



**The 39th Convention  
of the  
Southeastern District  
The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod**

God's mission heart beating through you.

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February 17, 2022

Dear Delegates to the 2022 Southeastern District Convention:

In just a few months, we will come together for the 39<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Southeastern District in a unique way. We will experience our first hybrid convention where the first portion will be conducted on-line and the second portion in-person in Richmond, Virginia.

Under the theme, “**The Great Sending**,” the convention promises to involve us in celebrative worship, presentations, prayer, the election of a new president, and a decision-making process that will help establish the agenda for the next three years and beyond. Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer and Rev. Dr. Jon Diefenthaler will be keynote speakers at the Convention. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison will be the proclaimer for the Opening Worship of the Convention on Monday, May 9.

The convention workbook will be your guide to the events and issues of the convention. It will be regularly updated in the next months. Notifications of these updates will be on the Convention website (<http://se.lcms.org/resources/southeastern-district-convention-2022/>) and on the SED app (<https://my.yapp.us/SEDLCMS>).

To be well prepared for the convention, please spend time reading thoroughly the Convention Workbook. Give special attention to the following:

- ***Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit*** upon our preparations and our deliberations as we gather in convention.

Our convention chaplain, Rev. Dr. Gregory S. Walton, will engage us at every key Convention moment in prayer so we might allow God to direct our proceedings through His Word. The election process, in particular, will be surrounded by prayer.

- ***Read the biographical information on candidates for office in section A.***

Elections will take place early and quickly. They are scheduled to begin on Thursday, May 12. The use of electronic voting pads means that ballots are tabulated in thirty seconds. There will be little time to review candidate information once balloting begins, so please look over the materials and consider your choices of the best candidates in advance.

- ***Thoroughly acquaint yourself with the overtures found in section B.***

The process is very important in allowing the convention to speak the will of the delegates with regard to issues raised in the overtures. All overtures are considered except those described in LCMS Bylaw 3.1.6, but delegates should remember that the overtures that appear in this workbook are usually NOT the final resolutions that will be brought before the convention. In most cases, this workbook gives you an indication of what the Floor Committees have already accomplished. But, their work is not yet finished. There are still open hearings on Tuesday, May 10 which you are invited to attend, express your thoughts and give your input. Those resolutions that are then brought to the convention floor remain subject to debate, to amendment, and to the vote of the delegates. These hearings will be held on-line throughout the day.

- ***Study the District President’s Report and other reports found in Section E.***

These reports provide a convention “roadmap” and tell the story of what has occurred in the District during the last triennium, and they furnish important background information regarding new directions this convention will consider taking between now and 2025.

You may expect to receive additional reports and resolutions by the end of March 2022. We will send notice to you through email and through the Convention App.

Floor Committees:

01	Mission Development	Rev. Dr. William Harmon
02	Congregational Outreach	Rev. Dr. Lloyd Gaines
03	Stewardship & Finance	Mr. Thomas DeMik & Mr. Joe Carlin
04	Bylaws	Mrs. Beth Elgert
05	Theology & Practice	Rev. William Beyer
06	Nominations & Elections	Rev. John Kassouf

If you wish to make a personal statement to the floor committees, you may do so at open hearings to be held on Tuesday, May 10 according to this schedule:

9:30 AM	(Zoom)	Floor Committee Open Hearings – Mission Development
11:00 AM	(Zoom)	Floor Committee Open Hearings – Congregational Outreach
12:30 PM	(Zoom)	Floor Committee Open Hearings – Stewardship & Finance
2:00 PM	(Zoom)	Floor Committee Open Hearings – Bylaws
3:30 PM	(Zoom)	Floor Committee Open Hearings – Theology & Practice

After receiving such input on the overtures, the floor committees are charged with the task of framing the issues into final resolutions to be presented to the floor of the Convention.

Communication about the Convention, Workbook updates, additional reports, information about Exhibitors, and news about registration will all be posted on the Convention website:

(<http://se.lcms.org/resources/southeastern-district-convention-2022/>). In addition, there is a Convention App with push notifications available. To download the app, click on the link (<https://my.yapp.us/SEDLCMS>) and follow the instructions listed on the page.

In addition to the opportunities for worship and study and the time devoted to business, delegates will have the chance to hear from representatives of our synodical organizations, and especially from our Synod President, **Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison**.

One last word...

Our Exhibit Hall will not be at the Convention site, rather we are introducing a 12-month Virtual Exhibit Hall called the Ministry Library. It will feature many resources that will be a blessing to our congregations, schools, and missions. Look for that to go live in April.

You are in my prayers and I ask that you do the same for us here at the SED office as we prepare for our gathering in May!

In the royal service of the King,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John R. Denninger', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John R. Denninger, President

Southeastern District, LCMS