

REGARDING THE LETTERING AND NUMBERING OF OVERTURES

The reason for the three pairs of numbers, i.e., OV 04-22-01: the first pair of numbers refers to the floor committee number (Bylaws in this example), the second to the year, and the third to the number of the overture.

What you see printed in this workbook are the original overtures that were submitted for consideration. These will undergo review by the respective floor committee prior to the beginning of the convention.

Mission Development (MD) – 01

- OV MD 01-22-01 To Establish Triennial Goals for Southeastern District
- OV MD 01-22-02 To Establish Triennial Emphasis for the LCMS Boards of National and International Mission
- OV MD 01-22-03 To Conduct a Southeastern District Staffing and Facility Study

Congregational Outreach (CO) – 02

- OV CO 02-22-01 To Support Racial Justice and the Great Commission
- OV CO 02-22-02 Towards Racial Justice and the Great Commission
- OV CO 02-22-03 To Promote and Support Bringing Qualified Pastors and Teachers to the Southeastern District
- OV CO 02-22-04 To Address the Lutheran Teacher Shortage and Low Teacher Salaries by Initiating a Student Debt Assistance Program for LCMS Commissioned Minister-Teacher
- OV CO 02-22-05 To Give Thanks for Concordia University New York
- OV CO 02-22-06 To Provide Disaster Training for Circuit Visitors

Stewardship & Finance (SF) – 03

- OV SF 03-22-01 To Share Methods, Approaches, and Processes to Share the Message of Jesus Christ and to Support our Congregations and Communities through and after the Pandemic
- OV SF 03-22-02 To Recognize and Thank the LCMS for the Strengthened and Expanded “Soldiers of the Cross” COVID-19 Response Initiative

Bylaws (BL) – 04

- OV BL 04-22-01 To Ratify the Action of the Board of Directors Regarding the Southeastern District’s Articles of Incorporation
- OV BL 04-22-02 To Ratify the Reassignment of Certain Congregations to Circuits
- OV BL 04-22-03 To Bring Southeastern District Bylaws Into



Harmony With The Constitution, Bylaws, And Resolutions Of The Synod

- OV BL 04-22-04 To Change the Size Requirements for Electoral Circuits in the Synod
- OV BL 04-22-05 For Overt Transparency and Ethics at Time of a Congregation's Closure
- OV BL 04-22-06 To Give Thanks for a New Partnership Qualifying Electoral Circuit 3, Baltimore East to Vote
- OV BL 04-22-07 To Amend Synod Constitution to Grant Lay Vote to Every Congregation
- OV BL 04-22-08 To Change to a Four-Year Convention Cycle
- OV BL 04-22-09 On Changing To A 4-Year Convention And Conference Cycle
- OV BL 04-22-10 To Strengthen the Nonvoting Advisory Delegate Participation at Conventions
- OV BL 04-22-11 On Changing the Size of Valid Electoral Circuits in the Synod
- OV BL 04-22-12 On Changing the Electoral Circuits
- OV BL 04-22-13 To Confer Emeritus Status
- OV BL 04-22-14 To Ratify the Selection of Circuit Counselors
- OV BL 04-22-15 To Amend Southeastern District Bylaw, Article VI, Duties of Officers re Allowing the District President to Serve as a Pastor of a Congregation

Theology & Practice (TP) – 05

- OV TP 05-22-01 To Support the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Specific Ministry Pastor Program
- OV TP 05-22-02 To Engage in The Koinonia Project
- OV TP 05-22-03 To Explore and Develop Non-Residential Opportunities for Pastoral Education

Nominations & Elections (NE) – 06



1 FLOOR COMMITTEE 01: MISSION DEVELOPMENT (MD)

2

3 **OV MD 01-22-01 To Establish Triennial Goals for Southeastern District**

4

5 **WHEREAS**, The Southeastern District meets in Convention to listen to Ordained, Lay, and
6 Advisory Delegates provide input regarding future direction; and

7

8 **WHEREAS**, The Southeastern District has made available through book and video means,
9 the published resource The Great Sending...God's Heart for the World Beating Through
10 You; therefore, be it

11

12 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District continue to be creative in encouraging
13 congregations to be part of The Great Sending...God's Heart for the World Beating Through
14 You in our communities.

15

16 Submitted by:

17 Circuit 12 – Tidewater, Rev. Larry McReynolds, Circuit Visitor, November 14, 2021

18



1 **OV MD 01-22-02 To Establish Triennial Emphasis for the LCMS Boards of**
2 **National and International Mission**
3

4 **WHEREAS**, The LCMS in Convention (2019) established seven mission priorities to guide
5 the Synod's ministry through the Boards for National Mission and International Mission; and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, These seven mission priorities provide both an emphasis and priorities for the
8 resources developed and offered to congregations, schools, circuits, and districts; therefore,
9 be it
10

11 **RESOLVED**, that the LCMS continue with the seven priorities identified at the 2019
12 Convention in the following order:

- 13 1. Plant, sustain, and revitalize Lutheran churches.
- 14 2. Support and expand theological education.
- 15 3. Perform human care in close proximity to Word and Sacrament ministries.
- 16 4. Promote and nurture the spiritual, emotional, financial, and physical well-being of
17 pastors and professional church workers.
- 18 5. Collaborate with the Synod's members and partners to enhance mission
19 effectiveness.
- 20 6. Enhance early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, and youth
21 ministry; and
- 22 7. Strengthen and support the Lutheran family in living out God's design.

23
24 Submitted by:

25 Circuit 15 – Mecklenberg, Rev. Dr. Ronald Wiese, Circuit Visitor, Mark Kiser, Circuit 15
26 Secretary, December 4, 2021
27
28



1 **OV MD 01-22 03 To Conduct a Southeastern District Staffing and Facility**
2 **Study**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, The number of communicant members in the Southeastern District continues
5 to decline and some circuits are struggling to remain viable; and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, The number of congregations that cannot afford a full-time pastor and may be
8 facing the possibility of closing continues to increase; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, The financial contributions to Mission Partnership Support in the Southeastern
11 District have declined and administrative costs have increased; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, The COVID-19 pandemic has caused churches and schools to utilize
14 technology and resources in different ways in order to do ministry; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, The Southeastern District has effectively utilized deployed staff, and technology
17 has allowed ministry to take place and administrative work to be done remotely; therefore
18 be it

19
20 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District Board of Directors appoint a task force to
21 conduct a study of district staffing and facility needs within the next triennium in order to
22 effectively support and empower congregations, schools, and other ministries.

23
24 Submitted by:
25 Circuit 13-West – Raleigh-Durham, Rev. Michael Merker, Circuit Visitor, October 30, 2021



1 FLOOR COMMITTEE 02: CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH (CO)

2
3 **OV CO 02-22-01 To Support Racial Justice and the Great Commission**

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Past and present racial injustices cause great suffering to many Americans and
6 harm to our entire nation; and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, Racial injustice remains a severe obstacle to carrying out the Great
9 Commission of making disciples of all tribes, languages, and nations through the Gospel
10 and drawing them into the body of Christ; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, Many LCMS convention resolutions on the issue of race have asserted the
13 clear biblical teaching that all humans, whatever the color of their skin, have been created
14 in the image of God and redeemed through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus; yet we
15 continue to lag in mission outreach that crosses racial lines, and in addressing racial
16 injustices that divide our nation—offenses that put us in need of God's mercy and call us to
17 action; and

18
19 **WHEREAS**, The report of Synod's Commission on Theology and Church Relations (Racism
20 and the Church 1994) documents a disturbing pattern in the Lutheran Church—Missouri
21 Synod of following the path of our surrounding culture regarding slavery and other racial
22 injustices, thus conforming to the world rather than being transformed in Christ (Romans
23 12:2); and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, In our widespread acceptance of racial discrimination and injustice, we have,
26 in our past, turned people of color and other ethnic groups away from our church doors by
27 directing them elsewhere or simply by inhospitable reception that conveyed a sense that
28 they "don't belong here"; and

29
30 **WHEREAS**, Our former policy of having racially segregated churches and schools resulted
31 in fewer new members of color than we had expected and was (thankfully) discarded
32 decades ago, yet the habits and attitudes of old sins persist, making our outreach across
33 racial lines more difficult now than it should be; and

34
35 **WHEREAS**, We give thanks to God for courageous leaders among us, Black and White,
36 along with the thousands of people of color sufficiently forgiven and filled with the merciful
37 love of Christ, who over the years have overcome racial barriers and do so even today, we
38 still have much to learn about how to be racially inclusive; for all of which we seek the grace
39 of God to find more faithful ways of reflecting God's love and our unity in Christ; and



1 **WHEREAS**, We lament the widespread silence of Christians in the face of slavery and other
2 racial injustices; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, The impact of slavery is deeply embedded in our nation's culture - enforced by
5 law, custom, and habits, including extreme racist laws and lynching that terrorize Black
6 people, especially in the South, as well as discrimination throughout the nation in jobs,
7 housing, education, and other areas that enforced preferential treatment of Whites and
8 pushed a great many Black and people of other ethnic groups into absolute or relative
9 poverty, doing significant damage to families; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, Racial injustices of the past cause present suffering because past
12 discrimination leaves in place economic and social liabilities that would persist even if racial
13 prejudice suddenly disappeared; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, Racial justice, for which all of us are responsible, does not depend only on our
16 kindness toward others (essential as that is), but on just laws, institutions, and practices that
17 are genuinely fair and reflect action to repair unfairness that has accumulated over centuries
18 of racial injustices and oppression; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, Martin Luther taught, and we confess, that the Fifth Commandment, You shall
21 not murder, means we should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our
22 neighbors, but help and defend them in every physical need, which most of us have
23 shamefully failed to do especially regarding our fellow Americans who are Black; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, Despite some commendable exceptions, too few Lutheran Church—Missouri
26 Synod members have been active or vocal in protesting racial injustices, a silence that is
27 seen as consent; and

28
29 **WHEREAS**, The picture of Christians that we have often given others is not that of
30 compassionate people, but instead of people whose faith is without much love when it comes
31 to racial injustices, an offense that has kept many people, Black and White, and people of
32 other ethnic groups from joining our church; and

33
34 **WHEREAS**, Racial injustice is a shameful sin, as well as an obstacle to the Great
35 Commission, it would be irresponsible of us not to examine our human failings with respect
36 both to the Great Commandment of love and the Great Commission to make disciples of all
37 people; and

38



1 **WHEREAS**, To reach deeply into the life of our congregations, an unprecedented church-
2 wide campaign that is truly filled with the love and joy of the Holy Spirit cries out for our
3 response; therefore, be it

4
5 **RESOLVED**, That the President of Synod and its district presidents designate a specified
6 Sunday as "A Day of Repentance and Prayer for Racial Justice and Healing" in our land,
7 perhaps on the first Sunday of February or the Sunday closest to the Juneteenth celebration,
8 urging all LCMS pastors and congregations and other affiliates of Synod to participate.
9 Preparation for this Day should include simple but starkly honest background material,
10 highlighting racial injustices in the nation's history, and even in its Christian churches,
11 including our own Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it finally

12
13 **RESOLVED**, That we see this Day of Corporate and Individual Repentance and Prayer as
14 a long-overdue confession of sins against people of color, which most of us, by our silence,
15 have mainly kept hidden even from ourselves, and for which we truly apologize, seek their
16 forgiveness, and beg for God's great mercy that sets all of us free. Therefore, it should be a
17 joyous, Spirit-filled day that can deepen our faith in Christ, empower us to seek racial justice,
18 and help us eagerly to welcome people across all racial and ethnic groups into fellowship
19 with us through our Lord and Savior.

20
21 Submitted by:
22 Circuit 15 – Mecklenberg, Rev. Dr. Ronald Wiese, Circuit Visitor, Mark Kiser, Circuit 15
23 Secretary, December 4, 2021
24



1 **OV CO 02-22-02 Towards Racial Justice and the Great Commission**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, Past and present racial injustices cause great suffering to many Americans and
4 harm to our entire nation; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, Racial injustice remains a severe obstacle to carrying out the Great
7 Commission of making disciples of all tribes, languages, and nations through the Gospel
8 and drawing them into the body of Christ; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, Many LCMS convention resolutions on the issue of race have asserted the
11 clear biblical teaching that all humans, whatever the color of their skin, have been created
12 in the image of God and redeemed through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus; yet we
13 continue to lag in mission outreach that crosses racial lines, and in addressing racial
14 injustices that divide our nation-offenses that put us in need of God's mercy and call us to
15 action; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, The report of Synod's Commission on Theology and Church Relations (Racism
18 and the Church, 1994) documents a disturbing pattern in the Lutheran Church Missouri
19 Synod of following the path of our surrounding culture regarding slavery and other racial
20 injustices, thus conforming to the world rather than being transformed in Christ (Romans
21 12:2); and

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23 **WHEREAS**, In our widespread acceptance of racial discrimination and injustice, we have,
24 in our past, turned people of color away from our church doors by directing them elsewhere
25 or simply by an inhospitable reception that conveyed a sense that they "don't belong here";
26 and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, Our former policy of having racially segregated churches and schools resulted
29 in fewer new members of color than we had expected and was (thankfully) discarded
30 decades ago, yet the habits and attitudes of old sins persist, making our outreach across
31 racial lines more difficult now than it should be; and

32
33 **WHEREAS**, We give thanks to God for courageous leaders among us, Black and White,
34 along with the thousands of people of color sufficiently forgiven and filled with the merciful
35 love of Christ, who over the years have overcome racial barriers and do so even today, we
36 still have much to learn about how to be racially inclusive; for all of which we seek the grace
37 of God to find more faithful ways of reflecting God's love and our unity in Christ; and

38
39 **WHEREAS**, We lament the widespread silence of Christians in the face of slavery and other
40 racial injustices; and



1 **WHEREAS**, The impact of slavery is deeply embedded in our nation's culture - enforced by
2 law, custom, and habits, including extreme racist laws and lynching that terrorize Black
3 people, especially in the South, as well as discrimination throughout the nation in jobs,
4 housing, education, and other areas that enforced preferential treatment of Whites and
5 pushed a great many Black people into absolute or relative poverty, doing significant
6 damage to families; and

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9 discrimination leaves in place economic and social liabilities that would persist even if racial
10 prejudice suddenly disappeared; and

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13 kindness toward others (essential as that is), but on just laws, institutions, and practices that
14 are genuinely fair and reflect action to repair unfairness that has accumulated over centuries
15 of racial injustices and oppression; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, Martin Luther taught, and we confess, that the Fifth Commandment, You shall
18 not murder, means we should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our
19 neighbors, but help and defend them in every physical need, which most of us have
20 shamefully failed to do especially regarding our fellow Americans who are Black; and

21
22 **WHEREAS**, Despite some commendable exceptions, too few Lutheran Church —Missouri
23 Synod members have been active or vocal in protesting racial injustices, a silence that is
24 seen as consent; and

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27 compassionate people, but instead of people whose faith is without much love when it comes
28 to racial injustices, an offense that has kept many people, Black and White, from joining our
29 church; and

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32 Commission, it would be irresponsible of us not to examine our human failings with respect
33 both to the Great Commandment of love and the Great Commission to make disciples of all
34 people; and

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37 wide campaign that is truly filled with the love and joy of the Holy Spirit cries out for our
38 response; therefore, be it

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7 including our own Lutheran Church Missouri Synod; and be it finally

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10 long-overdue confession of sins against people of color, which most of us, by our silence,
11 have mainly kept hidden even from ourselves, and for which we truly apologize, seek their
12 forgiveness, and beg for God's great mercy that sets all of us free. Therefore, it should be a
13 joyous, Spirit-filled day that can deepen our faith in Christ, empower us to seek racial justice,
14 and help us eagerly to welcome people across all racial and ethnic lines into fellowship with
15 us through our Lord and Savior.

16
17 Submitted by:

18 Circuit 7 – Washington East, Rev. Peter Schiebel, Circuit Visitor, October 24, 2021

19
20 Submitted by:
21 The Lutheran Church of St. Andrew, Silver Spring MD, Glen Harvell, Congregational
22 President, Doreen Doherty, Congregational Officer, December 2021

23
24 Submitted by:
25 Circuit 12 – Tidewater, Rev. Larry McReynolds, Circuit Visitor, November 14, 2021

26
27



1 **OV CO 02-22-03 To Promote and Support Bringing Qualified Pastors and**
2 **Teachers to the Southeastern District**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Overall enrollment in the Concordia University System is growing, however,
5 enrollment in the church worker programs {pastor and teacher) is declining; and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, It is very difficult for churches to find qualified candidates to fill vacancies for
8 the positions of pastors and teachers; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, Synod has already made a financial reduction in the cost of tuition for
11 individuals going into the pastoral ministry; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, The Southeastern District and Synod has a special program for "Lay Pastors"
14 to help fill the need for pastors; now, therefore be it

15
16 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District (Synod) continue to place an emphasis on
17 bringing qualified Pastors and Teachers into the Southeastern District; and

18
19 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District (Synod) make every effort to promote and
20 support individual congregations in their efforts to encourage our youth and any other
21 interested individuals in the ministry of the Church; and

22
23 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District (Synod) continue to encourage congregations
24 to establish. a salary scale that provides for the financial viability of its church workers;
25 and be it finally

26
27 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District (Synod) continue to seek to help candidates for
28 the ministry by providing tuition financial support not only for pastoral candidates but to
29 include teacher candidates attending the Concordia University System.

30
31 Submitted by:

32 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Catonsville MD, Aaron Nelson, Chairman of Congregation, John
33 T. Barringer, II, Secretary of Congregation, September 21, 2021



1 **OV CO 02-22-04 To Address the Lutheran Teacher Shortage and Low Teacher**
2 **Salaries by Initiating a Student Debt Assistance Program for**
3 **LCMS Commissioned Minister - Teacher**
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Our Lutheran Schools struggle to find rostered teachers to serve in the
6 classrooms of our High Schools, Elementary Schools, and Child Development Centers¹; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Research has shown that a primary reason for this is the lower salary offered
9 for teachers within the Lutheran school systems^{2,3}; and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, Concordia Plans reported in 2021 that 27% of LCMS workers have student debt
12 that averages \$46,000 per student; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, The reality of Student Loan Debt is an important part of the decision to seek
15 employment outside the Lutheran school; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, It is a value that we fill our schools with rostered workers⁴; then be it
18

19 **RESOLVED**, That a National Lutheran Teacher Student Debt Assistance Program be
20 developed that recognizes the service of Lutheran Teachers through Student Loan Debt
21 Forgiveness, and be it further
22

23 **RESOLVED**, That a committee comprising of members of the Education Department of the
24 Concordia University System, LCMS School Ministry, Concordia Plans, The Foundation,
25 and the Council of Presidents develops the loan forgiveness process, and be it further
26

27 **RESOLVED**, That a special, designated offering to establish this program be taken during
28 the National Lutheran Schools Weeks of 2024, 2025, and 2026, and be it further
29

30 **RESOLVED**, That reports of this work be provided through regular communications of the
31 Synod, and be it finally
32

33 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District, LCMS memorialize the Synod in Convention to
34 adopt National Lutheran Teacher Student Debt Assistance Program.
35

36 1. **WHEREAS**, The number of new commissioned teachers has steadily declined since
37 2005 (Concordia University System [CUS] Board for University Education [BUE]
38 statistics); and
39

40 **WHEREAS**, The fulfillment rate of requests for first-year Synod-trained candidates to



1 LCMS calling entities has declined from 63 percent in 2010 to 30 percent in 2018
2 because of the lack of available Synod-trained candidates (CUS BUE statistics);
3

4 **WHEREAS**, The CUS only graduated 23 early childhood educators, 39 elementary
5 educators, and 32 secondary educators in 2018 (CUS BUE statistics); (2019 Resolution
6 12:02A, p.222 of 2019 LCMS Convention Proceedings)
7

8 2. Theme 8 of Office of National Mission’s “LCMS Church Worker Wellness Insights”,
9 presentation by Rev. Robert Zagore, Office of National Mission to Gospel 2019

10 ❖ Financial wellbeing is unique among worker needs in that the major problems are
11 beyond the worker’s ability to change – most often the problem is that the workers
12 are in a mathematically impossible situation

- 13 ○ Workers are under-paid for their skill level and workload
- 14 ○ Costs for health care are being pushed to the workers
- 15 ○ Young workers are burdened with significant student debt

16 ❖ Many calling bodies are unable to pay their workers what is necessary

- 17 ○ *“The toughest work is being done in the places that can pay the least”* (i.e.
18 dying congregations, inner-city churches, immigrant ministries, etc.)
19

20 3. Note: Conclusion of Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Lutheran Schools
21 (2019 R.63)

22 “Lutheran education is a noble calling, yet it is facing significant challenges. Data support
23 a real need for synodical entities to bring resolution to indebtedness for church workers.
24 With the im-pending retirement of many teachers and administrators coupled with the
25 diminishing numbers of Lutheran Teacher Diploma (LTD) candidates enrolling in the
26 Concordia University System, there is an increased sense of urgency to recruit and retain
27 qualified young people in the Lutheran teaching ministry. The desire to enter the vocation
28 of education is lessening due to several factors including classroom management issues,
29 public perception of the profession and state regulations. Additionally, many students
30 are coming out of college with significant debt and are paid salaries below recommended
31 levels. The trendline on debt and salary must change or the teacher shortage will likely
32 continue. Teachers and administrators are in a great position to influence current and
33 future students about the joys and rewards of church work and need to be intentional in
34 their efforts to help recruit new students for the Concordia University System.” (2019
35 LCMS Convention Workbook, p.344-348.)
36

37 4. **WHEREAS**, The 2016 Synod Convention Res. 8-01A, “To Encourage and Strengthen
38 the Lutheran Ethos of Our LCMS Early childhood Centers, Elementary Schools, and
39 High Schools” specifically identified that a characteristic of a Lutheran school with a



1 strong Lutheran ethos has “LCMS-trained Lutheran teachers ... who know and are
2 committed to the truths of the Scriptures as confessed in our Lutheran Confessions (2019
3 LCMS Convention Proceedings, Resolution 12-02 A, p.221)

4

5 Submitted by:

6 The Southeastern District Board of Directors, Beth Elgert, Chair, June 24, 2021



1 **OV CO 02-22-05 To Give Thanks for Concordia University New York**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, Concordia, New York served as an institution of High Education for over 140
4 years; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, Countless women and men received a quality, Christian education to be sent
7 out to live their vocations in the name of Jesus; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, Concordia, New York continues to have a significant impact on the church at
10 large through the witness of the priesthood of believers who attended the college; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, With the closure of Concordia, New York the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
13 has no Higher Education learning center in the Eastern Region of the United States;
14 therefore, be it

15
16 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District gives thanks to God for Concordia, New York
17 and its contribution to the wider church and society; and, be it further

18
19 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District, in convention, instructs the District President
20 to work with other District Presidents in the Eastern Region and the Lutheran Church
21 Missouri Synod, in identifying opportunities for the establishment of a new Higher Education
22 learning center, either physically or virtually, based in the Eastern Region.

23
24 Submitted by:

25 Circuit 12 – Tidewater, Rev. Larry McReynolds, Circuit Visitor, November 14, 2021

26



1 **OV CO 02-22-06 To Provide Disaster Response Training for Circuit Visitors**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, Natural disasters have caused devastation in the Southeastern District in recent years;
4 and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, Our District and Synod have been actively involved in disaster response
7 ministry, working with local congregations to serve hurting neighbors and give witness to the
8 Gospel; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, The LCMS Disaster Response office has created a national organization of
11 over 20,000 Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) volunteers, and an excellent LERT
12 basic training course; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, The ministry of SED congregations will be well-served when local leaders are
15 knowledgeable about LCMS disaster response ministry options; therefore be it

16
17 **RESOLVED**, That the Circuit Visitors of the Southeastern District participate in a LERT basic
18 training course prior to the end of 2023; and be it further

19
20 **RESOLVED**, That congregations of the SED be encouraged to host a LERT basic training
21 course during the next triennium.

22
23 Submitted by:
24 Circuit 13-West – Raleigh-Durham, Rev. Michael Merker, Circuit Visitor, October 30, 2021
25



1 FLOOR COMMITTEE 03: STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE(SF)

2
3 **OV SF 03-22-01 To Share Methods, Approaches, and Processes to Share the**
4 **Message of Jesus Christ and to Support our Congregations**
5 **and Communities through and after the Pandemic**
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The District is a collection of churches; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, Each District church operates in a different community; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, The success of our mission lies in the success of each church; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, Grace Lutheran Church and School thanks the District for providing both
14 monetary and educational resources to our church; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, Grace Lutheran Church and School recognizes this support was critical during
17 these last few years; and

18
19 **WHEREAS**, This support will be even more critical as this pandemic and its aftermath
20 continues; now, therefore, be it

21
22 **RESOLVED**, That each church commit to share individual successes and failures dealing
23 with the financial and operational burden of dealing with the pandemic; and be it further

24
25 **RESOLVED**, That each church share new methods, approaches, and processes of
26 delivering the message of Jesus Christ to its congregation and community; and be it finally

27
28 **RESOLVED**, That the District establish the means and methods to efficiently and effectively
29 share these across the District.

30
31 Submitted by:

32 Grace Lutheran Church and School, La Plata MD, Greg Juday, Congregational President,
33 December 5, 2021
34



1 **OV SF 03-22-02 To Recognize and Thank the LCMS for the Strengthened and**
2 **Expanded “Soldiers of the Cross” COVID-19 Response**
3 **Initiative**
4

5 **WHEREAS**, The Pandemic of 2020 shuttered schools in the middle of the school year,
6 furloughed workers and caused others to pivot towards a digital presence for which they
7 were unprepared; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, Many of our teachers and school workers were without the additional tuition or
10 budget income needed to support the immediate response to the transition and additional
11 regulations that were placed upon them through the Centers for Disease Control and the
12 Executive orders of local, state, and national government; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, The need for compassionate support and financial assistance was great; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod (LCMS) and The Lutheran Church
17 Extension Fund (LCEF) worked together to identify funds for immediate assistance for all
18 who served in Lutheran ministries; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, Many of our school and child development workers who were both rostered and
21 lay benefited from this generous act of compassion; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, As of December 2021 more than \$1,627,715 was awarded to 959 workers; be
24 it therefore
25

26 **RESOLVED**, That on behalf of the workers of our Lutheran churches, schools, and centers
27 the (District) in Convention publicly thank God for the generosity of His people, The LCMS
28 and the LCEF for supporting all who serve in our schools and childcare centers.
29

30 Submitted by:

31 The Southeastern District Board of Directors, Beth Elgert, Chair, June 24, 2021
32
33



1 FLOOR COMMITTEE 04: BYLAWS(BL)

2
3 **OV BL 04-22-01 To Ratify the Action of the Board of Directors Regarding the**
4 **Southeastern District’s Articles of Incorporation**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 states “The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall
7 examine the articles of incorporation, bylaws, and policy manuals of every agency of the
8 Synod to ascertain whether they are in harmony with the Constitution, Bylaws, and
9 resolutions of the Synod”; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, This review of the Second Amended And Restated Articles of Incorporation of
12 the Southeastern District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod was completed after
13 the 2018 District Convention; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, The Board of Directors of the District received the approved document and
16 accepted it at their December 5, 2019 regular meeting (SED Bylaws X.3); therefore be it

17
18 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District in Convention ratify the decision of the Board of
19 Directors that approved the Second Amended And Restated Articles of Incorporation of the
20 Southeastern District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod as approved by the
21 Synod’s Committee on Constitutional Matters.

22
23 Submitted by:
24 Southeastern District Board of Directors, Beth Elgert, Chair, December 5, 2019
25



1 **OV BL 04-22-02 To Ratify the Reassignment of Certain Congregations to**
2 **Circuits**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 5.1.2 empowers districts to establish visitation circuits; and

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

11
12 **WHEREAS**, District Bylaw VII, 1 empowers the District Board of Directors to assign
13 congregations to circuits and requires that such assignments be ratified by the District in
14 Convention; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, The District Board of Directors appointed a Task Force in Fall 2019 to study the
17 current grouping of congregations so that each Circuit would qualify as an electoral circuit;
18 and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, The Task Force completed their work, congregations were consulted, results
21 were shared with Circuit Visitors, and presentations were made during webinars to
22 professional church workers; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, Every Southeastern District congregation impacted by the Task Force’s
25 recommendations was given an opportunity to make the final decision on whether or not
26 they wished to move to a new circuit and this overture reflects the final decision of each
27 impacted congregation; and

28
29 **WHEREAS**, The Southeastern District Board of Directors received this report and approved
30 it at their regular meeting on February 11, 2022; therefore be it

31
32 **RESOLVED**, That the following congregations are moved to new circuits:

33
34 **Southern Region Recommendation:**

- 35 – Grace by the Sea, Nagshead moves to Circuit 13E from C12

36 **Central Region Recommendations:**

- 37 – Redeemer, Fredericksburg VA moves to C8 from C9.0
38 – Living Hope, Stafford VA moves to C8 from C9.0

39 **Northern Region recommendations:**



- 1 – St. Paul's, Glen Burnie MD moves to Circuit 3 from Circuit 4
- 2 – Galilee, Chester MD moves to Circuit 4 from Circuit 1
- 3 – Trinity, Chesterton MD moves to Circuit 4 from Circuit 1
- 4 – First Lutheran, Towson moves to C3 from C2
- 5 – Holy Cross, Towson moves to C3 from C2
- 6 – Pilgrim, Bethesda, MD moves to C7 from C6
- 7 – Calvary - Silver Spring moves to C7 from C6
- 8 – Christ Deaf - Silver Spring moves to C7 from C6

9 And, be it finally

10 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District in Convention ratify the work of the Board of
11 Directors.

12

13 Submitted by:

14 Southeastern District Board of Directors, Beth Elgert, Chair, February 11, 2022

15

16



1 **OV BL 04-22-03 TO BRING SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT BYLAWS INTO HARMONY**
2 **WITH THE CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE**
3 **SYNOD**

4
5 **WHEREAS**, The 2019 Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod made several
6 changes to the Synod’s Constitution and Bylaws which were subsequently ratified by the
7 congregations of the Synod; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 4.1.1.2 (a) requires that the Bylaws of the districts of the Synod
10 not conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, A review of the Southeastern District, LCMS (SED) Bylaws by the District
13 Board of Directors (BOD) disclosed several instances where the District’s Bylaws needed to
14 be brought into harmony with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3 and 4.1.1.2 (b) require districts of the Synod to submit
17 all changes to the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) for examination to ascertain
18 that they are in harmony with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, In response to the SED BOD submission of proposed changes in accordance
21 with Synod Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3 and 4.1.1.2 (b), the CCM issued its Opinion (date)
22 recommending that certain further changes be made to bring the SED Bylaws into harmony;
23 there be it

24
25 **RESOLVED**, That Article V.2.a of the Bylaws of the SED be amended as follows: Each
26 voting congregation of the District shall be entitled to nominate from the minister of religion-
27 ordained roster of the Synod two (2) persons for the office of District President.
28 Congregations shall also be entitled to nominate two (2) persons for all other positions to be
29 filled. Nominations for offices designated for ministers of religion-ordained or ministers of
30 religion-commissioned must be made from the appropriate roster and according to
31 residence **their congregational membership** within the District or region as required. Lay
32 nominations must also be made according to residence **their congregational membership**
33 within the District or region as required. **Mid-term board members selected regionally, who**
34 **find themselves residing in a designated region other than that of their election because**
35 **regional designation were changed by the District may finish out their current terms of office.**
36 and be it,

37
38 **RESOLVED**, That Article V.3.a of the Bylaws of the SED be amended as follows:
39 a. Vice Presidents shall be nominated by congregations within the defined District
40 region in which they ~~will reside and~~ serve, if elected. In addition, nominees will be



1 from among those on the minister of religion-ordained roster of the respective
2 District region.

3
4 and be it finally (further)

5
6 **RESOLVED**, That Article VII.4 of the Bylaws of the SED be amended as follows:

- 7 1. Each member congregation of a Circuit shall be entitled to notice of and representation
8 at a meeting of its Circuit, **Multi-congregation parishes are represented by one voting**
9 **pastoral delegate (if not vacant) and one voting lay delegate, plus advisory delegates for**
10 **each congregation that does not supply a voting delegate.** ~~but~~ **Each** Circuit shall
11 establish its own organization to achieve its objectives and to meet its responsibilities in
12 and to the Circuit, the District, and the Synod.

13
14 and be it finally

15 **RESOLVED**, That Article X of the Bylaws of the SED be amended as follows, a new X.4 is
16 added and then current X.4 is renumbered to X.5.

- 17
18 1. These Bylaws may be amended at a District Convention by the majority vote of those
19 members present at a regular session, provided there is written notice to
20 congregations concerning the proposed amendment 30 days in advance of the
21 Convention.
- 22 2. The Board of Directors shall submit proposed amendments to the Synod's
23 Commission on Constitutional Matters to insure they are not inconsistent with the
24 Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod prior to consideration by the District
25 Convention. The Board of Directors will also obtain legal guidance to ensure that any
26 proposed amendments are not inconsistent with the laws of the District of Columbia.
- 27 3. In the event an amendment is approved by the District in Convention without prior
28 approval of the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters, such amendment will
29 be contingent on approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The
30 amended articles or bylaws shall become effective immediately upon, and only upon,
31 approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on
32 Constitutional Matters not approve the adopted changes, the District Board of
33 Directors may modify the amendments to comply with the Commission on
34 Constitutional Matters' requirements upon their two-thirds vote.
- 35 4. **When necessitated by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise**
36 **expressly directed by a resolution of the Synod in convention, amendments may be**
37 **made by a two-thirds majority of the district board of directors. Such amendment shall**
38 **be drafted board of directors Policy Committee and shall be reviewed in advance by**
39 **the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters.**



1 5. Amendments to the District Articles of Incorporation shall be approved by a District
2 Convention. The provisions and processes for such amendments shall be the same
3 as for amendments to the Bylaws.

4

5 Submitted by:
6 SED Policy Committee, Rev. Bill Harmon, Chair

7



1 **OV BL 04-22-04 To Change the Size Requirements for Electoral Circuits in the**
2 **Synod**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, In light of the declining number of congregations as well as communicant
5 members throughout the Synod; and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, Current requirements for an electoral circuit are difficult to achieve as is
8 evidenced by the growing number of circuits asking for exceptions to the current rules for
9 valid electoral circuits; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, The recent COVID-19 pandemic has caused a significant decrease in worship
12 attendance and membership in many congregations of Synod; therefore be it

13
14 **RESOLVED**, That the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at its 2023 convention change the
15 requirements for a valid electoral circuit from 7 congregations and 1500 communicant
16 members to 5 congregations and 500 communicant members.

17
18 Submitted by:

19 Circuit 12 – Tidewater, Rev. Larry McReynolds, Circuit Visitor, November 14, 2021

20
21 Submitted by:

22 Circuit 13-West – Raleigh-Durham, Rev. Michael Merker, Circuit Visitor, October 30, 2021



1 **OV BL 04-22-05 For Overt Transparency and Ethics at Time of a Congregation's**
2 **Closure**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Congregations, in the course of writing Constitutions and Bylaws, often specify
5 where their assets should go in case of dissolution; and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, These documents, or copies thereof, are reviewed, approved, and kept by
8 District; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, In the course of caring for congregations, the District may discuss closure with
11 a congregation which has chosen in their Constitution and Bylaws to give their remaining
12 assets to the District; therefore, be it

13
14 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District meeting in convention considers it to be a
15 breach of ethics or the appearance of the same for the District to possess information on
16 Congregational dispersal of assets benefitting District upon closure, and then to receive
17 those funds, once they have counseled closure or assisted the congregation in their closure.

18
19 Submitted by:
20 Circuit 3 – Baltimore East, Rev. Charles Minetree, Circuit Visitor, Rev. Charles McClean,
21 Circuit Secretary, October 17, 2021

22



1 **OV BL 04-22-06 To Give Thanks for a New Partnership Qualifying Electoral**
2 **Circuit 3, Baltimore East to Vote**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, The number of communicants to qualify as an Electoral Circuit has not been
5 met by the present congregations of Southeastern District Visitation Circuit 3, Baltimore
6 East; and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, Three congregations, now in other Visitation and Electoral Circuits, have been
9 proposed by the District Committee on Circuit Realignment to be added to Electoral Circuit
10 3 to qualify it as an Electoral Circuit; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, It is preferable that members of Visitation and Electoral Circuits with identical
13 memberships are able to know their local needs and also have a vote regarding them, and
14 that it is more often a work of Christian kindness for a church of one area's Visitation Circuit
15 to bolster the membership of a neighboring Electoral Circuit; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, It appears that, of these three proposed churches, the participation of the
18 largest would in itself serve to be a strengthening partner in Christian kindness, giving voice
19 and vote to the courageous churches of Baltimore East, by causing it to meet Electoral
20 Circuit qualification; and

21
22 **WHEREAS**, The participation of the two other congregations, with whom we are all friends,
23 could not individually nor together accomplish Circuit Three's meeting the Electoral Circuit
24 qualification on their own; therefore, be it

25
26 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District affirm with joy the inclusion of St. Paul's
27 Lutheran Church, Glen Burnie in a new Circuit 3 Electoral Circuit; and be it further

28
29 **RESOLVED**, That the inclusion of our friends at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Towson, and
30 New Thing Church, Towson be declined by the Southeastern District in Convention as not
31 necessary for these purposes; and be it finally

32
33 **RESOLVED**, That District in Convention joins Circuit 3 in thanking the Circuit Realignment
34 Committee for their work; resolves to pray the Lord to build His Church, and commends the
35 Churches of the Baltimore area in embracing God-pleasing partnerships for the sake of
36 God's Mission to the World and to our local communities.

37
38 Submitted by:
39 Circuit 3 – Baltimore East, Rev. Charles Minetree, Circuit Visitor, Rev. Charles McClean,
40 Circuit Secretary, October 17, 2021



1 **OV BL 04-22-07 To Amend Synod Constitution to Grant Lay Vote to Every**
2 **Congregation**

3
4 **PREAMBLE**

5
6 The Lutheran Church in general and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in
7 particular have always held the autonomy of the congregation in high esteem. The
8 Confessions of the Lutheran church testify to the authority given by Christ to the Church as
9 recorded in the Scriptures. Particularly, verses of Matt. 18: "Again I say to you, if two of you
10 agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For
11 where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them." (Matt. 18:19-20), are
12 cited in the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope defending the Church's right of
13 calling ministers (Tr. 24, Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions). Later it is made clear that
14 this authority comes down to each congregation: "Therefore when the regular bishops
15 become unwilling to administer ordination, the churches retain their own right (to ordain
16 ministers). Where the Church is, there is the authority to administer the Gospel" (Tr. 66-67).

17
18 Historically the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has maintained a polity that multiple
19 congregations served by one pastor should only have one lay vote, thus maintaining a
20 balance between clergy and laity at district conventions.

21
22 By disenfranchising certain congregations who hold membership in the Synod, we have
23 acted inconsistently on a number of levels:

24
25 Though we confess no divinely appointed form of church polity, denying some congregations
26 the right to the same representation that other congregations have in matters of the Synod
27 is at best a disconnect with our theological understanding of a congregation's embodiment
28 of the catholicity of the Church.

29
30 In some matters of the Synod that are dealt with on a congregational level, every
31 congregation is allowed to speak for herself (Representation at Circuit Forums, Election of
32 Circuit Delegates to Synod Convention, Vote on Amendments to Synod Constitution,
33 Nominate Synod Offers including Synod President, Establishing necessary number of
34 congregations for electoral circuits). However, in other matters, multiple congregations
35 served jointly by one or more pastors are required to come together and speak with one
36 voice (Voting for Synod President and Representation at District Conventions), thereby
37 reducing the value of each congregation's voice.



1 **OVERTURE**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the Synod Article V.A. deals with voting members of the
4 Synod and states: "All organized congregations that have joined the Synod hold voting
5 membership. At the meetings of the districts of the Synod every congregation or parish is
6 entitled to two votes, none of which is to be cast by the pastor and the other by the lay
7 delegate; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, "Multiple" congregations" are only allowed to send a single lay delegate to the
10 district conventions, which does not respect the equal dignity, gifts, and authority of all
11 member congregations. Rather, it creates degrees of voting membership in the Synod
12 because every congregation is allowed a vote/voice in some place but not in others (see
13 chart in Preamble); and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, The emphasis of our polity on the representation of congregations is intrinsically
16 connected to the scriptural and confessional understanding of a congregation's bearing all
17 the characteristics of the Church; and

18
19 **WHEREAS**, Every individual congregation is a member of the Synod; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, Few if any district conventions have had an equal number of lay and clergy
22 delegates present and has never resulted in a domination of either lay or clergy; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, All congregations are created equal: "Where two or three are gathered in my
25 name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:20); therefore, be it

26
27 **RESOLVED**, That the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at its 2023 convention

- 28 1. Give all organized congregations that hold membership in the Synod the opportunity
29 to be represented by a lay delegate and a pastoral delegate at district conventions.
30 Bylaw 3.1.2.1 c allows such representation at circuit forums and regional caucuses.
31 2. Retain a single vote for a pastor who represents more than one congregation; and
32 Amend Article V.A. of the Synod Constitution as follows:
33 "All organized congregations that have joined the Synod holding voting membership.
34 At the meetings of the districts of the Synod every congregation or parish is entitled
35 to two votes, one of which is to be cast by the pastor and the other by the lay delegate.
36 In the case of a single pastor representing two or more congregations, no individual
37 shall cast more than one vote."
38

39 Submitted by:
40 Circuit 15 – Mecklenberg, Rev. Dr. Ronald Wiese, Circuit Visitor, Mark Kiser, Circuit 15
41 Secretary, December 4, 2021
42



1 **OV BL 04-22-08 To Change to a Four-Year Convention Cycle**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, It has been studied and discussed for several years to move from a three-year
4 district and national convention cycle to a four-year cycle; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, Such a change would save millions of dollars in district and national convention
7 expenses; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, Moving to a four-year convention cycle would demonstrate a sensitivity to the
10 financial challenges facing many congregations and a commitment to practice wise
11 stewardship; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, In response to the COVID-19 pandemic some districts and the synod are
14 moving to a four-year convention cycle without great difficulty; therefore be it

15
16 **RESOLVED**, That the Synod adopt a four-year convention cycle, effective upon completion
17 of the 2023 national convention.

18
19 Submitted by:
20 Circuit 12 – Tidewater, Rev. Larry McReynolds, Circuit Visitor, November 14, 2021

21
22 Submitted by:
23 Circuit 13-West – Raleigh-Durham, Rev. Michael Merker, Circuit Visitor, October 30, 2021

24



1 **OV BL 04-22-09 On Changing To A 4-Year Convention And Conference Cycle**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, It has been studied and discussed for the last five years to move from a 3-year
4 circuit, district, and synod convention cycle to a 4-year cycle; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, Such a change would save millions of dollars in convention expenses for our
7 church body; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, In response to the COVID-19 pandemic we have moved to a 4-year interval
10 without great difficulty; therefore, be it

11
12 **RESOLVED**, That the SED memorialize the 2023 Synod convention to change from
13 a 3-year circuit, district, and synod to a 4-year cycle, as of 2023.

14
15 Submitted by:
16 Circuit 13 E – Eastern North Carolina, Rev. Jim Daub, Circuit Visitor, October 16, 2021

17
18
19



1 **OV BL 04-22-10 To Strengthen the Nonvoting Advisory Delegate Participation**
2 **at Conventions**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Currently, there are 12,010 Ministers of Religion – Commissioned (Church
5 Worker Update System - March 2021) who serve the mission and ministry of congregations,
6 schools, child development centers, camps, compassion centers, and mission work
7 throughout the national and global mission fields; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, The current structure of the Synod does not allow for a third category of voting
10 delegates at district and Synod conventions (Synod Handbook: Article IX, Article XII.10.b);
11 and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, The Synod highly values commissioned ministers for their eagerness to serve
14 the Lord and His Church (2019 Resolution. 9-17, “To Study Voting Privilege in the LCMS”
15 p.201 of 2019 LCMS Convention Proceedings); and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, Ministers of Religion – Commissioned are considered Advisory Members with
18 representation, voice, but no vote at conventions of districts and Synod, along with “those
19 ordained ministers not eligible for election as a voting delegate” under Bylaw 3.1.2.1(d)
20 ... (p,101 Handbook 2019) with representation, voice, but no vote at conventions of districts
21 and Synod; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, At least one other district (Northern Illinois) utilizes the voice and guidance of
24 their commissioned workers in district convention through a non-counted advisory member
25 vote; and

26
27 **WHEREAS**, This honors the bylaw and structure of the Convention while allowing the
28 Nonvoting Advisory Delegate voice to be heard and their vote recognized; therefore, be it

29
30 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District, LCMS enable Nonvoting Advisory Delegates
31 to provide a preliminary vote during its regular convention, and be it further

32
33 **RESOLVED**, That the results of the advisory vote be published prior to the delegate vote;
34 and be it further

35
36 **RESOLVED**, That this become effective with the next District Convention in 2025, and be it
37 finally

38
39 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District, LCMS in convention memorialize the Synod in
40 Convention to pass a like-minded resolution.

41
42 Submitted by:

43 The Southeastern District Board of Directors, Beth Elgert, Chair, June 23, 2021



1 **OV BL 04-22-11 On Changing the Size of Valid Electoral Circuits in the Synod**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, The Synod had a million more members (35% more) at the time when our
4 current circuit minimum size requirements were set; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, Growth in the next decade looks unlikely; and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, An increasingly large number of circuits ask for exceptions to the current rules
9 for valid electoral circuits; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, Our Synod leaders have let it be known the number of exceptions has grown
12 excessive and needs to change downward; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, The recent COVID-19 pandemic has decreased attendance and membership
15 in many congregations of Synod; therefore, be it

16
17 **RESOLVED**, That the SED memorialize the Synod in convention 2023 to change the
18 numbers for a valid electoral circuit from 7 congregations and 1500 members to 5
19 congregations and 500 members.

20
21 Submitted by:

22 Circuit 13E – Eastern North Carolina, Rev. Jim Daub, Circuit Visitor, October 16, 2021



1 **OV BL 04-22-12 On Changing the Electoral Circuits**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is experiencing a decreasing number
4 of electoral circuits due to a lack of electoral circuit meeting the required number of
5 communicant members; and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, This leads to the combining of visitation circuits for the purpose of electoral
8 qualifications to vote; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, This will leave some segments of our Synod Congregations underrepresented
11 for voting especially in urban areas; therefore, be it

12
13 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District in Convention recommend to the Lutheran
14 Church—Missouri Synod in Convention change the manner in which communicant numbers
15 for an electoral circuit be calculated; and be it

16
17 **RESOLVED**, The Southeastern District at its 2022 Convention submit a resolution to the
18 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Convention that the number of communicant members
19 required for an electoral circuit be lowered; and be it furthered

20
21 **RESOLVED**, That the required number of communicant members reflect the percentage
22 change in our Synodical Membership.

23
24 Submitted by:
25 Circuit 3 – Baltimore East, Rev. Charles Minetree, Circuit Visitor, Rev. Charles McClean,
26 Circuit Secretary, October 17, 2021

27
28



1 **OV BL 04-22-13 To Confer Emeritus Status**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, The Southeastern District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been
4 blessed by the servant leadership of the Rev. Dr. John R. Denninger, who has led this District
5 as President for the past ten years; and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, The Southeastern District recognizes the spiritual leadership of one who has
8 dedicated countless hours in raising up the mission and ministry opportunities before us both
9 within this District and at national levels, and beyond in this time which has been impacted
10 by the Coronavirus Pandemic and cultural change; therefore be it

11
12 **RESOLVED**, That the congregations of the Southeastern District and their members
13 express their gratitude for his service and leadership; and be it finally

14
15 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District in Convention officially confer the title of
16 President Emeritus upon the Rev. Dr. John R. Denninger.

17
18 Submitted by:
19 Southeastern Board of Directors, Beth Elgert, Chair, February 11, 2022

20
21



1 **OV BL 04-22-14 To Ratify the Selection of Circuit Counselors**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, The circuits have selected Circuit Counselors for the next triennium in
4 accordance with Synod Bylaw 5.2.2.; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 5.2.2. requires that the District in Convention ratify those
7 selections; therefore be it

8
9 **RESOLVED**, That the District in Convention ratifies the selection of Circuit Counselors in the
10 circuits of the district as follows:

- 11
12 Circuit 1 Rev. David Nuss
13 Circuit 2 Rev. Dr. James Banach
14 Circuit 3 Rev. Thomas Foelber
15 Circuit 4 Rev. Matthew Hilpert
16 Circuit 5 Rev. Andrew Okai
17 Circuit 6 Rev. Kenneth Stottlemyer
18 Circuit 7 Rev. Peter Schiebel
19 Circuit 8 Rev. Jim Kent
20 Circuit 9.0 Rev. Andrew Jagow
21 Circuit 9.5 Rev. Mark Shaltanis
22 Circuit 10 Rev. Dr. Roy Minnix
23 Circuit 11 Rev. Wallace Shifflett
24 Circuit 12 Rev. Larry McReynolds
25 Circuit 13E
26 Circuit 13W Rev. Michael Merker
27 Circuit 14 Rev. Elliott Lutz
28 Circuit 15 Rev. Ron Wiese
29 Circuit 16 Rev. Anton Lagoutine
30 Circuit 17 Rev. Dennis Quakenboss
31 Circuit 18 Rev. John Engwall
32 Circuit 19 Rev. Howard Jones



1 **OV BL 04-22-15 To Amend Southeastern District Bylaw, Article VI, Duties of**
2 **Officers re Allowing the District President to Serve as a Pastor**
3 **of a Congregation**
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Earlier practice within the Southeastern District was to permit a District
6 President to serve in a congregation while holding the office; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, The current Synodical President models leadership serving in a parish while
9 serving the larger church; and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, The number of pastors retiring from active ministry continues to increase and
12 the number of seminary graduates continues to decrease; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, The number of congregations that cannot afford a full time pastor continues to
15 increase, and vacancies are becoming difficult to fill; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, The COVID-19 pandemic caused many professional church workers, along
18 with the Southeastern District President and staff, to effectively work remotely; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, Today's technology allows the District President to meet with professional
21 church workers and lay members, and to perform certain duties without having to travel;
22 therefore be it
23

24 **RESOLVED**, That Article VI, Duties of Officers be amended as follows, to allow the District
25 President to serve as a pastor of a congregation:
26

27 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

28 Article VI

- 29 1. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the District and serves as a
30 voting member of the Board of Directors. The President shall also perform the
31 duties of a District President under the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod. ~~The~~
32 ~~President shall be a full-time, salaried official of the District, and the President~~
33 ~~(except one called to fill an unexpired term of less than 18 months) may not serve~~
34 ~~as a Pastor of a congregation.~~
35

36 Submitted by:

37 Circuit 13-West – Raleigh-Durham, Rev. Michael Merker, Circuit Visitor, October 30, 2021
38



1 FLOOR COMMITTEE 05: THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE(TP)

2
3 **OV TP 05-22-01 To Support the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Specific**
4 **Ministry Pastor Program**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, There is a severe shortage of pastors and church workers anticipated in the
7 near future; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, gathered in Convention in 2007, created
10 another path to ordination with the Specific Ministry Pastor Program (SMP) thus enabling
11 more men to become ordained as Specific Ministry Pastors; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, The Specific Ministry Pastor Program has already enabled five congregations
14 of Circuit 15 of the Southeastern District to benefit from the Specific Ministry Pastor Program.
15 Two congregations have an ordained SMP sole pastor, one has an ordained SMP assistant
16 pastor, another has a SMP vicar (to be ordained in January 2022, and another individual is
17 serving as a vicar with SMP experience; and

18
19 **WHEREAS**, There are not enough eligible students preparing for church work in the current
20 Seminary program to meet the current, much less future needs of the church; and

21
22 **WHEREAS**, Many congregations are currently without pastors or other needed church
23 workers; therefore, be it

24
25 **RESOLVED**, That the Circuit Forum of Circuit 15 of the Southeastern District of The
26 Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod hereby petitions the 2023 Convention of the Lutheran
27 Church—Missouri Synod to reaffirm the importance and value of the SMP program in
28 providing ordained SMP pastors for the future needs of its member congregations and other
29 ministries; and, be it further

30
31 **RESOLVED**, That the 2023 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
32 encourage the Districts to provide additional funding for SMP students as needed, so that
33 no one will be deprived of entering or completing the SMP program due to financial
34 hardships; and be it finally

35
36 **RESOLVED**, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod form a strategic partnership with
37 the districts to meet the future needs of its congregations and ministries with the church
38 workers that will be needed.

39
40 Submitted by:
41 Circuit 15 – Mecklenberg, Rev. Ronald Wiese, Circuit Visitor, Mark Kiser, Circuit Secretary,
42 December 4, 2021



1
2 **OV TP 05-22-02 Koinonia**
3
4 **WHEREAS**, The scriptures teach us to love one another and seek unity (I Peter 1: 3-8,
5 Colossians 3: 12-14, Ephesians 4: 3); and
6
7 **WHEREAS**, In a fractured society, where division and discord are celebrated and
8 encouraged, the church has an opportunity for witness; and
9
10 **WHEREAS**, The members of the church, including the workers, are to be the light of Christ
11 and the example of forgiveness, restoration, and love; therefore, be it
12
13 **RESOLVED**, That the members of the Southeastern District commit to seeking unity with
14 each other, bearing with each other, putting the best construction on every situation, and
15 offering the benefit of the doubt to each other; and, be it further
16
17 **RESOLVED**, That the members of the Southeastern District first and foremost stick with
18 their calls and ensure they are doing all that they can to further the mission of God in their
19 own settings; and, be it finally
20
21 **RESOLVED**, That the members of the Southeastern District affirm and engage in the
22 Koinonia Project prior to and as part of the dispute resolution process.
23
24 Submitted by:
25 Circuit 12 – Tidewater, Rev. Larry McReynolds, Circuit Visitor, November 14, 2021
26
27



1 **OV TP 05-22-03 To Explore and Develop Non-Residential Opportunities for**
2 **Pastoral Education**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord invites us, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore,
5 pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (Matthew 9:37-
6 38)"; and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, The call throughout the generations for churches to be led by pastors trained
9 and equipped for Biblically grounded, Confessionally sound, and Contextually appropriate
10 ministry; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, The need to raise up new pastors in a time when current pastors are retiring,
13 and residential enrollment is decreasing at our Seminaries; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, The challenge of residential education in the 21st century includes the financial
16 costs, not only of tuition, but also housing and basic living expenses such as food and
17 clothing, the length of study while living with these burdens, and the challenges of these
18 transitions in various life stages all limiting the opportunities for men to answer the call to
19 service; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, The opportunity of life and ministry in the 21st century, including technological
22 advances for communication and learning, mid-life career changes, and the potential to
23 recruit men whose life situations may limit the possibility of residential formation; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, The adaptability of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to send workers for
26 the harvest, even in an age before our current technology: "More than half of those who
27 graduated from the seminary in Fort Wayne during the first nine years of the school's
28 existence attended from one to two years: about one third of them, two to three years. The
29 aim was to provide men with the most practical instructions so that they would enter the work
30 as early as possible. (Carl S. Meyer, *Moving Frontiers*, p. 217)"; and

31
32 **WHEREAS**, The history of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to provide training in our
33 present context, including the decision to create seminaries in North America, rather than
34 returning to Germany for pastoral education; therefore, be it

35
36 **RESOLVED**, The Southeastern District in Convention encourage the District Leadership
37 and Synod to explore and develop further non-residential opportunities for pastoral
38 education and ordination, for the sake of the church.

39
40 Submitted by:

41 Circuit 12 – Tidewater, Rev. Larry McReynolds, Circuit Visitor, November 14, 2021



