

*(These minutes for Sessions 4-7 were adopted by the District Board of Directors on March 12, 2025 per the direction of the convention.)*

## Fourth Session

The meeting reconvened at 8:01 a.m. with a devotion from Convention Chaplain Aker.

Adoption of Minutes of Session 1 – 3. There was a motion and second to adopt the minutes. Minutes were **ADOPTED**.

Rev. Dr. Mosemann Committee 3 reported on the updated registration credentials.

Total Pastors eligible to vote in South Dakota	56
Lay members eligible to vote	64
Pastors in attendance today	50
Lay members in attendance today	59
Total voting delegates in attendance today	109
Votes required for majority if all vote today	55
Advisory delegates present today	29
Registered guests and staff present today	49
Total registration	187

It was moved and seconded to adopt the report. Registration and Credentials report for today is **ADOPTED**.

Floor committee #1 was invited to the podium to resume their work.

**RESOLUTION 1-11 TO STABILIZE THE COST OF BENEFITS OFFERED BY CONCORDIA PLAN SERVICES.** Rev. David Otten presented this resolution. The resolution was moved for adoption.

A lay delegate spoke in favor of this resolution, expressing his understanding that the WELS is looking into something like this as well. Rev. Otten responded on behalf of the committee, explaining that leadership of CPS is encouraged by this resolution. President Sailer said he has spoken to Mr. Jim Sanft, President and CEO of Concordia Plans Services, about this resolution. President Sailer said Mr. Sanft is thankful for this resolution.

A pastoral delegate asked a question about the different services and partnerships provided in CPS. How does this resolution affect current partnerships? Rev. Otten responded that every state and service has its own rules and benefits, so CPS is always taking different vendors into consideration.

A pastoral delegate asked about the relationship of CPS to other church bodies. Mr. Vince Grochow, convention representative from Concordia Plan Services, spoke, saying right now, the CPS and Synod bylaws restrict CPS from working with anybody outside of the LCMS.

An advisory delegate spoke regarding some of the limitations of CPS in South Dakota, specifically during retirement.

President Sailer called the question, with the result that 97 (95%) voted yes and 5 (5%) voted no. Motion is **ADOPTED**.

**RESOLUTION 1-10 TO CONSIDER HOLDING FUTURE DISTRICT EVENTS SUCH AS CONVENTIONS, PASTORS CONFERENCES, AND PLANNING CONFERENCES IN LCMS CHURCHES OR LUTHERAN SCHOOLS.** Mr. Adam Schulz presented this resolution. Resolution was moved for adoption.

A pastoral delegate asked if facilities have been considered that would be suitable to host a convention, especially West River. Rev. Weispfennig said the resolution asks District staff to work collaboratively with District congregations about this.

A lay delegate spoke opposed, and read a letter from her pastor. The letter argued that it is too much of a burden on the lay people to ask them to host a convention at a church.

A pastoral delegate said that yes, there are facilities big enough West River, and there are congregations that are ready and willing to serve the District in this way.

A pastoral delegate spoke in favor, reminding the convention that the Board of Directors would need to look at venues carefully, but that this is possible.

As no more delegates offered arguments, President Sailer asked for a vote. 93 (89%) voted yes, and 12 (11%) voted no. Motion is **ADOPTED**.

This concludes the work of Floor Committee #1, and Rev. Chairman Weispfennig thanked his committee.

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Oswald, professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, presented the Convention Bible Study on God's Gospel: Salvation Power (Romans 1:16-17).

The convention entered recess at 10:02

### **Fifth Session**

The convention reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Kent Harnisch, District Treasurer, gave his report. Mr. Harnisch reminded that the fiscal year end is January 14. So the latest audited report is as of January 14, 2024.

Total Unrestricted Support and Revenue - \$1,905,404

Total Unrestricted Expenses - \$1,938,041

Total Net Assets - \$4,939,033.

Total Net Assets as of January 14, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021

Year	Total Net Assets
2024	\$4,939,033
2023	\$5,028,712
2022	\$5,284,310
2021	\$5,338,640

There was a motion and second to accept the treasurer's report.

A lay delegate asked a question regarding restricted assets, because the valuation of the farmland reported is far lower than the market value. Mr. Harnisch answered and said that in accounting, those values are reported on a cost basis, but they will double check with the auditors to make sure those values are being reported correctly.

Another lay delegate asked a question about the unused money budgeted for college students. President Sailer answered saying the budget shows an amount that could be distributed, but there aren't enough students to meet the available budget.

President Sailer called the vote, and the report was **APPROVED** by unanimous voice vote.

Rev. Daniel Grimmer, chair of the nominating committee, was invited to the stage to ballot for District Secretary, Treasurer, and Lay Members of the board of Directors.

The slate of candidates for District Secretary was presented, noting a new nominee named in Today's Business, as Rev. Micah Bauer withdrew his name for consideration. The slate presented by the nomination committee is as follows:

Rev. Dr. Thomas Brown  
Rev. Ryan Drevlow  
Rev. Jeremy Richert

President Sailer asked the conventions for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Rev. Grimmer moved to accept the slate of candidates for secretary as amended. Motion **CARRIES**. The slate is adopted.

President Sailer called the vote, with the following result:

Rev. Brown – 74 (72%)  
Rev. Drevlow – 18 (17%)  
Rev. Richert – 11 (11%)

Rev. Dr. Thomas Brown is **ELECTED** District Secretary of the South Dakota District.

The slate of candidates for Treasurer are:

Mr. Kent Harnisch  
Mr. Dave Withee

President Sailer asked the convention for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Rev. Grimmer moved to accept the slate of candidates for treasurer. Motion **CARRIES**. The slate is adopted.

President Sailer called the vote, with the following result:

Mr. Harnisch – 87 (84%)  
Mr. Withee – 17 (16%)

Mr. Harnish is **ELECTED** as District Treasurer of the South Dakota District.

The slate of candidates is presented for lay members of the Board of Directors. The convention will elect two lay board members, one at a time.

The slate from the nomination committee is as follows:

Mr. David Bogenhagen  
Mr. Tim Eden  
Mr. Doug Klipfel  
Mr. Randy Koerner  
Mr. Todd Woods

President Sailer asked the convention for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Rev. Grimmer moved to accept the slate of candidates for At Large Lay Board Member. Motion **CARRIES**. The slate is adopted.

President Sailer called the vote, with the following result:

Mr. David Bogenhagen – 35 (34%)  
Mr. Tim Eden – 14 (14%)  
Mr. Doug Klipfel – 23 (22%)  
Mr. Randy Koerner – 20 (19%)  
Mr. Todd Woods – 11 (11%)

Mr. Woods is removed from consideration.

Mr. David Bogenhagen – 48 (46.15%)  
Mr. Tim Eden – 17 (16.35%)  
Mr. Doug Klipfel – 20 (19.23%)  
Mr. Randy Koerner – 19 (18.27%)

Mr. Eden is removed from consideration.

2025 LCMS South Dakota District Convention

February 16-18, 2025

5 | Page

Mr. David Bogenhagen – 61 (58%)

Mr. Doug Klipfel – 22 (21%)

Mr. Randy Koerner – 22 (21%)

Mr. David Bogenhagen is **ELECTED** to the Board of Directors, Lay Member At Large.

The slate for the second at large lay position is as follows:

Mr. Tim Eden – 22 (21%)

Mr. Doug Klipfel – 36 (35%)

Mr. Randy Koerner – 27 (26%)

Mr. Todd Woods – 19 (18%)

Mr. Woods is removed from consideration.

Mr. Tim Eden – 20 (20%)

Mr. Doug Klipfel – 45 (44%)

Mr. Randy Koerner – 37 (36%)

Mr. Eden is removed from consideration.

Mr. Doug Klipfel – 57 (55%)

Mr. Randy Koerner – 46 (45%)

Mr. Doug Klipfel is **ELECTED** to the Board of Directors, Lay Member At Large.

Mrs. Jill Johnsen of South Dakota Lutherans for Life brings greetings and her report.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund Report – the new representative for our region, Kurt Primuth, VP of North Dakota and South Dakota Districts, brought greetings to the convention.

Nominating Committee Report and Balloting for the 2028 District Convention Nominating Committee. According to bylaw 5.11, two pastors and three laypeople are to be elected.

The slate of pastors is:

Rev. Brian Lemcke

Rev. Thomas Mueller

Rev. Marcus Ring

Rev. Samuel Thole

The slate of lay members is:

Mr. Keegan Ahart

Mr. Michael Beyer  
Mrs. Ann Cruse  
Mr. Glenn Harnisch  
Dr. David Peterson

President Sailer asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, a motion was made to adopt the slate. After a second, the slate was **ADOPTED** by voice vote.

The balloting for pastors begins with the following result:

Rev. Brian Lemcke – 29 (27.62%)  
Rev. Thomas Mueller – 31 (29.52%)  
Rev. Marcus Ring – 27 (25.72%)  
Rev. Samuel Thole – 18 (17.14%)

Rev. Thole is removed from consideration.

Rev. Brian Lemcke – 26 (24.5%)  
Rev. Thomas Mueller – 44 (41.5%)  
Rev. Marcus Ring – 36 (34 %)

Rev. Lemcke's name is removed.

Rev. Thomas Mueller – 56 (54%)  
Rev. Marcus Ring – 48 (46%)

Rev. Mueller is **ELECTED** as a pastor on the nominating committee.

The slate for the second position is as follows:

Rev. Brian Lemcke – 28 (26%)  
Rev. Marcus Ring – 58 (55%)  
Rev. Samuel Thole – 29 (19%)

Rev. Ring is **ELECTED** as a pastor on the nominating committee.

Three lay members are to be elected, one at a time. The slate and first round of balloting is as follows:

Mr. Keegan Ahart – 26 (25%)  
Mr. Michael Beyer – 12 (12%)  
Mrs. Ann Cruse – 19 (19%)  
Mr. Glenn Harnisch – 16 (16%)  
Dr. David Peterson – 29 (28%)

Mr. Beyer's name is removed.

Mr. Keegan Ahart – 33 (31%)

Mrs. Ann Cruse – 17 (16%)

Mr. Glenn Harnisch – 15 (14%)

Dr. David Peterson – 41 (39%)

Mr. Harnisch's name is removed.

Mr. Keegan Ahart – 27 (26%)

Mrs. Ann Cruse – 17 (17%)

Dr. David Peterson – 59 (57%)

Dr. David Peterson is **ELECTED** as a lay member on the nominating committee.

The second round of balloting begins with the following slate and results:

Mr. Keegan Ahart – 51 (49%)

Mr. Michael Beyer – 10 (10%)

Mrs. Ann Cruse – 29 (28%)

Mr. Glenn Harnisch – 14 (13%)

Mr. Beyer's name is removed.

Mr. Keegan Ahart – 63 (59.43%)

Mrs. Ann Cruse – 28 (26.42%)

Mr. Glenn Harnisch – 15 (14.15%)

Mr. Keegan Ahart is **ELECTED** to the nominating committee.

The third round of balloting begins with the following slate and results:

Mr. Michael Beyer – 13 (12.75%)

Mrs. Ann Cruse – 64 (62.75%)

Mr. Glenn Harnisch – 25 (24.5%)

Mrs. Ann Cruse is **ELECTED** to the nominating committee.

Rev. Paul Winckler, Assistant to the President, brings his report, talking about some of the incredible things happening in the District, and some of his experiences working in the District Office and around the state. By his count, he has had the opportunity to preach and teach in 45 different places during his two years in office. Rev. Winckler also talked about his availability for District pastors and congregations to be a listening ear to come alongside us to help with strategic planning, shepherding strays, and witnessing to the community. He serves in a unique position to serve and support ministries, connecting

us with resources and opportunities. He also spoke about educational opportunities and efforts in our schools and childcare centers around the district. The work of the Mission and Ministry Council was also highlighted and the work is just getting under way with many great opportunities to come.

Chaplain Aker led the assembly in a noon meal prayer.

The convention is adjourned until 1:30 p.m.

### **Sixth Session**

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Greetings from LWML District President, Mary Jo Stier. Mrs. Stier shared the work of the LWML in the District, including the mite box funding recipients, namely Main Street Living, Light House Preschool in Aberdeen, Faith Lutheran Preschool in Pierre, Faith Lutheran Pierre coach improvement, and other organizations. She also highlighted other upcoming events and activities of the District LWML.

Greetings from Main Street Living Executive Director Jay Schaefer. He expressed his thanks for congregations and pastors who support MSL, which has now grown to ten states and online. The South Dakota market celebrates 23 years on air. He asked for prayer for the ministry, promotion among the congregations, record a service with MSL, or take a special offering. MSL expressed their gratitude for the faithful support from the South Dakota District!

Rev. Matthew Nix brought his report from his work of Hospital Chaplaincy and Deaf Ministry at Trinity for the Deaf. He has been serving in these capacities in South Dakota for 32 years. He recounted some of the changes in deaf ministry during these years, and some of the ways God has closed some doors and opened others, and expressed his thanks for support for deaf ministry. Regarding Hospital Chaplaincy, he asked that pastors call him and let him know when there is a need for pastoral care in the Sioux Falls hospitals.

Report from District Campus Ministry, Rev. Matthew Bless, campus pastor at USD. Rev. Bless shared a tremendous growth at USD campus ministry. Three years, he reported four or five regular students, and that number is now closer to 12. He shared growth in interest among students, and increased interest in catechesis.

Report from campus ministry at SDSU by Dr. Steve Timmerman, representing Rev. Bauer. SDSU Campus Ministry has been going on for about 75 years. Fall of 2024, sixty-two students have participated in the worship services at Mt. Calvary, averaging twenty-one each week and fifteen in the campus Bible study. Dr. Timmerman expressed thanks for the past and ongoing support of the South Dakota District for campus ministry.



Report from Mr. Dave Geidel, District Education Executive. He has visited the five schools and thirteen early childhood / preschools around the district. Around 1,240 children have the privilege of attending a Lutheran Christ-centered program. He noted being impressed with the quality of the teachers in our District schools. He spoke in favor of the school choice programs, recounting some of his positive experiences with the idea in other states, and a number of other topics.

President Sailer invited Floor Committee #2 back to the podium to continue their work.

**RESOLUTION 2-08 TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO ADMINISTRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.** This resolution was presented by Rev. Chris Davis. Before reading the resolution, Rev. Davis reminded the convention that the CTCR has an opinion due to be published in May 2025, dealing with grape juice, gluten free bread, pre-packaged elements, etc. Having read the resolution, it was moved for adoption.

A pastoral delegate moved to amend the resolution for clarity. In the 1st Resolved, line 20, to add the titles of the referenced Synodical Resolutions:

Following 1998 Res 3-16b add "To Affirm Use of Bread and Wine in the Sacrament of the Altar"

Following 2001 Resolution 3-16 add "To Encourage Use of Only Wine in Administration of Lord's Supper"

Following 2023 Res. 5-15, add "To Uphold Proper Elements and Reverential Administration of the Lord's Supper"

Motion was seconded.

Floor committee accepted this amendment as an editorial amendment.

A Lay delegate had a comment from his pastor who was unable to be there. He expressed his objection on this resolution, not to the substance of the resolution, but in dealing with this matter by way of a resolution at a convention. This process is too authoritarian, and should be discussed between brother pastors.

A lay delegate spoke offering an amendment, adding a fourth resolved beginning on line 30, directing the District President would speak to specific situations working with congregations as needed. Seconded. The delegate expressed that the District President is already charged to do this, but this would encourage certainty in our use of the Sacrament. The floor committee feels that the amendment takes out the pastoral discretion needed in sensitive situations. The wording of the resolved is "RESOLVED: That the District president in his role as ecclesiastical supervisor counsel and correct any erring congregation in our beloved District so all who receive the Lord's Supper receive it in certainty for the strengthening of their faith and eternal salvation." President Sailer asked for the vote... Yes – 37 (39%), No – 58 (61%). The Amendment **FAILS**.

A pastoral delegate spoke con to the resolution, sharing his own experience with sobriety and the difficulty of being offered alcohol at the communion rail, and that the certainty of Christ's presence is not absent when he receives the sacrament without alcohol.

A pastoral delegate spoke in favor, defending the idea that, while it's absolutely better for brother pastors to speak to each other, there is a place for this conversation in district conventions.

A pastoral delegate spoke con to the resolution, asking if it's appropriate to put forward this resolution until after the CTCR publishes their opinion. He moves to table the resolution until after the CTCR publishes. The floor committee responded, saying they take this very seriously, having reached out to Secretary John Sias, who urged districts not to adopt doctrinal standards of their own as districts might come to different doctrinal conclusions. The motion to table received a second. This is not a debatable motion, so this moves to vote. The result is Yes – 72 (76%), No – 23 (24%). This resolution is **TABLED**.

**RESOLUTION 2-09 TO STUDY, REPENT OF, AND STAND AGAINST RACISM.** This resolution as presented by Rev. Lehr. Resolution is moved for adoption.

A pastoral delegate moves for a friendly amendment reinserting the whereas on lines 34-37 from the original overture, providing rationale for the original overture. This whereas should be inserted as the fourth whereas. The Floor Committee accepts this friendly amendment.

A pastoral delegate spoke con to the resolution, asking who this resolution is for.

A pastoral delegate spoke in favor, responding to the previous question. There is a specific brotherly-love issue going on here that this is in response to, giving support to an LCMS pastor who has been racially attacked online for his ethnic heritage. This isn't about virtue signaling, it's about taking care of our own.

President Sailer reminded the assembly that we're up against the orders of the day, and calls the vote. The result was 78 (87%) - yes, 12 (13%) - no. Resolution is **ADOPTED**.

Convention is in recess until 3:30.

### **Seventh Session**

The meeting reconvened at 3:30pm.

President Sailer noted the new circuit visitors, elected at caucus last night.

Rev. Tim Rynearson, Peace, Brookings – Circuit 2

Rev. Dr. Chris Ascher, Resurrection, Sioux Falls – Circuit 7

He asked for a motion to amend the list of circuit visitors. Motion received and seconded. Motion **PASSED** by unanimous voice vote.

Registration numbers are unchanged from the earlier report.

President Sailer asked for a motion to authorize the Board of Directors to approve the minutes of sessions four – seven. Motion received and seconded. Hearing no discussion, the motion **PASSED** by unanimous voice vote.

President Sailer asked for a motion to authorize a destruction of the election ballots at the completion of the convention. Motion received and seconded. Hearing no discussion, the motion **PASSED** by unanimous voice vote.

Rev. Winckler addressed the convention about the press release. The District will be publishing a press release about the convention and delegates are encouraged to share that with their congregations.

President Sailer expressed his final thank you to delegates for a fine and peaceful convention. He thanked many people individually who participated and contributed to the convention.

President Sailer adjourned the convention at 3:43 pm.

Humbly submitted in Christian love and service,  
Rev. Dr. Thomas Brown, Secretary, South Dakota District  
Mrs. JoAnn Hirsch, Assistant  
Colossians 3:23