

# Convention Minutes

## Opening Worship Service Saturday, July 29, 2023

### *Opening Divine Service with Holy Communion*

The opening worship service of the 68th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) was held in the Baird Center (formerly known as the Wisconsin Center) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, under the theme, “We Preach Christ Crucified.” Presiding was the Rev. John M. Berg, associate pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Sheboygan, Wis., which hosted the communion service; the Rev. Sean Daenzer, chaplain and director of LCMS Worship, assisted. The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, Synod President, preached on Hosea 6:1–6; 1 Corinthians 1:18–25; and Luke 24:36–49a. The Council of Presidents and various pastors of the Synod, along with presidents and bishops of LCMS partner churches, assisted with distribution of the Sacrament. Accompaniment and special music were provided by Kantor Dr. Samuel Eatherton of Trinity Lutheran Church, organist and conductor, and Richard C. Ewert of Elm Grove Lutheran Church, accompanist and assistant organist; instrumentalists David Magoon, Steven Ehrhardt, Matthew Walker, John Gohl, Michael Janke, and Johanna Anderson; the handbell choir of Trinity Lutheran Church; and a choir composed of members of nearby Synod congregations (all but one in Wisconsin): Bethlehem, Sheboygan; Mount Olive, Milwaukee; Our Savior, Whitefish Bay; St. Paul, Grafton; Trinity, Rochester, Minn.; and Trinity, Sheboygan. The Rev. Thomas Dunseth and Deaconess Heidi Sias interpreted the service for the Deaf.

[President Harrison’s sermon introduced the convention theme, “We Preach Christ Crucified.” The entire text of President Harrison’s sermon will be printed in *Today’s Business* and in the *2023 Convention Proceedings*.]

## Session 1 Sunday a.m., July 30, 2023

### *Matins*

The Rev. Peter K. Lange, First Vice-President, preached on Philippians 2:1–11 in the Office of Matins, with Chaplain Sean Daenzer serving as liturgist. Kantor Matthew Machemer, associate Kantor at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and instrumentalists Matthew Wolf and Nathan Wolf provided accompaniment and special music.

[The entire text of First Vice-President Lange’s sermon will be printed in the *2023 Convention Proceedings*.]

### *Convention Opening and Presentation of Gavel*

After the taking of a convention group photo, President Matthew C. Harrison called the assembly to order and called on Rev. Dr. Daniel Harmelink, executive director of Concordia Historical Institute, to present the historic gavel used, since 1911, by the chair to call Synod conventions officially to order. In presenting the gavel, Dr. Harmelink spoke of the unique history and inscriptions on the gavel, commissioned to be carved from a log from the Synod’s original log cabin seminary to celebrate the centenary of C.F.W. Walther’s birth, which is ordinarily on display at the Institute’s Lutheran History Museum in the LCMS International Center. Having received the gavel, the chairman opened the 68<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

### *Committee 13: Registration, Credentials, and Elections*

The chair called upon the Rev. Scott Sailer, president of the South Dakota District and chairman of Committee 13 (Registration, Credentials, and Elections), to introduce the electronic queueing and voting systems provided by Padgett Communications.

Having done so, Chairman Sailer proceeded to present the initial registration report, noting that a total of 1,042 voting delegates had pre-registered for the convention (a quorum requires one quarter of these to be present, or 261). He reported the following present for the opening of the convention:

Voting delegates	991
Advisory delegates	156
Advisory representatives	158
Special guests and others	96

1 A motion was introduced and carried, without discussion, to adopt the report of the committee [Yes votes: 950;  
2 No votes: 2].

3 The chair declared the presence of a quorum and then introduced those seated at the front with particular convention  
4 roles: the Council of Presidents, the Commissions on Handbook and Constitutional Matters, the Board of Directors,  
5 executive directors and staff, special international guests, Parliamentarian Chris Dickey, Secretary John Sias, Assistant  
6 Secretary Samuel Powell, convention timekeeper Dorothy Krans, and those assisting the chair during the convention,  
7 including First Vice-President Peter Lange, Jeffrey Hemmer, Georgia Endicott, Kim Vieker, and Barbara Below.

### 8 *Special Standing Rules*

9 The chair called attention to the proposed Special Standing Rules for the convention, printed on pages 15–17 of  
10 the pre-convention edition of *Today's Business* (TB, 1:15–17), noting no substantive changes from those adopted as  
11 amended during the 2019 convention. A motion to adopt the rules was introduced and seconded.

12 It was moved and seconded to amend Standing Rule 14 to add the sentence, “When a new queue is opened, if  
13 advisory delegates or representatives are immediately (at the discretion of the chair) in the queue, the first two advisory  
14 delegates or representatives will be moved to the top of the queue. Then the order will return to the original queue,  
15 with those who spoke being removed.” It was noted that these speakers could be identified by their presence at advisory  
16 microphones. After some debate, it was moved and seconded to close debate; the motion carried by a show of hands  
17 (their being an issue in this session, after this point, with the electronic voting and queuing systems). The amendment  
18 failed by a voice and hand vote. A question of privilege was raised that some microphones seemed to be more difficult  
19 to hear than others. A second amendment was proposed to Standing Rule 14 to strike out the words following the  
20 comma in the second sentence and replace them with the words, “queue lists from previous motions and original  
21 unamended resolutions will be retained until a completely new, not substitute or amended, resolution is considered.”  
22 The chair explained that the technology would not support this.

23 A delegate raised a point of order as to how Rule 18 would be enforced; the chair noted with many eyes on the  
24 chair will do the best the chair can.

25 The question on the standing rules was called. In a voice vote, debate was closed. The standing rules were adopted  
26 as originally proposed by a voice vote.

### 27 *Convention Schedule*

28 The chair next called attention to the convention schedule, proposed as found in TB issue 2B (2B:284–85) with the  
29 chair noting the changes relative to that in *Today's Business*, First Edition. The schedule was moved and seconded.  
30 Without debate, the convention schedule was adopted by a voice vote.

### 31 *President's Report, Part 3*

32 First Vice-President Lange introduced President Harrison to give the third section of his convention report.

33 [The entire text of Part 3 of the President's Report is printed in *Today's Business*, Issue 3, and will be included in  
34 the *Convention Proceedings*.]

### 35 *Welcome and Greetings from South Wisconsin District*

36 The Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador, district executive for South Wisconsin District, welcomed delegates to Milwaukee  
37 on behalf of District President John C. Wille and the congregations, schools, agencies, and individual members of the  
38 district. He noted the district's eagerness to add to the Synod's already long history of meeting in Milwaukee. He also  
39 spoke of challenges and opportunities throughout the district, identifying church plants and new school launches, some  
40 in the city—everywhere on the “real front lines of mission and ministry.” He invited delegates to enjoy the beautiful  
41 city and state as the Synod works to get it straight, get it out, and preach Christ crucified.

### 42 *Omnibus Resolutions*

43 President Harrison, introduced Omnibus A, as printed in *Today's Business*, 2B:295–97. The resolution was moved  
44 and seconded. A delegate questioned the inclusion of Overture 5-47 in Omnibus A after its previous inclusion in Floor  
45 Committee 5's resolution to decline overtures. Floor Committee 5 chairman Brian Saunders addressed the question.  
46 A delegate raised a point of privilege and it was determined that the center section was still not able to queue.

47 It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 2-05 from the omnibus and refer it to the floor committee. In a voice  
48 vote, the removal and referral carried.

1 It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 5-47 from the omnibus and refer it to the floor committee. In a voice  
2 vote, the removal and referral failed. A point of order was raised that the delegate spoke and then made a motion,  
3 which was not upheld by the chair. By a voice vote, the motion to remove and refer failed.

4 It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 4-02–04 from the omnibus and refer them to the floor committee. In a  
5 hand and voice vote, the motion to remove and refer failed.

6 It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 5-34 from the omnibus and refer it to the floor committee. In a voice  
7 and hand vote, the motion to remove and refer failed.

8 It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 5-40 from the omnibus and refer it to the floor committee; which was  
9 out of order as this overture is instead included in Omnibus B.

10 With desire for debate exhausted, Omnibus A was adopted by voice vote as once amended, to remove Ov. 2-05  
11 and refer it back to Floor Committee 2.

12 The chair next introduced Omnibus B, as printed in *Today's Business*, 2B:297–98. The resolution was moved and  
13 seconded.

14 It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 5-40 from the omnibus and refer it to the floor committee. In a voice  
15 and hand vote, the motion to remove and refer failed.

16 An advisory delegate was ruled out of order in attempting to remove Ov. L4-19 from the omnibus, as advisory  
17 delegates may not make motions.

18 A delegate was ruled out of order in adding Res. 11-03 to the omnibus, as resolutions may not be added to  
19 omnibuses.

20 It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. L4-19 from the omnibus and refer it to the floor committee. In a voice  
21 and hand vote, the motion failed.

22 Debate exhausted, Omnibus B was adopted by a voice vote as presented.

23 The chair next introduced Omnibus C, as printed in *Today's Business*, 1:82. The resolution was moved and  
24 seconded.

25 It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 6-45 from the omnibus and refer it to the floor committee. In a voice  
26 vote, the motion carried.

27 It was moved and seconded to cease debate. The motion carried in a voice and hand vote. Omnibus C was adopted  
28 by voice and hand vote, as amended to remove Ov. 6-45 and refer it back to Floor Committee 6.

29 After a point of order regarding the queuing system, a motion to recess for fifteen minutes was ruled out of order.  
30 *Convention Essay: "We Preach Christ Crucified—Overview"*

31 [The entire text of the essay by the Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Egger, president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will be  
32 printed in the *2023 Convention Proceedings*.]

33 *Committee 4: Life Together*

34 With First Vice-President Peter Lange assuming the chair, the chair recognized Chairman Christopher S. Esget,  
35 Fifth Vice-President, to begin the report of his committee. The convention was informed that the queueing and voting  
36 system functionality has been restored.

37 Res. 4-01, "To Commend and Encourage Continued Use of The *Koinonia* Project and Give Thanks to God for the  
38 Sainted Rev. Dr. Herbert C. Mueller, Jr." (*TB*, 1:101) was read and introduced by the committee. Pastor Herbert C.  
39 Mueller III spoke to the resolution and asked that the final two verses of "God's Own Child I Gladly Say It" might be  
40 sung upon adoption.

41 A delegate offered an amendment to add two whereases and one resolved, which was seconded:

42 "WHEREAS, fostering consensus requires an ongoing practice of discussion between laity, pastors,  
43 seminaries, COP, CTCR, and other leaders and members of Synod; and

1 WHEREAS, the concept paper for the *Koinonia* Project rightly identifies an opportunity to further connect  
2 absolutely necessary in-person conversations, both to each other and to the wider Synod; therefore be it

3 *Resolved*, that Synod in convention direct the seminaries, COP, and CTCR to develop such a standing,  
4 ongoing, fully-transparent, and synodwide conversation as soon as humanly possible.”

5 The previous question was moved on the amendment. The motion to close debate carried [Yes: 673; No: 229]. The  
6 amendment carried [Yes: 460; No: 455]. Upon a question by a delegate as to the necessity of a financial outlay estimate  
7 for the resolution as amended, the Chief Financial Officer concluded that the costs of the effort proposed would involve  
8 perhaps as much as \$10–15k for development of resources, but that most of the cost could be expected to be absorbed  
9 into work of existing entities.

10 It was moved and seconded to refer the resolution as amended back to the committee. The motion carried [Yes:  
11 636; No: 287].

12  
13  
14 **Session 2**  
15 **Sunday p.m., July 30, 2023**

16 *Midday Prayer*

17 First Vice-President Lange having called the assembly together, the Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray, Third Vice-President  
18 (West-Southwest Region), preached on Matthew 27:32–44 in the order of Midday Prayer, with Chaplain Daenzer  
19 serving as liturgist and Kantor Machemer accompanying. Andrew Schempf served as soloist and guitarist.

20 [The entire text of Vice-President Murray’s sermon will be printed in the *2023 Convention Proceedings*.]

21 After the devotion, the chair noted the *Set Apart to Serve* initiative and introduced the first of a series of church  
22 worker videos to be shown during the convention.

23 *Committee 13: Registration, Credentials, and Elections*

24 First Vice-President Lange having called the assembly to order and made some procedural comments, he called  
25 upon the Rev. Scott Sailer, president of the South Dakota District and chairman of Committee 13 (Registration,  
26 Credentials, and Elections), to announce the result of the LCMS Presidential Election. President Sailer and the chair  
27 offered thanks to the Office of the Secretary; LCMS Department of Rosters, Statistics, and Research Services; and  
28 Yes Elections (formerly Election-America, the Synod’s election contractor) for their assistance of congregations and  
29 parishes and their voters in completing the process. He described the election process and noted the five final  
30 candidates and the numbers of votes each received (*TB*, 2B:286). He declared Matthew C. Harrison elected. During  
31 his response, President Harrison thanked the Synod for “quite a run,” and thanked also those who were also willing to  
32 stand as candidates for a position that is “not easy.” He thanked his colleagues on the Council of Presidents and at the  
33 International Center, “who make so much of the job a joy,” and Village Lutheran Church in Ladue, Mo., where he is  
34 in a pastor in an assisting capacity. He introduced, and thanked God for, his faithful family. “Without Christ it would  
35 be impossible ... God bless you. Here we go, for another round.”

36 President Harrison, resuming the chair, thanked the nominees and candidates in 62 positions to be elected for  
37 offering their names for service. He next acknowledged Rev. Sailer and called for an update to the registration report,  
38 which read as follows:

39	Voting delegates	1,014	(497 lay and 517 pastors)
40	Advisory delegates	160	
41	Advisory representatives	161	

42 The report was moved and adopted without objection.

43 President Sailer updated the convention on aspects of the voting process and equipment, which received attention  
44 from the contractor and committee before and over the lunch recess. He reviewed the process for election of the First  
45 Vice-President of the Synod; after that election, he would do the same for the regional vice-presidents. He called upon  
46 Chaplain Daenzer to offer prayer.

1	<i>Election of First Vice-President</i>				
2	<i>First Vice-President (Ordained, 3-year term)</i>				
3	Allan R. Buss (NI)	57			
4	Christopher S. Esget (EN)	57			
5	Jamison J. Hardy (EN)	51			
6	<b>Peter K. Lange (MO)</b>	<b>578</b>			<b>(declared elected)</b>
7	Richard L. Snow (NEB)	243			
8	<i>Election of Regional Vice-Presidents</i>				
9	<i>Regional Vice-President (Ordained, Central Region, 3-year term)</i>				
10	Randy K. Asbury (MO)	59			
11	<b>Benjamin T. (Ben) Ball (SI)</b>	484	<b>554</b>		<b>(declared elected)</b>
12	Jason M. Braaten (CI)	62			
13	William R. Marler (MO)	14			
14	Lawrence R. Rast Jr. (IN)	231	291		
15	William W. Schumacher (MO)	149	155		
16	<i>Regional Vice-President (Ordained, East-Southeast Region, 3-year term)</i>				
17	Victor J. Belton (FG)	188			
18	<b>Christopher S. Esget (EN)</b>	<b>506</b>			<b>(declared elected)</b>
19	Jeffrey J. Kloha (SE)	175			
20	Deric A. Taylor (NJ)	51			
21	Luke T. Zimmerman (EN)	76			
22	<i>Regional Vice-President (Ordained, Great Lakes Region, 3-year term)</i>				
23	Peter Bender (SW)	130	139		
24	Steven G. (Steve) Kline (NW)	47			
25	David P. E. Maier (MI)	299	367	413	
26	David P. Ramirez (SW)	123			
27	<b>John C. Wohlrabe Jr. (SW)</b>	389	490	<b>585</b>	<b>(declared elected)</b>
28	<i>Regional Vice-President (Ordained, Great Plains Region, 3-year term)</i>				
29	Byrene K. (Keith) Haney (NI)	177	249		
30	Robert R. Lessing (MNS)	168	160		
31	David C. Mumme (MNS)	114			
32	<b>Nabil S. Nour (SD)</b>	464	<b>592</b>		<b>(declared elected)</b>
33	Russell L. (Russ) Sommerfeld (NEB)	78			
34	<i>Regional Vice-President (Ordained, West-Southwest Region, 3-year term)</i>				
35	Alfonso O. Espinosa (PSW)	124			
36	Timothy M. Klinkenberg (PSW)	168			
37	Yohannes A. Mengsteab (TX)	114			
38	<b>Scott R. Murray (TX)</b>	<b>505</b>			<b>(declared elected)</b>
39	Jeffery T. (Jeff) Schrank (PSW)	84			
40	<i>Election to Determine Ranking of Second through Sixth Vice-Presidents</i>				
41	<i>For Second Vice-President</i>				
42	<b>Benjamin T. (Ben) Ball (SI)</b>	250	351	429	<b>498 (declared elected)</b>
43	Christopher S. Esget (EN)	153			
44	Scott R. Murray (TX)	220	283	325	482
45	Nabil S. Nour (SD)	204	212	234	
46	John C. Wohlrabe Jr. (SW)	160	137		

*For Third Vice-President*

Christopher S. Esget (EN)	151	145	
<b>Scott R. Murray (TX)</b>	484	<b>605</b>	<b>(declared elected)</b>
Nabil S. Nour (SD)	210	229	
John C. Wohlrabe Jr. (SW)	135		

*For Fourth Vice-President*

Christopher S. Esget (EN)	297	354	
<b>Nabil S. Nour (SD)</b>	473	<b>622</b>	<b>(declared elected)</b>
John C. Wohlrabe Jr. (SW)	212		

*For Fifth Vice-President*

<b>Christopher S. Esget (EN)</b>	<b>535</b>		<b>(declared elected)</b>
John C. Wohlrabe Jr. (SW)	446		

*Sixth Vice-President*

<b>John C. Wohlrabe Jr. (SW)</b>			<b>(declared elected)</b>
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*Catechism—Introduction*

The Rev. Peter Bender was invited to conduct a catechesis for the convention on the basis of *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (St. Louis: CPH, 2017), of which all delegates and representatives received a copy. Bender noted the fundamental catechism texts—Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession and Forgiveness, Reception of the Supper—as the “ABCs” of the catholic faith, universal to Christians. Luther in his explanations expounds these texts as sermons on Christ, the love of God, the center of redemption, the blood of Jesus. These primary texts and Luther's lovely secondary explanations can be learned by heart by children of the youngest ages, who love to learn by heart and whose minds are sponges. Beyond Luther's explanation, the 2017 volume contains an abundance of material derived, via a number of editions, on Heinrich Schwan's Catechism, to resource pastors and laity to give contemporary expression to the faith and to address the pressing challenges of each time, including ours. Bender explained the use of the Catechism as a handbook and prayerbook of the Christian life, with the primary and secondary texts forming a foundation for a deeper exploration of the Bible and application in the rest of the book. Luther's explanations unfold God's good gifts and how God means to protect them. With Luther's help, for example in unfolding the Fourth Commandment, we can hold out to the world what a marvelous thing it is to be a Christian, what a good life it is to be a man or a little girl, the goodness of marriage and family. Bender explored some “wonderful connections” in Luther's explanations among the various primary texts and applications thereof for the life of faith, to be continued in his next presentation.

*Greetings—Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod*

The chair invited the Rev. Bart Day, president and chief executive officer of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), to bring his greetings to the convention on behalf of the synodwide corporate entity. After a brief video displaying ministry facilities developed, improved, and repaired using LCEF investments—work in which LCEF is “part of the Church's proclaiming Christ,” Day highlighted Christ crucified as the “glorious message of the Gospel...the message the world needs—the message we must ensure the Church has every opportunity to share broadly and generously.” He noted that LCEF investments support the work of thousands of rostered workers, congregations, schools, and other organizations through low-cost loans that make resources available for the Church now and into the future. Day noted an exceptional year for LCEF's loan origination, with a strong pipeline for the future after the end of the pandemic. Thanks be to God! Day invited investment in the Church Worker Loan Pool, a new initiative for LCEF—investors will make less, but will do so intentionally to support a pool of preferred-rate loans “so that LCMS rostered church workers can have more.”

*Committee 14: Convention Nominations – Floor Nominations for Secretary and Synod Board of Directors*

President Harrison, noting updates to election material in the daily *Today's Business*, called to the podium the chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations, Christian Preus, to present the slates for election of Secretary and Board of Directors and to receive floor nominations for these positions. Chairman Preus noted the Bylaw charge of his committee and that the members of his committee, elected by 17 districts this triennium, are listed in the

1 *Convention Workbook*. He briefly explained the committee's work and the committee's report in the *Biographical*  
2 *Synopses and Statements of Nominees* (BSSN) and called attention to and presented the slate of candidates for Secretary  
3 (BSSN, p. 40), as determined by the committee. After further explanation from Chairman Preus, President Harrison  
4 opened the floor for nominations, none of which were offered. The chair declared nominations for Secretary closed.

5 Chairman Preus next called attention to and presented the slates for Board of Directors (BSSN, pp. 41–45) and  
6 President Harrison opened the floor for nominations.

7 It was moved and adopted by voice vote to add Gerhard H. Munding, Jr. (Michigan City, Ind.; Indiana District)  
8 to the slate for the lay at-large position on the Board of Directors (BSSN, pp. 44–45).

9 Interest in floor nominations for these offices having been exhausted, the chair declared nominations for Synod  
10 Board of Directors closed.

#### 11 *Presentation: International Missions—From Generation to Generation*

12 After a video highlighting generational mission work of the Synod, the chair welcomed President Geraldo W.  
13 Schüler of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (IELB), who addressed the convention in Portuguese with a  
14 running translation. He explained the beginnings of the IELB in mission work of the LCMS at the opening of the 20th  
15 century, which has led to a mature church body sharing the same grace and walking in the same faith toward eternal  
16 life, giving hope and preaching the Gospel in 1,501 congregations. IELB also shares 70 pastors with partners abroad—  
17 including with the LCMS through the Alliance Project. In this, IELB participates in gratitude for all she received from  
18 the LCMS, especially between 1900 and 1990s, and to carry out her permanent motto: “Christ for all!” One more  
19 objective has been added to the partnership – to share with partner churches experiences from her own expansive and  
20 diverse mission field, maintaining the Lutheran confession and meeting the people's needs. He recalled his father's  
21 horseback trip to find a Lutheran pastor to baptize his children and the eagerness of many—even walking tens of  
22 miles—to receive the pure Gospel, the precious theology of the cross, in which our fathers have died in peace and new  
23 generations should have the same opportunity. “A church,” he commented, “is not born large but it has a great and  
24 gracious God who blesses the faithful work.” He thanked the LCMS for everything the LCMS has done and promised  
25 the LCMS could count on IELB's partnership. He presented President Harrison with a plaque of gratitude for 175  
26 years of historic partnership and for the precious gift of the theology of the cross and for sending missionaries to  
27 Brazil.

28 Shauen Trump, regional director for the Office of International Mission, next introduced Bishop John Shadrack  
29 Donkoh of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana, who read Psalm 145:4–6, led the assembly in the Lord's Prayer,  
30 and blessed the assembly with the Aaronic Benediction.

#### 31 *Committee 5: Theology and Church Relations*

32 The chair recognized Chairman Brian S. Saunders, president of the Iowa East District, to begin the report of his  
33 committee.

34 Res. 5-01, “To Recognize Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Sudan and  
35 Sudan” (TB, 1:109–10) was read and introduced by the committee. A delegate having requested that the vote be taken  
36 by the convention's saying, “yea, yea, it shall be so,” the resolution so carried, unanimously, and the common  
37 doxology was sung. The Rev. Peter Anibati Abia addressed the assembly, with his remarks to be included in Monday's  
38 *Today's Business*.

39 Res. 5-02, “To Recognize Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland”  
40 (TB, 1:111–13) was read and introduced by the committee. The resolution being put to a “yea, yea, it shall be so”  
41 voice vote, the resolution so carried, unanimously, and the common doxology was sung. President Harrison having  
42 read a commemorative plaque, Bishop Juhana Pohjola addressed the assembly, with his remarks to be included in  
43 Monday's *Today's Business*.

44 Res. 5-03, “To Recognize Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the Lutheran Church of Uganda” (TB, 1:113–15) was  
45 read and introduced by the committee. The resolution being put to a “yea, yea, it shall be so” voice vote, the resolution  
46 so carried, unanimously, and the common doxology was sung. President Harrison having noted a plaque  
47 commemorating the fellowship being consummated by the convention today, Bishop Charles I. Bameka addressed  
48 the assembly, with his remarks to be included in Monday's *Today's Business*.

49 Res. 5-04, “To Recognize Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine” (TB,  
50 1:115–17) was read and introduced by the committee. The resolution being put to a “yea, yea, it shall be so” voice

1 vote, the resolution so carried, unanimously, and the common doxology was sung. President Harrison having noted a  
2 plaque commemorating the fellowship being consummated by the convention today, Bishop Serge Maschewski  
3 addressed the assembly, with his remarks to be included in Monday's *Today's Business*. He presented President  
4 Harrison with a helmet purchased, along with others and with flak jackets, for the pastors of his church by the LCMS  
5 Office of International Mission, which saved his life in a rocket attack and then that of a colleague, as well.

6 Res. 5-05A, "To Recognize the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka as a Self-Governing Partner  
7 Church" (*TB*, 2B:304–6) was read and introduced by the committee. The resolution being put to a "yea, yea, it shall  
8 be so" voice vote, the resolution so carried, unanimously, and the common doxology was sung. Bishop A. Arulchelvan,  
9 who could not be present, was represented by Pastor Steven Mahlburg, LCMS Office of International Mission  
10 Missionary to Sri Lanka, who read the bishop's remarks to the assembly, the remarks to be included in Monday's  
11 *Today's Business*.

### 12 *Committee 3: Mercy*

13 The chair recognized Chairman Brady L. Finner, president of the Minnesota North District, to begin the report of  
14 his committee. After a lighthearted moment with the chair, he did so, noting the man who cried out, "Jesus, Son of  
15 God, have mercy on me," and the *kyrie*: "Lord, have mercy," and other texts mentioning the divine mercy, which the  
16 Synod seeks to carry out throughout the world. He noted the Synod's Million-Dollar Life Match, noting the Lord's  
17 call to be merciful means we take action to have mercy in His name. Deaconess Dr. Tiffany Manor, director of LCMS  
18 Life Ministry, was invited to share statistics regarding this mercy project. She invited forward representatives of two  
19 Wisconsin congregations and related organizations to present them with their phase 4 Life Match grants and to give  
20 thanks to God for their work.

21 Res. 3-01, "To Encourage and Support More Fervent Teaching, Proclamation, and Efforts to Promote Culture of  
22 Life among God's People" (*TB*, 1:96) was read and introduced by the committee.

23 It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by adding a resolve as follows: "*Resolved*, that the Synod in  
24 convention give thanks to God for His unending mercies, especially in overturning *Roe v. Wade*, thus preserving the  
25 lives of many unborn children." The amendment carried by a show of hands.

26 It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution to insert as a second-last resolve, "Resolved, that the Synod  
27 expand its definition of life ministry to include a whole life approach to include support for gun violence prevention  
28 initiatives, abolition of the death penalty, advocacy for proper health care provided to all people, etc." It was moved  
29 and seconded to close debate on the amendment; this carried by voice vote. The amendment failed by voice vote.

30 Noting the orders of the day, and without objection, the chair put Res. 3-01 as once amended to voice vote; the  
31 resolution was adopted. Deaconess Manor was again addressed the assembly regarding LCMS Life Ministry.

### 32 *Evening Prayer*

33 Chaplain Sean Daenzer led the convention in the Order of Evening Prayer, with the text, Isaiah 53:4–12; the Rev.  
34 Dr. Peter Anibati Abia, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Sudan/Sudan, served as lector. Kantor  
35 Machemer and soloist/guitarist Andrew Schempf provided accompaniment and special music; members of the Council  
36 of Presidents also served as a choir.

37 John W. Sias, *Secretary*