

**MD-01-22-01a - To Declare a Year of Jubilee
Floor Committee: #01 - Mission Development
Convention Year: 2022**

To Establish Triennial Goals for Southeastern District; To Establish Triennial Emphasis for the LCMS Board of National and International Mission

Reference Overture(s): MD 01-22-01, MD 01-22-02

WHEREAS, The priesthood of all believers have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit to carry out the Great Commission to go into all the world; and

WHEREAS, The vision of the Southeastern District (SED) is to connect our neighbors to Jesus so that lives are transformed and God's Kingdom grows; and

WHEREAS, The SED has made available through book and video means the published resource *The Great Sending – God's Heart Beating Through You*; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Convention in 2019 established seven mission priorities; therefore be it

RESOLVED, The SED continue to support the seven priorities identified at the 2019 LCMS Convention:

1. Plant, sustain, and revitalize Lutheran churches;
2. Support and expand theological education;
3. Perform human care in close proximity to Word and Sacrament ministries;
4. Promote and nurture the spiritual, emotional, financial, and physical wellbeing of pastors and professional church workers;
5. Collaborate with the Synod's members and partners to enhance mission effectiveness;
6. Enhance early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, and youth ministry; and
7. Strengthen and support the Lutheran family in living out God's design; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the SED in Convention declares the 85th anniversary of the District as a year of Jubilee, **a season of celebration and sending**, where congregations, schools, and service organizations focus on the Great Sending; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the President of the SED work with congregations to provide resources and guidance for the Jubilee.

**MD-01-22-03a - To Conduct a Southeastern District Staffing and Facility Study
Floor Committee: #01 - Mission Development
Convention Year: 2022**

To Conduct a Southeastern District Staffing and Facility Study

Reference Overture(s): MD 01-22-03

WHEREAS, The harvest is plentiful as 10% of the nation's population lives within the borders of the Southeastern District (SED); and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 Pandemic has provided churches and schools unique opportunities to utilize technologies and resources in different ways in order to do ministries; and

WHEREAS, The use of technology may allow the SED to reach and expand in new ways across a geographically, ethnically, and culturally diverse District; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That ~~the SED Board of Directors~~ **the SED President** appoint a task force to conduct a study of district staffing and facility needs in order to promote the vision of the SED and support and empower congregations, schools and other ministries; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the task force present the SED Board of Directors with its findings before the next SED Convention; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the SED President present findings of the report and any action taken from the report to the next convention.

MD-01-22-04 - Resolution on Ukraine
Floor Committee: #01 - Mission Development
Convention Year: 2022

WHEREAS, The conflict between Russian and Ukraine is ongoing, displacing the people of Ukraine and creating painful tragedy, human suffering and threatening world peace; and

WHEREAS, The Ukrainian Lutheran Church continues to minister to the people of Ukraine with human care needs and the hope of the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod as well as other human care agencies are working with our partners in Ukraine; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the members of the Southeastern District continue to pray for peace and reconciliation in Ukraine, Russia, and throughout the world, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the SED be encouraged to support agencies and organizations within the church to promote peace, reconciliation between warring parties and aid and comfort to those displaced or effected by the war, and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the SED pray for LCMS workers all over the world and especially in areas of war and conflict.

**CO-02-22-01a - Towards Racial Justice and the Great Commission
Floor Committee: #02 - Congregational Outreach
Convention Year: 2022**

To Support Racial Justice and the Great Commission; Towards Racial Justice and the Great Commission

Reference Overture(s): CO 02-22-01, CO 02-22-02

WHEREAS, Racial injustice is a shameful sin, as well as an obstacle to the Great Commission, it would be irresponsible of us not to examine our human failings with respect both to the Great Commandment of love and the Great Commission to make disciples of all people (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:47, Acts 1:8); and

WHEREAS, Racial injustice remains a severe obstacle to carrying out the Great Commission of making disciples of all tribes, languages, and nations through the Gospel and drawing them into the body of Christ (2 Corinthians 19:7, Romans 2:4, Galatians 2:6, Ephesians 6:9, Colossians 3:25, 1 Peter 1:17); and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther taught, and we confess, that the Fifth Commandment, You shall not murder, means we should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbors, but help and defend them in every physical need, which many have shamefully failed to do especially regarding our fellow Americans who are Black and people of other ethnic minority groups (Luke 10:25-37, Proverbs 24:1-2, Ephesians 4: 31-32, Matthew 25:42-43, Matthew 5:22, 1 John 4: 19-21, Proverbs 31:8-9); and

WHEREAS, We lament the silence of Christians in the face of slavery in the past and other racial injustices that continue to this day; and

WHEREAS, Racial injustices, such as discrimination in jobs, housing, education, and other areas, past and present, cause great suffering to many Americans and harm our entire nation, which leaves in place economic and social liabilities that would persist even if racial prejudice suddenly disappeared; and

WHEREAS, Racial justice, which goes beyond kindness toward others, is based on laws, institutions, and practices that are fair and just to all; and

WHEREAS, Many LCMS convention resolutions on the issue of race have asserted the clear biblical teaching that all humans, whatever the color of their skin, have been created in the image of God and redeemed through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus; yet we continue to lag in mission outreach that crosses racial lines, and in addressing racial injustices – offenses that put us in need of God's mercy and call us to action¹; and

WHEREAS, The report of Synod's Commission on Theology and Church Relations (Racism and the Church 1994²) documents a disturbing pattern in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod of following the path of our surrounding culture regarding slavery and other racial injustices, thus conforming to the world rather than being transformed in Christ (Romans 12:2); and

WHEREAS, Our former policy of having racially segregated churches and schools resulted in turning people of color and other ethnic groups away from our church doors and in fewer new members of color, yet these habits and attitudes of old sins persist, making our outreach across racial lines more difficult now than it should be; and

WHEREAS, We give thanks to God for courageous leaders among us who over the years have overcome racial barriers and do so even today, we still have much to learn about how to be racially inclusive; for all of which we seek the grace of God to find more faithful ways of reflecting God's love and our unity in Christ; and

WHEREAS, To reach deeply into the life of our congregations a church-wide campaign that is truly filled with the love and joy of the Holy Spirit cries out for our response; and

WHEREAS, A Day of Repentance and Prayer for Racial Justice could be enhanced with simple but starkly honest background material, highlighting racial injustices in the nation's history, and even in its Christian churches, including our own Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, Such an event should be held Synod-wide urging LCMS pastors, congregations, and other affiliates of Synod to participate perhaps on the first Sunday of February or the Sunday closest to the Juneteenth celebration; and

WHEREAS, This event should be a joyous, Spirit-filled day that can deepen our faith in Christ, empower us to seek racial justice, and help us eagerly to welcome people across all racial and ethnic groups into fellowship with us through our Lord and Savior; therefore be it

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

RESOLVED, That we see this day of ~~corporate and individual~~ repentance and prayer as a long-overdue confession of sins **of commission and omission** against people of color, ~~which most of us, by our silence, have mainly kept hidden even from ourselves, and for which we truly apologize, seek their forgiveness, and beg for God's great mercy that sets all of us free. Therefore, it should be a joyous, Spirit-filled day that can deepen our faith in Christ, empower us to seek racial justice, and help us eagerly to welcome people across all racial and ethnic groups into fellowship with us through our Lord and Savior.~~ **repent, and seek God's forgiveness and great mercy in Christ, that sets us free to be reconciled with all people regardless of race of color; and be it finally**

RESOLVED, That we become known as a church body that eagerly welcomes people across all racial and ethnic groups into fellowship with us through our Lord and Savior.

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Footnotes:

1. "Repentance and Hope: A Missional Appreciation and Appraisal of LCMS Educational Institutions for the Training Black Church Workers" by Matthew E. Borrasso and "Concordia

Selma Closes: Putting the Demise of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Educational Institutions for Black Ministry in Historical Perspective” by Matthew E. Borrasso. Both of these resources can be found in the Convention’s YAPP.

2. “Racism and the Church: Overcoming the Idolatry”. A Report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, February 1994.
<https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/CF31F293-63FA-4763-9793-C227DF3867E7>

BL-04-22-03a - To Bring Southeastern District Bylaws Into Harmony With The Constitution, Bylaws, And Resolutions Of The Synod
Floor Committee: #04 - Bylaws
Convention Year: 2022

To Bring Southeastern District Bylaws Into Harmony With The Constitution, Bylaws, And Resolutions Of The Synod

Reference Overture(s): BL 04-22-03

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That Article V.2.a of the Bylaws of the SED be amended as follows:

a. Each voting congregation of the District shall be entitled to nominate from the minister of religion-ordained roster of the Synod two (2) persons for the office of District President. Congregations shall also be entitled to nominate two (2) persons for all other positions to be filled. Nominations for offices designated for ministers of religion-ordained or ministers of religion-commissioned must be made from the appropriate roster and according to residence **their congregational membership** within the District or region as required. Lay nominations must also be made according to residence **their congregational membership within the District or region as required. Mid-term board members selected regionally, who find themselves residing in a designated region other than that of their election because regional designation was changed by the District may finish out their current terms of office.** and be it,

RESOLVED, That Article V.3.a of the Bylaws of the SED be amended as follows:

a. Vice Presidents shall be nominated by congregations within the defined District region in which they ~~will reside and~~ serve, if elected. In addition, nominees will be from among those on the minister of religion-ordained roster of the respective District region. and be it

RESOLVED, That Article V.3.c of the Bylaws of the SED be amended as follows:

a. Following **Upon** the election of the **regional** Vice Presidents a **final** separate election **will take place ranking the Vice Presidents by separate ballots with a simple majority**

of voting delegates determining the second and third Vice Presidents in line of succession. ~~by the convention delegates shall be held to determine the ranking of the Vice Presidents.~~
and be it

RESOLVED, that Article V.4.c of the Bylaws of the SED be amended as follows:

a. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected. In the election of the President and Vice Presidents, if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the least number of votes is to be eliminated from each successive ballot until one candidate has received a majority vote. In all other elections when a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15% of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15% or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot. In every election, balloting shall continue until every position has been filled by majority vote.
and be it

RESOLVED, That Article VI.1 be amended as follows:

1. The President, **an officer of the district,** ~~is shall be~~ the chief executive officer of the District and serves as a voting member of the Board of Directors. The President shall also perform the duties of a District President, **serving as the ecclesiastical supervisor of all rostered workers in the district,** under the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod. The President shall be a full-time, salaried official of the district, and the President (except one called to fill an unexpired term of less than 18 months) may not serve as a Pastor of a congregation.
and be it

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

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

RESOLVED, That Article X of the Bylaws of the SED be amended as follows with a new X.4 and the current X.4 renumbered to X.5.

1. These Bylaws may be amended at a District Convention by the majority vote of those members present at a regular session, provided there is written notice to congregations concerning the proposed amendment 30 days in advance of the Convention.
2. The Board of Directors shall submit proposed amendments to the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters to ensure they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod prior to consideration by the District Convention. The Board of Directors will also obtain legal guidance to ensure that any proposed amendments are not inconsistent with the laws of the District of Columbia.
3. In the event an amendment is approved by the District in Convention without prior approval of the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters, such amendment will be contingent on approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended articles or bylaws shall become effective immediately upon, and only upon, approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not approve the adopted changes, the District Board of Directors may modify the amendments

to comply with the Commission on Constitutional Matters' requirements upon their two-thirds vote.

4. When necessitated by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise expressly directed by a resolution of the Synod in convention, amendments may be made by a two-thirds majority of the District Board of Directors. Such amendment shall be drafted by the Board of Directors Policy Committee and shall be reviewed in advance by the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters.

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

CO-02-22-02a - To Address the Lutheran Teacher Shortage and Low Teacher Salaries by Initiating a Student Debt Assistance Program for LCMS Commissioned Minister - Teacher

Floor Committee: #02 - Congregational Outreach

Convention Year: 2022

To Address the Lutheran Teacher Shortage and Low Teacher Salaries by Initiating a Student Debt Assistance Program for LCMS Commissioned Minister - Teacher

Reference Overture(s): CO 02-22-04

WHEREAS, Our Lutheran Schools struggle to find rostered teachers to serve in the classrooms of our High Schools, Middle Schools, Elementary Schools, Pre-schools and Child Development Centers¹; and

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

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

WHEREAS, The reality of student loan debt is an important part of the decision to seek employment outside the Lutheran school; and

WHEREAS, The Southeastern District LCMS already has in place a Tuition Assistance Program to financially assist those who have pledged their service to become rostered LCMS workers, which has in the past three years awarded 48 students more than \$98,700, and has resources in place to assist present rostered workers seek student loan repayment; and

WHEREAS, It is a value that we fill our schools with rostered workers⁴; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That a National Lutheran Teacher Student Debt Assistance Program be developed that recognizes the service of Lutheran Teachers through student loan debt forgiveness; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a committee comprised of members of the Education Department of the Concordia University System, LCMS School Ministry, Concordia Plans, The Foundation, and the Council of Presidents develops the loan forgiveness process; and be it further

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

RESOLVED, That reports of this work be provided through regular communications of the Synod; and be it finally

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

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Footnotes:

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

The fulfillment rate of requests for first-year Synod-trained candidates to LCMS calling entities has declined from 63 percent in 2010 to 30 percent in 2018 because of the lack of available Synod-trained candidates (CUS BUE statistics);

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

2. Theme 8 of Office of National Mission's "LCMS Church Worker Wellness Insights," presentation by Rev. Robert Zagore, Office of National Mission to Gospel 2019

- * Financial wellbeing is unique among worker needs in that the major problems are beyond the worker's ability to change – most often the problem is that the workers are in a mathematically impossible situation
 - o Workers are under-paid for their skill level and workload
 - o Costs for health care are being pushed to the workers
 - o Young workers are burdened with significant student debt
- * Many calling bodies are unable to pay their workers what is necessary
 - o "The toughest work is being done in the places that can pay the least" (i.e. dying congregations, inner-city churches, immigrant ministries, etc.)

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

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

4. The 2016 Synod Convention Res. 8-01A, "To Encourage and Strengthen the Lutheran Ethos of Our LCMS Early Childhood Centers, Elementary Schools, and High Schools" specifically identified that a characteristic of a Lutheran school with a strong Lutheran ethos has "LCMS-trained Lutheran teachers ... who know and are committed to the truths of the Scriptures as confessed in our Lutheran Confessions (2019 LCMS Convention Proceedings, Resolution 12-02 A, p.221)"

BL-04-22-06a - To Strengthen The Nonvoting Advisory Delegate Participation At Conventions

Floor Committee: #04 - Bylaws

Convention Year: 2022

To Strengthen the Nonvoting Advisory Delegate Participation at Conventions

Reference Overture(s): BL 04-22-10

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

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

WHEREAS, The Synod highly values Ministers of Religion – Commissioned for their eagerness to serve the Lord and His Church (2019 Resolution. 9-17, "To Study Voting Privilege in the LCMS" p.201 of 2019 LCMS Convention Proceedings); and

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

WHEREAS, At least one other district (Northern Illinois) utilizes the voice and guidance of their Ministers of Religion – Commissioned in district convention through a non-counted advisory member vote; and

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

RESOLVED, That the Southeastern District enable Nonvoting Advisory Delegates to provide a preliminary **non-binding** vote during its regular convention, and be it further

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Southeastern District in Convention memorialize the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Convention to pass a like-minded resolution.