

## TALK SHEET: MEMBERSHIP IN THE SYNOD

### Word

What role and relationship did the “greater church” have on the congregations and pastors in the following?

1. Acts 15:22–35 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Galatians 2:1–10 \_\_\_\_\_
3. 2 Corinthians 9:1–5 \_\_\_\_\_

### Discussion

4. You are a Missouri Synod Lutheran who just moved to a populated area of the United States, but there is no Missouri Synod congregation for miles. Between your work and parents you meet at your children’s school, you have about 20 people interested in starting a Lutheran church. You reach out to the district president and ask him to help you move this forward. With much other good counsel, he gives you an LCMS *Handbook*, which contains the Synod’s Constitution and Bylaws. What do you and your interested group of people learn from the following sections of the *Handbook* concerning your new church start?

a. Article VII, “Relation of the Synod to Its Members”

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b. Bylaw 1.6 and 1.7, “Confessional Position of the Synod” and “Agreements”

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c. Section 2, “Membership”

- i. 2.1.1 — Why is it important that membership in the LCMS be viewed as a valuable asset to be carefully monitored and managed?

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- ii. 2.2 — What is involved for a congregation to be eligible for membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod?

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- iii. 2.3 — What is the application process by which congregations become members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod?

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- iv. 2.4 — According to this section, “Continued Eligibility of Congregations,” how would you respond to someone who said, “Once a member of Synod, always a member of Synod”?

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5. Read Article V and Bylaw 2.6–7; 1.6; and 1.8. How is membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod held and acquired by congregations, ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of religion—commissioned?

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6. What is your responsibility as either a voting or advisory member of the Synod? How do you utilize this responsibility?

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7. Read Article VI, “Conditions of Membership.” Evaluate you or your congregation’s status of membership according to each of these conditions. Which of the seven conditions do you feel is necessary for you and other members of the Synod in your peer group to further study and understand?

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8. Why do you think Synod delegates chose to write and maintain Article XIII on “Expulsion from the Synod”?

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### Further Study

Walther, C.F.W. *The Church and the Office of the Ministry*. Edited by Matthew C. Harrison. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2012.