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, 24 percent of church workers are diagnosed with
16 anxiety and depression and 40 percent have considered leaving the ministry due to
17 compounding stress; AND
- 18 **WHEREAS,** God, the One who gives many and various gifts, has blessed His world with people who
19 serve in a variety of vocations including health sciences and caregiving to serve our well-
20 being; AND
- 21 **WHEREAS,** 2021 District Convention Resolution 2-06 encouraged church workers and congregations
22 to “become familiar with and utilize the various tools and supports at their disposal to
23 restore, maintain, and increase their spiritual, emotional, relational, financial, vocational,
24 and physical wellness,” AND
- 25 **WHEREAS,** 2023 Synod Convention Resolution 1-06A directed the Council of Presidents to “prioritize
26 the matter of the wellness of church workers and their families through the development of
27 a strategic plan for worker care that can be disseminated to and replicated by the district
28 presidents,” AND
- 29 **WHEREAS,** 2023 Synod Convention Resolution 1-07 encouraged workers “to use the resources
30 available through Concordia Plan Services (such as the Employee Assistance Program)
31 or other similar programs not in conflict with our confession” and “congregations, circuit
32 visitors, and district presidents of the Synod be encouraged to support the mental well-
33 being of pastors and other professional church workers” and “each district of the Synod be
34 encouraged to make available a paid or volunteer district mental health advocate for
35 pastors and other professional church workers,” AND
- 36 **WHEREAS,** In extending a call to a worker the congregation obligates itself to support workers and
37 provide for them, including care for health and well-being; THEREFORE BE IT
- 38 **RESOLVED:** That church workers be encouraged to avail themselves of appropriate care to sustain and
39 regain spiritual, emotional, relational, financial, vocational, and physical wellness from
40 reputable agencies, such as mental health resources of Lutheran Family Service; AND BE
41 IT FURTHER
- 42
- 43 **RESOLVED:** That the District President, with the assistance of Lutheran Family Service Iowa (LFS) and
44 the District Parish Nurse Representative, develop and implement a strategic plan for

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

45 worker care congruent with recommendations of the Council of Presidents' strategic plan;
46 AND BE IT FURTHER

47 **RESOLVED:** That church workers and congregations become familiar with the common themes
48 surrounding the topic of worker wellness identified by Synod through worker surveys and
49 group discussions (<https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/church-worker-wellness>)
50 and utilize resources, tools, and supports in each area; AND BE IT FURTHER

51 **RESOLVED:** That congregations (including Chairmen and Board of Elders), ministry staff, Lutheran
52 School Boards, and Winkels be encouraged to designate appropriate time in meetings to
53 discussion and planning for worker wellness; AND BE IT FINALLY

54 **RESOLVED:** That ordained and commissioned ministers, congregations, and Lutheran schools give
55 thanks to God for the work that has been done in these areas and for the many and various
56 ways that the Lord provides for the needs of body and soul for all His people, joining with
57 St. Paul in saying, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your
58 reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about
59 anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests
60 be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will
61 guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

62

63

Respectfully Submitted,

64

65

66

67

Reverend Greg Lehr, Chairman

68

69

70

71

Hope Genzlinger, Commissioned Minister

72

73

74

75

Reverend Chris Davis

76

77

78

79

Mr. Dave Peterson

80

81

82

83

Mr. Brad Schardin

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
February 16-18 2025

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-05**

2
3 **SUBJECT: TO BUILD A CULTURE OF CHURCH WORK FORMATION AND RECRUITMENT**

4
5 **WHEREAS,** Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to
6 the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest (Matt. 9:37-38); AND

7
8 **WHEREAS,** Since 1847 to the present day, the LCMS frequently adopted resolutions in Synod
9 conventions to form and recruit pastors, teachers, Directors of Christian Education,
10 deaconesses, and other commissioned church workers to preach, teach, and share the
11 Gospel of Jesus for eternal salvation in these full-time vocations; AND

12
13 **WHEREAS,** In the last five years, approximately twice as many LCMS pastors have exited the pastoral
14 office (by retirement, resignation, or death) as there are newly called and ordained pastors,
15 helping to create a shortage of pastors; AND

16
17 **WHEREAS,** Commissioned minister formation programs in our Synod's universities, likewise, are not
18 producing enough graduates to keep up with the demand, helping to create a shortage of
19 commissioned ministers; THEREFORE, BE IT

20
21 **RESOLVED:** That the LCMS South Dakota District's Executive Officers and District President, working
22 with the Mission and Ministry Council, make it a priority to provide resources and sponsor
23 events to assist congregations, schools, and church workers in intentional church work
24 formation and recruitment; AND BE IT FURTHER

25
26 **RESOLVED:** That all congregations in the District be encouraged to provide generous grants to church
27 work students from their congregations and circuits, and make other intentional efforts to
28 recruit and encourage their children, youth, and adults to consider a full-time church work
29 vocation; AND BE IT FURTHER

30
31 **RESOLVED:** That all pastors, Lutheran teachers, other commissioned church workers, and laity
32 intentionally encourage children and youth to consider a full-time church work vocation;
33 AND BE IT FURTHER

34
35 **RESOLVED:** That South Dakota District congregations and schools be encouraged to make use of the
36 *Set Apart to Serve (SAS)* resources (found at lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve) and the SAS
37 church work recruitment curriculum (produced by Concordia Publishing House) and
38 available for download at cph.org/set-apart-to-serve-school-resource-kit); AND BE IT
39 FINALLY

40
41 **RESOLVED:** That both District and congregation leaders intentionally address the compensation of
42 church workers, foster church worker wellness, and encourage love and appreciation for
43 all ordained and commissioned ministers in the District's congregations and schools.

44
45 Respectfully Submitted,

46
47
48 _____
49 Reverend Greg Lehr, Chairman

50
51
52 _____
53 Hope Genzlinger, Commissioned Minister
54

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
February 16-18 2025

55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

Reverend Chris Davis

Mr. Dave Peterson

Mr. Brad Schardin

- 1 **RESOLUTION: 2-06**
2
3 **SUBJECT: ADOPTION— ONE OF GOD’S WAYS TO BUILD HIS FAMILY**
4
5 **WHEREAS,** In the Old Testament several people were adopted: Moses by Pharoah’s daughter, Esther
6 by Mordecai. Also, in the Old Testament there are many passages encouraging God’s
7 people to look out for widows and orphans: “Father of the fatherless and protector of
8 widows is God in his holy habitation” (Psalm 68:5), and “He executes justice for the
9 fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing”
10 (Deuteronomy 10:18), AND
11
12 **WHEREAS,** In the New Testament, already in the first chapter, adoption is front and center as Joseph
13 adopts Jesus. Adoption is also one way God describes how he chooses his people. “They
14 are the Israelites, and to them belongs the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of
15 the law, the worship, and promises” (Romans 9:4). “But when the fullness of time had
16 come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who
17 were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons,
18 God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Galatians 4:4-
19 6). “He predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to
20 the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us
21 in the Beloved” (Ephesians 1:6-7), AND
22
23 **WHEREAS,** In Baptism God has adopted us to be his own and he calls us to invite more into his family
24 by teaching his Word, baptizing through his Word, and living as his people, AND
25
26 **WHEREAS,** There are thousands of children across this country who are waiting to be adopted, AND
27
28 **WHEREAS,** There are many with special circumstances who are also waiting: embryos, those with
29 disabilities, older children/young adults, THEREFORE IT BE
30
31 **RESOLVED:** That congregations, schools, and church workers study the issue of adoption, AND BE IT
32 FURTHER
33
34 **RESOLVED:** That the use of educational materials from Lutherans for Life be studied and promoted,
35 AND BE IT FURTHER
36
37 **RESOLVED:** That we support the work of the various Crisis Pregnancy Centers in South Dakota such
38 as the Alpha Center, Option 1, Black Hills Pregnancy Center (among others) AND BE IT
39 FINALLY,
40
41 **RESOLVED:** That we promote the work of Lutheran Family Service (Iowa) and other Recognized Service
42 Organizations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who have been and continue to be
43 involved with adoption placement and support.
44

45
46 Respectfully Submitted,
47
48

49
50 _____
51 Reverend Greg Lehr, Chairman
52

53 _____
54 Hope Genzlinger, Commissioned Minister

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67

Reverend Chris Davis

Mr. Dave Peterson

Mr. Brad Schardin

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

- 1 **RESOLUTION:** 2-08
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO ADMINISTRATION OF THE LORD'S
4 SUPPER
5
6 **WHEREAS;** Jesus Christ Himself instituted the Sacrament of the Altar, and He used bread and wine in
7 His Supper (Mt. 26:26-27; 1 Cor. 11:27, 29); AND
8
9 **WHEREAS;** Many congregations have wrestled with the question of sacramentally using other liquids
10 made from grapes; AND
11
12 **WHEREAS;** The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of the Synod has produced
13 a Report in 1983 which is helpful in understanding practical concerns regarding the
14 administration of the Lord's Supper, and is in the process of producing a new document,
15 which includes information about the use of grape juice or other substitutes in the
16 sacrament (2023 Synod Res. 5-15); THEREFORE BE IT
17
18 **RESOLVED:** That South Dakota District pastors and congregations be urged to honor Synod Convention
19 resolutions concerning the use of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper
20 (1998 Res. 3-16b; 2001 Res. 3-16; and 2023 Res. 5-15); AND BE IT FURTHER
21
22 **RESOLVED:** That pastors and congregations of the South Dakota District explore evangelical, biblically,
23 and confessionally faithful ways of administering the Sacrament to Christians who have an
24 intolerance to alcohol; AND BE IT FINALLY
25
26 **RESOLVED:** That the District President in his role as ecclesiastical supervisor be encouraged to hold
27 theological conferences in the District regarding the theology and practice of the Lord's
28 Supper.

29
30 Respectfully Submitted,
31
32

33 _____
34 Reverend Greg Lehr, Chairman
35

36
37 _____
38 Hope Genzlinger, Commissioned Minister
39

40
41 _____
42 Reverend Chris Davis
43

44
45 _____
46 Mr. Dave Peterson
47

48
49 _____
50 Mr. Brad Schardin
51