

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Council of Presidents
December 8, 2020

In our November meeting, the Council of Presidents discussed extensively the challenges each district is facing in planning and executing their district conventions. Each area of the country faces different challenges, but the one consistent issue is the inconsistency of the planning process.

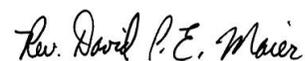
Many venues, though desirous to hold events, are barely functioning with little promise of certainty in how they might be able to host into the near future, both out of their own concern for staffing as well as the challenge of government restrictions. Though some of our districts may be able to hold some type of gathering, many of our districts would simply have to forgo their conventions this triennium, and none of the districts would be able to hold a robust convention, as described by the Synod bylaws. Even those that would try would likely have many of our delegates self-exclude due to personal health concerns.

Congregations should realize that moving the Synod convention will likely increase congregation assessments, depending on contract negotiations. With all of these and other mitigating circumstances and challenges, especially the care for our most vulnerable, the Council unanimously has requested that President Harrison consult with Synod's Board of Directors, to put a vote directly to the congregations of the Synod.

Resolved, that the Council of Presidents asks the Synod President that due to the continued uncertainty of the Corona Virus situation, he put before the congregations of the LCMS per Article XI, B, 8 of the Synod Handbook the request to extend the District Convention cycle to a 2-year window (2021-2022 with most conventions being delayed a year – to 2022) and move the Synod Convention to 2023. Approved unanimously.

Our desire is to serve our congregations and their members with the opportunity to gather and participate fully in the governing process that has served us so well in the past. We encourage each congregation in the careful consideration of and participation in this important decision.

Sincerely,



Rev. David Maier
President, Michigan District LCMS and Chairman, Council of Presidents



Rev. Richard Snow
President, Nebraska District LCMS and Vice Chairman, Council of Presidents



Rev. Mark Miller
President, Central Illinois District LCMS and Secretary, Council of Presidents