

2023 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS



WE PREACH
CHRIST CRUCIFIED

1 Cor. 1:18-25

CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) gathers once every three years for a national convention, which is the principal legislative assembly for the church. While the convention is a time for worship, fellowship and sharing information, its primary purpose is to conduct the church's business. Delegates from each district gather to take official action to amend the LCMS Constitution and Bylaws, consider reports and overtures, adopt mission priorities for the Synod, provide program direction, authorize affiliation or discontinue affiliation with other church bodies and much more.

Prior to the most recent Synod convention, held in Milwaukee, Wis., in July 2023, 336 overtures were submitted to the LCMS Office of the President. Overtures are proposals for resolutions to be presented at the convention, requesting that the delegation take action on some matter. These overtures are printed in the Convention Workbook made available in April prior to the convention. Floor committees then review all the overtures and reports and prepare resolutions to present to the convention delegation for consideration and action.

Resolutions were presented and adopted at the 2023 Synod convention over a period of 4.5 days of business. The Synod thanks the many delegates who studied and debated the issues, listened to reports and information, and made decisions to adopt or decline the resolutions presented.

The following pages highlight several resolutions adopted at convention related to district activities. To see all the resolutions pre-sented, go to the 2023 *Convention Proceedings* found here:

lcms.org/doc/2023-proceedings

CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS — LIST

Circuit Visitors

Res. 1-07: To Address Mental Health among Pastors and Other Professional Church Workers

- Support the mental well-being of workers.

Res. 6-07A: To Recommend and Implement Rigorous Program of Study in Circuit Winkels

- Conduct monthly Winkels as indicated.

Res. 9-01: To Amend Bylaws to Provide Clarity for Cross-Circuit and Cross-District Multi-Congregation Parishes

- Note bylaw changes.

Res. 9-02: To Amend Various Bylaws to Provide Clarity or to Address Practical Considerations

- Note bylaw changes (I).

Res. 9-05A: To Simplify Circuit Elections

- Note bylaw change.

Circuits

Res. 12-04A: To Commend and Give Thanks for Lutheran Schools

- Review and act in accordance with this resolution.

Council of Presidents (District Presidents)

Res. 1-07: To Address Mental Health among Pastors and Other Professional Church Workers

- Support the mental well-being of workers.

Res. 5-08A: To Affirm In-Person Communion

- Urge and instruct to conduct the Lord's Supper in person and refrain from online Communion, exercising ecclesiastical supervision as necessary.

Res. 6-02A: To Encourage Proper Pastoral Formation through Our Synod's Seminaries

- Direct men to residential pastoral ministry routes as the preferred option.

Res. 6-04: To Affirm and Provide Guidance for the Service of Laity

- Reserve distinct functions of the Office of Holy Ministry to pastors.

Res. 6-06A: To Support and Participate in Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support and Preach the Word

- Carry out and implement Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS) and *Preach the Word*.

Res. 6-07A: To Recommend and Implement Rigorous Program of Study in Circuit Winkels

- Provide circuit visitors and pastors with a template for monthly Winkels; report in the 2026 *Workbook* on the implementation of the Winkel model.

Res. 6-09: To Recognize and Honor the Pastor's Wife

- Give attention to the care of the pastor's wife and household.

Res. 7-03: To Call Concordia University Texas Leadership to Repentance

- Determine appropriate disciplinary action.

CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS — LIST

Districts

Res. 1-01A: To Stimulate Training for Witness

- Encourage and assist congregations to train members to tell the Good News and report on the steps taken to implement this.

Res. 1-02A: To Aid Small Congregations and Multi-Congregation Pastors and Parishes

- Work with the Office of National Mission (ONM) in gathering and disseminating resources.

Res. 1-03A: To Plant More Churches

- Work with the ONM to develop, implement and encourage the use of resources.

Res. 1-05A: To Increase Mission Efforts to Immigrants and Various Cultural Groups in North America

- Work with the ONM.

Res. 1-06A: To Direct Districts and Council of Presidents to Provide Strategic Plan for Addressing Wellness of Church Workers

- Establish worker and family wellness plans.

Res. 1-07: To Address Mental Health among Pastors and Other Professional Church Workers

- Make available a mental health advocate, charged as indicated.

Res. 1-08A: To Promote and Commend the Synod's Digital and Online Resources

- Review commended resources.

Res. 2-01: To Commend, Strengthen, and Give Thanks for Alliance Missionary Program

- Support the Alliance Missionary Program.

Res. 2-02A: To Promote and Collaborate with the Office of International Mission

- Prioritize the work of the Office of International Mission (OIM) in support of international mission work, and promote the work of the OIM and Recognized Service Organizations in communication and conferences.

Res. 2-05: To Provide Resources for Discerning Validity of Requests to Support International Mission Work

- Make use of the developed resources.

Res. 2-07A: To Commend Use and Attendance of FOROs (Spanish word for “forum”)

- Participate in a FORO.

Res. 3-01: To Encourage and Support More Fervent Teaching, Proclamation, and Efforts to Promote Culture of Life among God's People

- Encourage congregational involvement with life ministry. Seek to protect sufferers from the effects of abortion.

Res. 4-02: To Affirm and Continue Making Disciples for Life as Mission and Ministry Emphasis for 2023–26 Triennium

- Ground local mission and ministry in *Making Disciples for Life*; engage in conversation.

Res. 4-03: To Affirm and Continue Mission Priorities for 2023–26 Triennium

- Engage in *koinonia* and walking together under the Synod's mission priorities.

Res. 4-04: To Give Thanks for Spanish Language Hymnal Himnario Luterano and Commend Its Use

- Make use of *Himnario Luterano* as appropriate.

Res. 5-09: To Review Guidance on Admission to the Lord's Supper

- Engage in discussion on the basis of the developed resources.

CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS — LIST

Res. 6-01: To Affirm and Strengthen Set Apart to Serve in Word and Action

- Endorse, advocate and engage with *Set Apart to Serve*.

Res. 6-02A: To Encourage Proper Pastoral Formation through Our Synod's Seminaries

- Honor, use and promote Synod-approved routes to pastoral ministry, instead of creating independent routes.

Res. 6-04: To Affirm and Provide Guidance for the Service of Laity

- Encourage evangelism and outreach.

Res. 6-06A: To Support and Participate in Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support and Preach the Word

- Carry out and implement PALS and *Preach the Word*.

Res. 7-06B: To Support Colleges and Universities of the Concordia University System

- Create and fund scholarships.

Res. 9-01: To Amend Bylaws to Provide Clarity for Cross-Circuit and Cross-District Multi-Congregation Parishes

- Note bylaw changes.

Res. 9-08A: To Strengthen Nonvoting Advisory Delegate Participation at Conventions

- Review advisory delegate procedures.

Res. 12-04A: To Commend and Give Thanks for Lutheran Schools

- Review and act in accordance with this resolution.

Districts (Conferences and Conventions)

Res. 6-09: To Recognize and Honor the Pastor's Wife

- Observe Luther's wedding anniversary and pastors' wedding anniversaries.

Res. 9-02: To Amend Various Bylaws to Provide Clarity or to Address Practical Considerations

- Note bylaw changes (B, H).