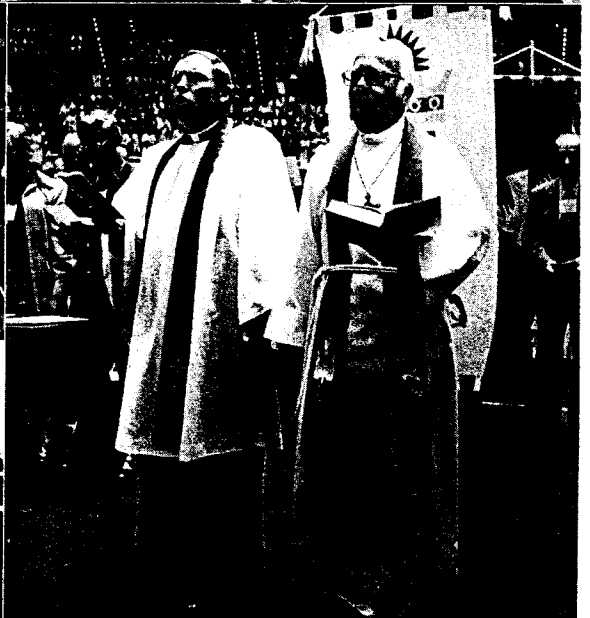


THAT WE MAY GROW THAT WE MAY GROW

CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS

*52nd Regular Convention
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Dallas, Texas
July 15—22, 1977*



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Officers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

President

Rev. J. A. O. Preus, Ph. D., D.D., St. Louis, Mo.

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1977 Local Convention Arrangements Committee

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Mr. Carl Rupprecht, *Worship*

Mr. Bill Ceverha, *Public Relations*

Mr. Jack Lauber, *Convention Services*

Mrs. Catherine Burkhard, *Registration and Credentials*

Dr. Roland P. Wiederaenders, *Advisory*

Dr. Herbert Mueller, *Advisory*

Mr. W. J. Barge, *Convention Manager*

That We May Grow

How the future will judge the Dallas convention of the Synod remains to be seen, of course.

Several impressions, however, seemed to emerge. It was a peaceful convention. It was efficient. It wanted to get on with the mission. It took many positive actions. It reaffirmed the Synod's doctrinal and constitutional positions.

It was unusual in at least two respects: not only did all proposed resolutions receive convention action, but the convention adjourned several hours ahead of schedule. Even veteran delegates could not recall that this had ever happened before.

There were no doubt several reasons for this expeditiousness. Much of the explanation lies in three factors: (1) the standing rule that automatically permits the convention after 30 minutes of debate to decide whether or not to close debate; (2) Resolutions A and B, through which many petitioners are referred either to a board or commission (A) or to an action of a previous convention (B); (3) the "Behnken rule" for dealing with substitute motions.

That it was a quiet convention was partly due to the fact that most votes were taken not by voice but by the raising of the right hand. There was always a strange, audible swish whenever the vote was taken, but no loud or angry shouts. Furthermore, on only four occasions was there a request to count the house.

* * *

We are listing once again for handy reference some of the resolutions of more than passing interest:

Res. 1-01	Seating of Delegates
Res. 2-01A	Work in West Africa
Res. 2-21A, 2-31A	Campus Ministry
Res. 3-01	That We May Grow
Res. 3-02A	ALC Fellowship
Res. 3-03A	LCUSA
Res. 3-04A	<i>Lutheran Book of Worship</i>
Res. 3-05A	Bylaws re Books of Worship
Res. 3-07	Doctrinal Statements
Res. 3-11	Historical-Critical Method
Res. 4-02A	Financial Management Bylaws
Res. 4-09A	Eastern District
Res. 5-01	Dual Membership (AELC)
Res. 5-08	Method of Electing Delegates
Res. 5-10	Status of District Resolutions
Res. 6-04B	Saskatoon
Res. 6-06A	Four-Year Colleges
Res. 6-07A	Irvine
Res. 6-08	Placement Procedures
Res. 6-09, 6-10	Seminex Graduates
Res. 6-23	"A Statement"
Res. 7-02	Year of the Sunday School
Res. 7-08	Youth Organization
Res. 8-15	Refugees
Res. 9-04A	Concordia Historical Institute
Res. 9-06	Growth in Ministry
Res. 10-01A	Black Commission
Res. 10-03, 10-09A, 10-10A	Hispanic Work
Res. 10-06	Recruitment of Blacks
Res. 13-07	Balancing the Budget
Res. 13-08A	Work Programs

Some resolutions have an "A" attached to their identifying number. This indicates that the resolution

originally prepared by the floor committee over the Memorial Day weekend had been revised by the committee, usually in answer to reactions received prior to the convention.

The number in parentheses below each resolution indicates the session in which final action was taken. In many instances it might be well to consult the minutes of that session for additional information. The parenthetical comments in small type below some resolutions provide still additional information from the notebooks of both secretaries.

CW refers to the *Convention Workbook*, the 450-page book of reports and overtures to the convention. TB stands for *Today's Business*, the daily publication bringing the text of the proposed resolutions prepared by the floor committees. The first issue of *Today's Business* (Sections A and B) was sent to all congregations and delegates prior to the convention and contained practically all resolutions. The daily issues distributed at the convention proper brought the revised versions to the attention of the delegates.

The following items should also be noted:

- All sessions were held in the Dallas Convention Center in Dallas, Tex.
- For the first time the convention had a full-time chaplain, responsible for most opening and closing devotions, in the person of former Vice-President Paul Streufert. Dr. August Bernthal substituted for the last few devotions to enable Dr. Streufert to represent the Synod at the funeral of former Board of Directors member Mr. Milton Isern.
- "That We May Grow" was the theme of the convention.
- However, much prominence was given to the centennial of Black work, with a special pageant on Saturday evening and a festival service with the celebration of the Lord's Supper on Sunday evening.

Once again we extend a special word of thanks to Dr. Walter Rosin, who had the principal responsibility of producing the Minutes under pressure, to the young ladies who produced *Today's Business* under the general editorship of Jean Buettner and the Secretary, and last but not least to "the Secretary's secretary," Pearl Houghton.

* * *

It was a good convention. But it had its sad side too.

Some familiar faces and voices were genuinely missed. And the nagging fear that relations with other Lutheran brothers and sisters were being strained brought a chill at times to the heart.

May at least one observer voice the quiet hope that those who once walked with us will still be reunited with us in the way, and that there will be a God-pleasing growing together of separated Lutherans. Perhaps the closer one gets to the great gathering into

one flock in heaven, the more one is inclined to ask why more of this great and good reality which awaits us cannot be experienced already *now*.

May God give special grace and blessing to those

who are charged with special responsibilities in this important aspect of life in the kingdom of our dear Lord Jesus Christ, "that we may grow" also in this!

Herbert Mueller, *Secretary*

REGISTERED DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES

A. Voting and Advisory Delegates

Alberta and British Columbia District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Koester, Paul, Lethbridge, Alta.
2. Hein, Paul A., Red Deer, Alta.
3. Schelp, Sanford, Peace River, Alta.
4. Heinemann, Herbert, Vegreville, Alta.
5. Haberstock, Harold D., Creston, B.C.
6. Tuomisto, Jorma K., Burnaby, B.C.
7. Rentz, Garwood, Courtney, B.C.
8. Eifert, Norman W., Surrey, B.C.

B. Voting Laymen

1. Havard, Jack T., Calgary, Alta.
2. Jessop, W. E., Rocky Mt. House, Alta.
3. Weihmann, Fred, Hines Creek, Alta.
4. Hubick, Walter, Edmonton, Alta.
5. Wolgram, Len, Vernon, B.C.
6. Selman, Norman, Richmond, B.C.
7. Pagel, George, Victoria, B.C.
8. Bell, Wayne, Coquitlam, B.C.

C. Advisory Pastor

Warren, William, Edmonton, Alberta

Atlantic District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Buchheimer, Paul, Saratoga Sprng NY
2. Yingling, Stanton, Elmere, NY
3. Jaekel, James, Putnam Valley, NY
4. Zwerneemann, James, Bronxville, NY
5. Jones, Ronald, Bronx, NY
6. Geidel, Arthur W., Staten Island, NY
7. Von Harten, Harvey, Brooklyn, NY
8. Behling, Paul, Oakland Gardens, NY
9. Pflug, Ernst R., Bayside, NY
10. Thompson, Edwin H., Jamaica, NY
11. Fink, Otto, Old Westbury, NY
12. Behnke, Robert R., Seaford, NY
13. Steinke, Arthur F., Brentwood, NY
14. Koepchen, Henry, Setauket, NY

B. Voting Laymen

1. Donaho, Melvin, Plattsburgh, NY
2. Rieker, Eric, Stuyvesant, NY
3. Eberius, Aribert, Washingtonville, NY
4. Stevens, David, Thornwood, NY
5. Bamberger, Robert, Bronx, NY
6. Murray, John, New York, NY
7. Berni, Charles, Brooklyn, NY
8. Morton, Barbara, Glendale, NY
9. Havemeyer, Fred H., Flushing, NY
10. Flammann, William, Queens Village, NY
11. Maurer, Carl, Sea Cliff, NY
12. Schmitt, Alfred H., Garden City, NY
13. Nepf, Hans, Stony Brook, NY
14. Munson, Gregory, Sayville, NY

C. Advisory Pastors

Brauer, James L., Tuckahoe, NY
Hansen, Dale, New York, NY
Sluberski, Thomas, Bronxville, NY

D. Advisory Teachers

Herbrich, Ben, Flushing, NY
Weber, Louise, Bronxville, NY
Zuelsdorf, Anthony, Albany, NY

Brazil District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Luedke, Guilherme, Rondon, Brazil

B. Voting Laymen

1. Warth, Paulo R., Sao Paulo, Brazil

California and Nevada District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Holt, Wilbert, San Francisco, CA
2. Wessel, James, San Lorenzo, CA
3. Schlecht, Dennis W., Modesto, CA
4. Tietjen, Walter C., Sacramento, CA
5. Oesch, Norbert C., Bakersfield, CA
6. Behnken, Kenneth, Mill Valley, CA
7. Hilpert, Rodney A., Pittsburg, CA
8. Hiller, Carl, San Mateo, CA
9. Wyneken, Karl, Santa Maria, CA
10. Leising, Emil, Gardnerville, NV
11. Schumm, Richard, Honolulu, HI
12. Rubke, Walter C., Yuba City, CA
13. Sohn, Edwin, Ukiah, CA
14. Sorensen, Herbert M., Selma, CA

15. Heidel, William, Salinas, CA
16. Keil, David D., Richmond, CA
17. Hinz, Alfred J., Milpitas, CA
18. Herman, Don O., Placerville, CA

B. Voting Laymen

1. Haynes, Raymond, San Mateo, CA
2. Weise, Ed, San Leandro, CA
3. Mueller, Robert, Los Banos, CA
4. Peck, Glenn, Sacramento, CA
5. Diseth, Gene, Wasco, CA
6. Hitzeman, Dale H., San Rafael, CA
7. Reitz, Joe, Concord, CA
8. Calais, Bernard P., Pacifica, CA
9. Paul, Richard, Atascadero, CA
10. Bossen, Norma, Winnemucca, NV
11. Utsumi, Daryl S., Honolulu, HI
12. Franks, Alvina, Gridley, CA
13. Wentzel, Roland, Fortuna, CA
14. Tietjen, Max, Fresno, CA
15. Kihne, Duane, Gilroy, CA
16. Forfang, Leonard, San Pablo, CA
17. Eckert, Eugene, Los Gatos, CA
18. Judish, Floyd, Citrus Heights, CA

D. Advisory Teachers

Aschbrenner, Henry, Napa, CA
Bunnett, William, Menlo Park, CA
Patterson, Myra, Lodi, CA

Central Illinois District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Schultz, Donald A., Altamont, IL
2. Saeger, Lawrence W., Bloomington, IL
3. Ehlers, Donald D., Champaign, IL
4. Brameier, James, Buckley, IL
5. Cunningham, J. Robert, Decatur, IL
6. Cluver, Joel A., Sullivan, IL
7. Knief, Louis C., Arenzville, IL
8. Schutz, Ernest A., Topeka, IL
9. Schudde, Arthur, Peoria, IL
10. Uffenbeck, William J., Golden, IL
11. Schubkegel, Alfred L., Geneseo, IL
12. Wagner, Merlyn D., Chatham, IL
13. Bettermann, Vernon, East Peoria, IL

B. Voting Laymen

1. Wolff, Garry, Mason, IL
2. Poppe, Robert, Lexington, IL
3. Wetzel, Edwin, Gays, IL
4. Verkler, Charles D., Cissna Park, IL
5. Guhl, Richard, Decatur, IL
6. Garbe, Ernest, Dieterich, IL
7. Werries, Louis, Chapin, IL
8. Durdle, Delmar, San Jose, IL
9. Franzen, Larry H., Peoria, IL
10. Kleinschmidt, Norman, Bushnell, IL
11. Schoessel, C. Arthur, Rock Island, IL
12. Oesterreich, William H., Springfield, IL
13. Woelfle, Clarence, Pekin, IL

C. Advisory Pastor

Cumming, James T., Macomb, IL

D. Advisory Teachers

Lovekamp, Roy W., Jacksonville, IL
Papenberg, Anita, Peoria, IL
Soeken, Vernon E., Rock Island, IL

Colorado District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Hofman, Marion C., Delta, CO
2. Robarge, Daryl, Genoa, CO
3. Zehnder, Robert, Lakewood, CO
4. Quoss, Albert, Haxtun, CO
5. Reiss, Harold, Boulder, CO
6. Bergmann, David P., El Paso, TX
7. Hentz, Robert, Colorado Springs, CO
8. Lillich, Victor, Santa Fe, NM
9. Wessling, Edward, Denver, CO
10. Smidt, Donald D., Salt Lake City, UT

B. Voting Laymen

1. Adams, George, Window Rock, AZ
2. Banner, Don, Pueblo, CO
3. Sweat, George, Northglenn, CO
4. Shepherd, Fred, Sterling, CO
5. Gleichman, George, Littleton, CO
6. Bulls, Darrell, Portales, NM
7. Lehmphul, Robert, Colorado Springs, CO
8. Reklau, Walter, Rio Ranchos, NM
9. Bargmann, Alvin, Denver, CO
10. Pederson, C. P., Vernal, UT

C. Advisory Pastors

Brill, Henry, El Paso, TX
Schroeder, Arthur, Denver, CO

D. Advisory Teachers

Lindeman, Dennis W., Lakewood, CO
Maas, Edward F., Colorado Springs, CO

Eastern District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Wilson, Robert, Buffalo, NY
2. Plagens, Robert E., Hamburg, NY
3. Struckmann, Otto G., Lockport, NY
4. Otto, Daniel D., Niagara Falls, NY
5. Cox, J. Arthur, Bradford, PA
6. Dietrich, Herman Jr., North East, PA
7. Ritt, David H., Vestal, NY
8. Just, Christian F., East Avon, NY
9. Zoller, Albert P., Hilton NY
10. Steinke, Robert C., Massena, NY
11. White, Laurence L., Pittsburgh, PA
12. Bojarzin, Henry W., Pittsburgh, PA
13. Illick, Frederick S., Accident, MD
14. Hoffman, Wayne P., Bridgeville, PA
15. Bottoms, Dennis W., Philadelphia, PA
16. Kelm, Lawrence E., Mt. Pocono, PA

B. Voting Laymen

1. Naish, Alfred J., Williamsville, NY
2. Gorline, Gary, West Seneca, NY
3. Nellis, Glenn, Sanborn, NY
4. Grotheer, Morris, Lewiston, NY
5. Duever, Douglas, Lakewood, NY
6. Brinkman, Delmar, Silver Creek, NY
7. Gilmeister, Stanley, Nichols, NY
8. Wolfanger, Bruce D., Rochester, NY
9. Klopp, Paul, Hamlin, NY
10. Bierwagen, Max, DeWitt, NY
11. Heintz, Frederick, Glenshaw, PA
12. May, Otto F., Pittsburgh, PA
13. Auger, Robert, Monroeville, PA
14. McKinney, Edwin B., Pittsburgh, PA
15. Kraft, Clifford, West Chester, PA
16. Morris, Marshall, Scranton, PA

C. Advisory Pastors

Czarnaske, Paul W., Lockport, NY
Beck, Max, Pittsburgh, PA

D. Advisory Teachers

Nielsen, Richard, N. Tonawanda, NY
Pangburn, Albert, Sanborn, NY

English District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Bauer, Ben T., Green Valley, AZ
2. Sallach, D. E., Erie, PA
3. Pomeroy, Ralph, Chicago, IL
4. Pittelko, Roger D., Elk Grove Vill., IL
5. Odom, Frazier, Chicago, IL
6. Bacon, Paul E., New Lenox, IL
7. Holm, Walter E., Villa Park, IL
8. Peterson, Wendell, Highland Hts., OH
9. Mealwitz, Peter, Elyria, OH
10. Schulte, Edward, Detroit, MI
11. Jung, Donald F., West Bloomfield, MI
12. Hohenstein, Herb, Bel Nor, MO
13. Elaner, Robert C., La Porte, IN
14. Sorensen, John K., El Cajon, CA
15. Brauer, Norman, Menomonee Falls, WI
16. Koepke, Theodore V., Cliffside Pk., NJ
17. Wildgrube, Erich, Blue Bell, PA
18. Ludwig, Garth, Pittsburgh, PA
19. Nauss, Milton, St. Louis, MO
20. Kruse, David, E., Lansing, MI
21. Zielke, Kenneth, Plymouth, MI

B. Voting Laymen

1. Ritt, Richard, Tucson, AZ
2. Brennenstuhl, Eleanor, Toronto, Ont.
3. Holtz, Louis, Chicago, IL
4. Schmidt, Walters S., Mt. Prospect, IL
5. Winter, Robert, Chicago, IL
6. Smith, Earl, Wilmington, IL
7. Graves, Clarence, Elmhurst, IL
8. Overby, William, Suffield, OH
9. Hessler, David, No. Olmstead, OH
10. Weiss, John, St. Clair Shores, MI
11. Milz, G. David, Detroit, MI
12. —
13. Bercot, Dean, Ft. Wayne, IN
14. Braeunig, Chris, El Cajon, CA
15. Johnson, Oliver E., Sheboygan, WI
16. Diggs, Lemore, St. Albans, NY
17. Guenzel, Rudi, Hatboro, PA

18. Webster, Robert, Decatur, GA
19. Ebner, Andrew, Lincoln, NE
20. Wyble, F. Merrill, Lansing, MI
21. Schradie, Joseph, Toledo, OH

C. Advisory Pastors

- Larson, Donald H., Riveredge, NJ
Repp, Arthur C. Jr., Florissant, MO

D. Advisory Teachers

- Brandt, Larry L., Elmhurst, IL
Harman, Ronald V., Phoenix, AZ
Keske, Richard, Chicago, IL
Schmidt, Joel H., Tucson, AZ

Florida-Georgia District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Schroeder, Wayne C., Gainesville, GA
2. Martin, Christopher, Jacksonville, FL
3. Kunze, James H., Orlando, FL
4. Weinrich, Ralph A., Cocoa Beach, FL
5. Little, Donald, Plant City, FL
6. Byork, James, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
7. Douches, Anthony, Vero Beach, FL
8. Mack, J. W., Hialeah, FL
9. Gruell, Eugene, Miami, FL
10. Holzheimer, Walter R., Venice, FL
11. Brockhoff, Daniel A., Largo, FL
12. Burgdorf, Don, Brooksville, FL
13. Martin, James, Jonesboro, GA

B. Voting Laymen

1. Blank, Carl, Atlanta, GA
2. Hildebrandt, Shirley, Jacksonville, FL
3. Meyers, Vincent L., Orlando, FL
4. Funkhouser, Robert, Titusville, FL
5. Fecht, John, Lakeland, FL
6. Gerrard, Kenneth, Plantation, FL
7. Guelzow, Lynn, Okeechobee, FL
8. Kitner, Harry G., Miami, FL
9. Brussow, Jim, Key West, FL
10. Zehner, Larry, Punta Gorda, FL
11. Menking, Louis, St. Petersburg, FL
12. Scherf, Paul, Ocala, FL
13. Thomas, Olivia, Columbus, GA

Indiana District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Timmer, Wm., East Chicago, IN
2. Geffert, Melvin R., East Gary, IN
3. Garvue, Donald, Chesterton, IN
4. Koehnke, Edward, Hamlet, IN
5. Piazza, Charles, Plymouth, IN
6. Bearman, Dean, Avilla, IN
7. Taykowski, T. R., Fort Wayne, IN
8. Janssen, Ronald, Fort Wayne, IN
9. Thomas, L. F., Fort Wayne, IN
10. Frank, Donald, Monroeville, IN
11. Belveal, E., West Lafayette, IN
12. Zimmerman, Mark, Arcadia, IN
13. Butz, Lee, Greenfield, IN
14. Meyer, Philip, Terre Haute, IN
15. Dubbelde, D. V., Indianapolis, IN
16. Tremain, Richard, Columbus, IN
17. Petzold, Earl, Seymour, IN
18. Foust, Paul, Cross Plains, IN
19. Garber, Reuben L., New Albany, IN
20. Dressler, Waldimar W., Evanston, IN
21. Gerike, Victor, Evansville, IN

B. Voting Laymen

1. Kutansky, Rudy Sr., Hammond, IN
2. McCants, John H. Sr., Gary, IN
3. Bansbach, Norman, Valparaiso, IN
4. Brettn, James, Knox, IN
5. Wallace, Gerald, Warsaw, IN
6. Trier, Walter, Columbia City, IN
7. Benz, Edwin, Fort Wayne, IN
8. Bennett, Maurice, Fort Wayne, IN
9. Roemke, Chris, Woodburn, IN
10. Dietrich, Adolph, Fort Wayne, IN
11. Bardonner, Wilmar J., Reynolds, IN
12. Leimer, Weldon, Hartford City, IN
13. Abrahamsen, James M., Indianapolis, IN
14. Barthel, Alfred, Indianapolis, IN
15. Mellencamp, William, Greenwood, IN
16. Hamilton, George, Columbus, IN
17. Zabel, Glen, Brownstown, IN
18. Nelson, John W., Arlington, IN
19. Kurk, Arthur L., Louisville, KY
20. Dauble, Gerald T., Evansville, IN
21. Kahre, Bernhard, Evansville, IN

C. Advisory Pastors

- Huegli, Albert G., Valparaiso, IN
Miller, Ronald, Fort Wayne, IN
Mroch, Paul G., Evansville, IN
Radtke, Richard S., Seymour, IN

D. Advisory Teachers

- Beckmann, Waldemar H., Hammond, IN

- Bultemeyer, Richard, Fort Wayne, IN
Meyer, Richard L., Evansville, IN
Prange, Vernon W., Seymour, IN
Rupp, Henry C., Fort Wayne, IN
Schwark, August C., Indianapolis, IN
Trautmann Ruth, Fort Wayne, IN
Woldt, George, Elkhart, IN

Iowa East District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Hedtke, Robert, Atkins, IA
2. Eckhardt, Wilfred E., Iowa City, IA
3. Pautsch, Alfred O., De Witt, IA
4. Schroeder, Robert L., Bettendorf, IA
5. Luinstra, Robert F., Manchester, IA
6. Wegener, Thomas C., Hubbard, IA
7. Domsch, John F., Marshalltown, IA
8. Hiesche, Roland, Ventura, IA
9. Rodeck, Alvin, Waterloo, IA
10. Jaske, Alvin, Sumner, IA
11. Temple, John, Fairfield, IA

B. Voting Laymen

1. Thompson, Harold, Van Horne, IA
2. Teggatz, Eugene D., Marion, IA
3. Storts, Roy, Clinton, IA
4. Wacker, Herman, Wilton, IA
5. Born, Robert R., Dubuque, IA
6. Miller, Lloyd, Eldora, IA
7. Armbricht, Hugo A., Colo, IA
8. Feldt, Arnold, St. Ansgar, IA
9. Heidloff, Dick, Dunkerton, IA
10. Happel, Alfred, Dunkerton, IA
11. Hinricks, Gordon, Amana, IA

C. Advisory Pastor

- Hodges, Leon, Vinton, IA

D. Advisory Teacher

- Schrage, Patricia, Eldridge, IA

Iowa West District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Goodman, Ronald, Guthrie Center, IA
2. Kregel, George A., Ogden, IA
3. Wurtz, Donald, Carroll, IA
4. Marquardt, Oscar, Cherokee, IA
5. Hartfield, Clemens H., Council Bluffs, IA
6. Tisdale, Robbin, Deloit, IA
7. Wolfgram, James T., Mallard, IA
8. Parks, David, Vincent, IA
9. Raedeke, Norman, Des Moines, IA
10. Dohrmann, Reinhold G., Des Moines, IA
11. Schreiber, John, Rockwell City, IA
12. Schultz, Arthur L., Hinton, IA
13. Teske, Herbert J. Jr., Mapleton, IA
14. Uecker, R. W., Garner, IA
15. Gebhardt, Leonard, May City, IA
16. Buelow, Albert H., Odebolt, IA
17. Schauland, Helmut H., Sioux City, IA
18. Droegemueller, Carl, Greenfield, IA
19. Cruikshank, Thomas, Shenandoah, IA
20. Meyer, Ronald E., Spencer, IA
21. Bailey, Robert G., Storm Lake, IA

B. Voting Laymen

1. Jobst, Marvin, Dexter, IA
2. Juhl, Eldon, Jefferson, IA
3. Stenstrom, Edward, Coon Rapids, IA
4. Krekow, Charles, Marcus, IA
5. Volkens, Wendall, Carson, IA
6. Marten, Ralph, Denison, IA
7. Zinnel, Lloyd, Cylinder, IA
8. Seymour, Richard, Fort Dodge, IA
9. Koester, E. James, Carlisle, IA
10. Faulkner, Richard, Des Moines, IA
11. Hanselman, Edwin, Lu Verne, IA
12. Toenjes, Wendell, Le Mars, IA
13. Larson, Ralph, Charter Oak, IA
14. Rossow, Duane, Algona, IA
15. Strang, Cecil G., Sanborn, IA
16. Petersen, Minard J., Lake View, IA
17. Burr, Arthur D., Sioux City, IA
18. Muller, G. Emil, Osceola, IA
19. Greimann, Maurice, Clarinda, IA
20. Abel, Kaylan, Linn Grove, IA
21. Hunt, Marvin, Galva, IA

C. Advisory Pastor

- Sohn, Paul H., Algona, IA

D. Advisory Teacher

- Pipho, Donald M., Pautulla, IA

Kansas District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Ziegler, Robert M., Atchison, KS
2. Polley, Victor, Leavenworth, KS
3. Arle, Ed, Paola, KS
4. Jacobsen, J. G., Topeka, KS

5. Alpers, Arlen, Humboldt, KS
6. Maurer, Wilson R., Marysville, KS
7. Horst, Mark, Wheaton, KS
8. Moorhead, William, Herington, KS
9. Schaefer, Thomas, Wichita, KS
10. Harmann, E. J., Preston, KS
11. Mendenhall, Thomas, Plainville, KS
12. Stuehnenberg, Lyle, Hays, KS
13. Fischer, Kenneth, Dodge City, KS

B. Voting Laymen

1. Dierking, Irvin, Fairview, KS
2. Yancey, Augustus B., Kansas City, KS
3. Ilten, Robert, Leawood, KS
4. Schulteis, Henry, Topeka, KS
5. Graveman, Paul, Girard, KS
6. Heisterman, Edwin, Palmer, KS
7. Lietz, Merle, Paxico, KS
8. Cunningham, C. G., Salina, KS
9. Helmer, Ted, Wichita, KS
10. Hilst, Harold, Hutchinson, KS
11. May, Reinhardt, Oberlin, KS
12. Stapleton, Orbie, Larned, KS
13. Veeteka, Don, Garden City, KS

C. Advisory Pastors

- Nieman, Charles, Independence, KS
Krause, Paul, Winfield, KS

D. Advisory Teachers

- Koschmann, Paul, Leavenworth, KS
Sonnenberg, Steve, Topeka, KS

Manitoba and Saskatchewan District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Guebert, Lowell L., Saskatoon, Sask.
2. Ulmer, Howard, Wadena, Sask.
3. Rucki, Ludwik, Inglis, Man.
4. Arndt, Leander, Neudorf, Sask.
5. Steckelberg, Warren, Regina, Sask.
6. Towrie, Ronald G., Swift Current, Sask.
7. Schuelke, James A., Winnipeg, Man.

B. Voting Laymen

1. William, Ted, Lloydminster, Alberta
2. Poier, Roland, Prince Albert, Sask.
3. Lang, Gilbert R., Yorkton, Sask.
4. Unverricht, Ralph, Grenfell, Sask.
5. Richea, Ken, Dysart, Sask.
6. Frank, Gene, Bateman, Sask.
7. Demoline, Rodney, Manitoba

Michigan District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Nickel, David, Alpena, MI
2. Prough, Raymond, J., Onaway, MI
3. Kostizen, Leo, Hudson, MI
4. Keller, William H., Chelsea, MI
5. Lauterbach, Eugene, Albion, MI
6. Jaekle, Gary, Bay City, MI
7. Foreman, Curtis L., Scottville, MI
8. Sippola, J. Wm., Lansing, MI
9. Gager, John, Dearborn, MI
10. Bornmann, Carl L., Detroit, MI
11. Ackerman, James L., Detroit, MI
12. Unger, Ralph, Detroit, MI
13. Bronsted, Roger L., Detroit, MI
14. Florip, Philip, Dryden, MI
15. Zeile, Theodore A., Flint, MI
16. Neisch, Waldemar O., Flint, MI
17. Mueller, Kenneth, Rockford, MI
18. Miller, Robert S., Grand Rapids, MI
19. Schomberg, Elmer, Caledonia, MI
20. Kube, Bernhard, Westland, MI
21. Mohr, Richard A., New Baltimore, MI
22. Waldo, Donald, Sterling Heights, MI
23. Jahn, Robert, Richmond, MI
24. Pollatz, Raymond J., East Detroit, MI
25. Hakes, David, Auburn, MI
26. Mowry, Timothy, Petersburg, MI
27. Droegemueller, Paul, Shelby, MI
28. Klages, Cecil, Grand Haven, MI
29. Mueckler, Edwin A., Berkley, MI
30. Evanson, E. Dale, Drayton Plains, MI
31. Hirsch, John, Brighton, MI
32. Hinz, Vern D., Reese, MI
33. Wood, Fred, Saginaw, MI
34. Trapp, Loren N., Stevensville, MI
35. Keefer, Terry G., Union City, MI
36. Schlicker, Harold J., Unionville, MI
37. Behringer, O. N., Sandusky, MI
38. Weber, Paul, Grayling, MI
39. Schooler, Eugene E., Petoskey, MI
40. Schudlich, Gerald E., Traverse City, MI
41. Kass, Robert E., Taylor, MI

B. Voting Laymen

1. Miller, Charles, Ossineke, MI
2. Claus, John W., Rogers City, MI
3. Dominick, Al, Jackson, MI
4. —
5. Rook, Arnold L., Battle Creek, MI

6. Herbolsheimer, Norbert, Bay City, MI
7. Bischoff, Eugene A., Arcadia, MI
8. LaHaine, Gilbert, Lansing, MI
9. Sproul, Jack, Dearborn, MI
10. Schultz, Carl L., Whitmore Lake, MI
11. Oppen, Leonard, East Detroit, MI
12. Ninke, Arthur, Detroit, MI
13. Engel, Elmer W., Detroit, MI
14. Broecker, Creighton, Lapeer, MI
15. Thorne, Alton Jr., Flint, MI
16. Schettenhelm, R. W., Fenton, MI
17. Hess, Dennis, Howard City, MI
18. Genger, James A., Grand Rapids, MI
19. Petsold, Merlin, Grand Rapids, MI
20. Sarnes, Fredric, Plymouth, MI
21. Seifferlein, Erwin F., New Haven, MI
22. Winter, Raymond F., Troy, MI
23. Jaques, James R., Mt. Clemens, MI
24. Schneider, George, East Detroit, MI
25. Sutton, Ernest, Midland, MI
26. LeValley, Charles, New Boston, MI
27. Volz, Richard, Fremont, MI
28. Zupin, Leo, Spring Lake, MI
29. Gotsch, Donald, Bloomfield Hills, MI
30. Pless, Loren, Rochester, MI
31. Dicks, Fred, Highland, MI
32. Weber, James, Frankenmuth, MI
33. O'Connor, Michael, Saginaw, MI
34. Krieger, Larry, Bridgeman, MI
35. Blech, Randolph, Coldwater, MI
36. Kern, Richard, Bay Port, MI
37. Kursinsky, Earle, Palms, MI
38. Bertossi, Patricia, West Branch, MI
39. —
40. Loesel, Lawrence, Traverse City, MI
41. Floetke, William, Southgate, MI

C. Advisory Pastors

- Borchers, Dennis, Sebawaing, MI
Janetzke, Douglas, St. Clair Shores, MI
Paulson, Warren, Jackson, MI
Rutkowski, Walter, Farmington Hills, MI

D. Advisory Teachers

- Bergant, David, Saginaw, MI
Dietrich, Clifford, Mt. Clemens, MI
Erber, Glenn, Jackson, MI
Geheb, Ted, Southfield, MI
Himmeler, Marvin, Sterling Heights, MI
Kaiser, Christian, Mt. Clemens, MI
Klein, Harold, Westland, MI
Lutze, Richard, Royal Oak, MI
Miller, Herman F., St. Clair Shores, MI
Ollhoff, Jeanne, Jackson, MI
Pingel, Muriel, Reese, MI
Schollmeyer, Robert, Frankenmuth, MI
Schultz, Lloyd, Detroit, MI
Schultz, Robert L., Detroit, MI
Schumacher, Joel, Bay City, MI
Thunder, Keturah, Milan, MI
Uhlig, Lawrence, Detroit, MI
Wingfield, Albert, Mt. Clemens, MI
Wondrash, Ruth, Saginaw, MI
Zielske, Richard, Big Rapids, MI

Mid-South District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Haskell, Kenneth, N. Little Rock, AR
2. Smith, Harry D., Knoxville, TN
3. Boysen, Albert, Memphis, TN
4. Ringhardt, Wesley J., London, AR
5. Bachert, Alan H., Murfreesboro, TN
6. Bingenheimer, Roy, Waldenburg, AR
7. Lampe, Ken, Elm, AR

B. Voting Laymen

1. Susan, Frank, Little Rock, AR
2. Wilson, Steve, Knoxville, TN
3. Behnke, Albert, Memphis, TN
4. McGuire, E., Ft. Smith, AR
5. Johnson, M. L., Chattanooga, TN
6. Heisterberg, David, Hopkinsville, KY
7. Raymond, Don, Smackover, AR

C. Advisory Pastor

- Groteluschen, Norm, Memphis, TN

D. Advisory Teacher

- Royuk, Ron, Knoxville, TN

Minnesota North District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Schmidt, Earl, Ada, MN
2. Bestul, D. E., Menahga, MN
3. Bade, Immanuel, Dent, MN
4. Anderson, Luther H., Verdale, MN
5. Maunula, W. L., Thunder Bay, Ont.
6. Meyer, David, Aurora, MN
7. Reeb, Daniel A., Duluth, MN
8. Blomquist, Emanuel, Aitkin, MN
9. Krueger, Robert H., South Haven, MN

10. Bode, David, North Branch, MN
11. Schneider, DuWayne N., Fergus Falls, MN
12. Koth, Kenneth, Parkers Prairie, MN
13. Hasbargen, Roy, Dumont, MN
14. Gillet, Charles, Melrose, MN
15. Krueger, George, Ortonville, MN
16. Dorn, Vernon, Wood Lake, MN

B. Voting Laymen

1. Wagner, Earl, Fisher, MN
2. Gangelhoff, Ronald, Bemidji, MN
3. Wacker, Roger, Frazee, MN
4. Haak, Robert E., Henning, MN
5. Repo, W.J.A., Thunder Bay, Ont.
6. Mowrey, David, Virginia, MN
7. Bilsey, Harold, Duluth, MN
8. Koecher, Orville, Kerrick, MN
9. Rogosheske, Edward, St. Cloud, MN
10. Lundwall, Gerald, Wyoming, MN
11. Drews, Gerald C., Fergus Falls, MN
12. Bartz, Harold, Alexandria, MN
13. Hanson, Truman, Elbow Lake, MN
14. Fellbaum, Kennard, Swanville, MN
15. Maatz, Walter, Bellingham, MN
16. Ost, Julius, Montevideo, MN

C. Advisory Pastor

- Brill, Paul P., Long Prairie, MN

D. Advisory Teacher

- Koopman, David, Brainerd, MN

Minnesota South District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Westad, Robt., Atwater, MN
2. Meyer, Laurence, Hamburg, MN
3. Malotky, Arden, Minnetonka, MN
4. Gundermann, Vernon D., Minneapolis, MN
5. Geske, Frederick E., Minneapolis, MN
6. Wiebold, Raymond E., Plato, MN
7. Matasovsky, Daniel V., Inver Grove Hgts., MN
8. Spomer, Norman F., Eagan, MN
9. Lutz, Edward F., St. Paul, MN
10. Priebe, Weldon, St. Paul, MN
11. Boeder, Charles F., Pipestone, MN
12. Lutz, Bernie, Pulda, MN
13. Henke, Barrie, Lakefield, MN
14. Geistfeldt, Emil, Ceylon, MN
15. Roth, Victor, Mankato, MN
16. Frick, E. Timothy, Waterville, MN
17. Drevlow, Arthur, St. James, MN
18. Trier, Orlando E., Winnebago, MN
19. Lorenz, Dennis, Owatonna, MN
20. Yunker, Arthur, Rushford, MN
21. Schildwachter, John C., Dodge Center, MN
22. Brenner, Carl P., Eyota, MN
23. Busboom, Don, Minneapolis, MN
24. Schweigert, Harold P., Minneapolis, MN

B. Voting Laymen

1. Narr, Martin, Darwin, MN
2. Jopp, Ralph, Mayer, MN
3. Vergen, Vergin, Minnetonka, MN
4. Benson, Gerald W., New Hope, MN
5. Lindscoog, Harold, Minneapolis, MN
6. Powers, Gordon, Arlington, MN
7. Burandt, Karl, Inver Grove Hgts., MN
8. Bock, Leo, Bloomington, MN
9. Lubben, S. R., St. Paul, MN
10. Fischer, Donald, St. Paul, MN
11. Winter, Raymond E., Luverne, MN
12. Baumgard, Clinton, Brewster, MN
13. Lee, Edward Jr., Sherburn, MN
14. Becker, Wilbert, Granada, MN
15. Sorenson, Robert A., Mankato, MN
16. Eichhorst, Ervin, Waldorf, MN
17. Klute, Wilbert, Madelia, MN
18. Heise, Harold, Easton, MN
19. Nickerson, John, Faribault, MN
20. Saathoff, Ted, St. Charles, MN
21. Schmidt, Arnold A., Brownedale, MN
22. Henke, John, Stewartville, MN
23. Hussong, David A., Elk River, MN
24. Swetman, Edward H., Edina, MN

C. Advisory Pastors

- Hinrichs, Otto F., Red Wing, MN
Raedeke, Richard H., Glencoe, MN
Seltz, Eugene W., Hopkins, MN

D. Advisory Teachers

- Hagen, Curtis L., Faribault, MN
Hoffman, Ronald A., Minneapolis, MN
Kolander, Eugene E., St. Paul, MN
Krueger, William G., Truman, MN
Zoellmer, Val J., Minneapolis, MN

Missouri District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Fehrmann, Walter, Altenburg, MO
2. Weis, Earl E., Jackson, MO
3. Matzat, Bill, Cape Girardeau, MO

4. Senechal, Gordon, Moberly, MO
5. Neugebauer, John, Centralia, MO
6. Kurth, Homer H., Alma, MO
7. Brandt, Maynard, Emma, MO
8. Fick, Burneal, Arnold, MO
9. Egolf, Ralph, Eldon, MO
10. Gerike, William, Blue Springs, MO
11. Krueger, R. Robert, Parkville, MO
12. Rogahn, Gregory, LaGrange, MO
13. Thur, Richard, Waynesville, MO
14. Eifert, Lorenz E., St. Charles, MO
15. Taglauer, James R., St. Louis, MO
16. Hutchinson, Paul, St. Louis, MO
17. Greese, Everett G., Richmond Heights, MO
18. Krentz, Arno, Affton, MO
19. Heck, Joel, Valley Park, MO
20. Fehl, William, St. Louis, MO
21. Strickert, Walter F., St. Louis, MO
22. Schmidt, Gerhard K., St. Louis, MO
23. Lloyd, Jeffrey, Appleton City, MO
24. Loeber, Walter, Freistatt, MO
25. Wyssman, Robert, Marshfield, MO
26. Markel, Jerry, Rosebud, MO

B. Voting Laymen

1. Bachmann, Hubert, Perryville, MO
2. Statler, Tony, Sikeston, MO
3. Weiss, Norman, Jackson, MO
4. Gebhardt, William, Salisbury, MO
5. Woerth, Raymond, Fulton, MO
6. Kiehl, Hubert, Mount Leonard, MO
7. Fischer, Orland, Sweet Springs, MO
8. Brandt, Raymond L., Crystal City, MO
9. Blochberger, Edgar, Jefferson City, MO
10. Cox, Kenneth, Grandview, MO
11. Bierman, Ray, Mound City, MO
12. Kaden, Ivan, Kirksville, MO
13. Wehmeier, Ray E., St. James, MO
14. Poertner, David, St. Charles, MO
15. Rauscher, Raymond, St. Louis, MO
16. Bernthal, Robert, St. Louis, MO
17. Storck, Erwin, St. Louis, MO
18. Gaebler, James E., St. Louis, MO
19. Greenwald, William, Fenton, MO
20. Liekweg, Fred, Florissant, MO
21. Wolf, Paul, St. Louis, MO
22. Spath, Oscar H., Lake Sherwood, MO
23. Harms, Marcus D., Cole Camp, MO
24. Gliedt, Al, Monett, MO
25. Barefield, Leon, Springfield, MO
26. Finck, Paul, Washington, MO

C. Advisory Pastors

- Bloedel, David, Warrensburg, MO
Koene, Eugene, St. Louis, MO
LaBore, Richard, St. Louis, MO
Mayer, H. A., St. Louis, MO
Peters, Clarence, St. Louis, MO
Prange, Rudolph, St. Louis, MO
Schaller, Arnold, Ballwin, MO
Schmelder, William, St. Louis, MO
Toelke, Carl, St. Louis, MO

D. Advisory Teachers

- Albers, George, St. Louis, MO
Crisler, Paul, St. Louis, MO
Fischer, Frank, Kansas City, MO
Gade, Donald, Cape Girardeau, MO
Loomans, Lowell, St. Charles, MO
Prahlow, Patricia, St. Louis, MO
Rapp, Gerald, Manchester, MO
Rikkels, Robt., Webster Groves, MO
Sandfort, Neil, Rolla, MO
Schnackenberg, Eldo, Palmyra, MO
Steinbrueck, Carl, Webster Groves, MO
Toensing, Herbert, St. Louis, MO

Montana District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Pullmann, Albert G.,
2. Kiessling, Richard E., Hamilton, MT
3. Meyer, Henry E., Glendive, MT
4. Farden, John W., Power, MT
5. LaDassor, Larry D., Butte, MT

B. Voting Laymen

1. Williams, Ron, Billings, MT
2. Tietz, Reuben, Missoula, MT
3. Berner, Charles H., Sidney, MT
4. Ferguson, Doug, Fort Benton, MT
5. Ottolino, David, Helena, MT

D. Advisory Teacher

- Boll, John V., Billings, MT

Nebraska District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Hamilton, Wendell, Ainsworth, NE
2. Keyne, Michael, Beatrice, NE
3. Pierce, Robert, Schuyler, NE
4. Benson, Kenneth H., Hebron, NE

5. Schauer, Arthur, Elk Creek, NE
6. Backhus, Robert, Arlington, NE
7. Heck, Jack, Grand Island, NE
8. Reiner, Darold, Juniata, NE
9. Bellamy, Lavern, Holdrege, NE
10. Jordening, Victor, Lexington, NE
11. Schmidt, Edgar, Lincoln, NE
12. Reed, Donald, Norfolk, NE
13. Wassman, Darwin, Grant, NE
14. Burton, Thomas, Omaha, NE
15. Gocken, Ronald, Omaha, NE
16. Von Rentzell, Marion, Neligh, NE
17. Holling, Ronald, Wakefield, NE
18. Voelker, William R., Beemer, NE
19. Kleopfer, Leland F., York, NE

B. Voting Laymen

1. Boettcher, Bruno, Spencer, NE
2. Niemeier, Emil, Plymouth, NE
3. Grotelueschen, Harold, Columbus, NE
4. Mundt, Leon, Deshler, NE
5. Bowen, Boyd, Humboldt, NE
6. Krohn, Orlan, Herman, NE
7. Fusa, Wilbur, Scotia, NE
8. Hunt, Willis, Hastings, NE
9. Urborn, Ward, Arapahoe, NE
10. McDermott, Lawrence, Merna, NE
11. Heins, Dr. Robert, Lincoln, NE
12. Schellpeper, Leo, Norfolk, NE
13. Kuhlmann, Orvil E., North Platte, NE
14. Schroterberger, Cyrus, Omaha, NE
15. Brashear, Kermit II, Omaha, NE
16. Stelling, Kenneth, Osmond, NE
17. Wittig, Allan Ray, Wayne, NE
18. Hoegemeyer, Gilbert, Lyons, NE
19. Bek, Milton, Staplehurst, NE

C. Advisory Pastors

- Cloeter, David, Kearney, NE
Stieve, John W., Lincoln, NE
- #### D. Advisory Teachers
- Hartmann, Della, Seward, NE
Kohtz, Virginia, Seward, NE
Meyer, Arlen, Seward, NE
Prochnow, Jean, Seward NE
Warneke, Arlan, Pierce, NE

New England District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Duchow, Robt., Manchester, NH
2. Gall, John D., Lynnfield, MA
3. Gruel, Michael, Scituate, MA
4. David, Norman F., Belmont, MA
5. Littman, Paul G., Cranston, RI
6. Elgert, Louis G., Easthampton, MA
7. Erbe, Ronald, South Windsor, CT
8. Firnhaber, Norbert F., West Hartford, CT
9. Gigstad, Kenneth K., Groton, CT
10. Manns, Richard, Meriden, CT
11. Holz, Herbert Jr., Bridgeport, CT

B. Voting Laymen

1. Hall, Effie, Merrimack, NH
2. Denman, John, Topsfield, MA
3. Moeller, Ralph, Westwood, MA
4. Oertel, Carl, Westwood, MA
5. Clegraefe, Frederick, S. Batteboro, MA
6. Hartman, Joseph, Springfield, MA
7. Soares, Jack, Manchester, CT
8. Schmidt, John, Simsbury, CT
9. Thompson, John P., Guilford, CT
10. Schmidt, Walter, New Hartford, CT
11. Hanf, Walter, Greenwich, CT

D. Advisory Teacher

- Mohlenhoff, William H., Jr., Bethel, CT

New Jersey District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Loeber, Henry A., Fair Lawn, NJ
2. Balint, Ronald J., Union City, NJ
3. Hausmann, Wm., Harrison, NJ
4. Bunzel, Charles F., Towaco, NJ
5. Sandmann, Donald W., Union, NJ
6. Sparling, Paul W., Morris Plains, NJ
7. Kast, Edward L., Bordentown, NJ
8. Izzard, Richard C., Fords, NJ

B. Voting Laymen

1. Maul, Charles L., Westwood, NJ
2. Anderson, John F., Jersey City, NJ
3. Bruna, Norma, Bloomfield, NJ
4. Yerha, Edward, Haledon, NJ
5. Becker, Gordon, Westfield, NJ
6. Van Assen, Louise, Annandale, NJ
7. Cullen, John, Titusville, NJ
8. Schultz, Robert, Rumson, NJ

C. Advisory Pastor

- Von Spreckelsen, Henry, Forked River, NJ

D. Advisory Teacher

- Leimer, John F., Westwood, NJ

North Dakota District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Brunner, Donald E., Langdon, ND
2. Thiem, Alfred E., Fargo, ND
3. Patscheck, Arthur, Wimbeldon, ND
4. Bunkowske, Paul, Edgeley, ND
5. Bucholz, Henry, Hankinson, ND
6. Peterson, Norman, Anamoose, ND
7. Bruenjes, Irvin H., New Salem, ND

B. Voting Laymen

1. Gessner, Harold, Upham, ND
2. Heuchert, Richard, St. Thomas, ND
3. Paulson, John, Carrington, ND
4. Bolliger, Eugene, Ellendale, ND
5. Pankow, Arnold, Wahpeton, ND
6. Parge, Robert, Minot, ND
7. Sailer, Calvin, South Heart, ND

C. Advisory Pastor

- Dahl, David, Minot, ND

D. Advisory Teacher

- Wurdeman, Bruce, Fargo, ND

North Wisconsin District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Weerts, Leslie, Luxemburg, WI
2. Schmidt, Bert, Mountain, WI
3. Vetter, Eugene, Shawano, WI
4. Laabs, Paul, Caroline, WI
5. Hilgendorf, H. P., Appleton, WI
6. Paul, Robert W., Hancock, MI
7. Sprengler, Donald, Antigo, WI
8. Carlson, Laurence H., Jr., Merrill, WI
9. Cizek, Clarence, Schofield, WI
10. Wenger, Timothy E., Wisconsin Rapids, WI
11. Schneider, Terrel, Auburndale, WI
12. Fus, Donald W., Bessemer, MI
13. Rinne, Rex, Phillips, WI
14. Nicolaus, Mark, Edgar, WI
15. Gade, Clifford, Eau Claire, WI
16. Lutz, Arleigh, Augusta, WI
17. Rose, Martin, Rice Lake, WI
18. Gaertner, Mark, River Falls, WI

B. Voting Laymen

1. Schultz, Lester, Green Bay, WI
2. Bartz, Roland, Suring, WI
3. Busch, Luther, Cecil, WI
4. Waltersdorf, Milton, Clintonville, WI
5. Schwanke, Vilas, Manawa, WI
6. Erickson, Thomas, White Pine, MI
7. Simon, John Jr., Antigo, WI
8. Kretzschmar, Oscar, Merrill, WI
9. Zarnke, Norman, Wausau, WI
10. Schield, Gerald, Stevens Point, WI
11. Marquardt, Clifford, Mosinee, WI
12. Kretzschmar, Robert, Mellen, WI
13. Ross, Richard C., Park Falls, WI
14. Dassow, Ben, Medford, WI
15. Miller, Verlyn, Eau Claire, WI
16. Krenz, David, Augusta, WI
17. Vought, Merlin Sr., Barron, WI
18. Retz, Lawrence, Boyceville, WI

C. Advisory Pastors

- Brauer, Harold, Wausau, WI
Goetsch, Ronald, Marshfield, WI

D. Advisory Teachers

- Gable, Gary, Wausau, WI
Dobberfuhr, Bernard, Greenleaf, WI

Northern Illinois District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Manz, James G., Chicago, IL
2. Giese, Franklin C., Chicago, IL
3. Ruehrdanz, Walter, Chicago, IL
4. Bouman, James, Des Plaines, IL
5. Staudacker, T. L., Mt. Prospect, IL
6. Haberkost, James, Streamwood, IL
7. Maschke, Timothy, Elgin, IL
8. Krause, E. Geo, De Kalb, IL
9. Krueger, Harold, Lake Zurich, IL
10. Geist, Walter, Woodstock, IL
11. Gourlay, Donald, Oak Park, IL
12. Stumpf, Eric, Cicero, IL
13. Kluge, David, Lyons, IL
14. Huener, Wm. C., Downers Grove, IL
15. Bruckner, Robert A., Northlake, IL
16. Laesch, Theo L., Wheaton, IL
17. Hoffmann, Donald H., Winfield, IL
18. Lindemann, Jerald, Aurora, IL
19. Fritz, Marvin, Rockford, IL
20. Fedder, Allen, Walnut, IL
21. Groth, M. C., Chicago, IL

22. Bodley, A. L., Chicago, IL
23. Gebauer, A. O., Chicago, IL
24. Ramsey, John R., Country Club Hills, IL
25. Sedory, Elmer J., Chicago, IL
26. Bollman, John F., Chicago, IL
27. Albers, Edgar H., Mokena, IL
28. Schaller, Gilbert, Lemont, IL
29. Glamann, John, Mokena, IL
30. Hauser, Leon E., Watseka, IL

B. Voting Laymen

1. Soderholm, Paul D., Chicago, IL
2. Smith, Marvin, Chicago, IL
3. Rath, Walter, Morton Grove, IL
4. Ehler, Darrell W., Deerfield, IL
5. Kath, Ray, Palatine, IL
6. Geske, Roger J., Itasca, IL
7. Lange, Phyllis, Carpentersville, IL
8. Hewitt, Frank, Rochelle, IL
9. Souza, Wm., Gurnee, IL
10. Hennig, John, Huntley, IL
11. Jochens, Edward, Chicago, IL
12. Hann, Walter O., Chicago, IL
13. Rempert, Norman, Broadview, IL
14. Arends, Charles H., Western Springs, IL
15. Nagle, Geo., Franklin Park, IL
16. Theiss, Eugene R., Elmhurst, IL
17. Pankratz, Edwin, Glen Ellyn, IL
18. Thaneophon, Donald, Oswego, IL
19. McKnight, Willis, Belvidere, IL
20. Whaley, Clarence, Prophetstown, IL
21. Smith, Joseph, Chicago, IL
22. Teer, James, Chicago, IL
23. Busch, Wm. P., Riverdale, IL
24. Eggert, John C., Lansing, IL
25. Pauly, Marvin R., Chicago, IL
26. Kuh, Arthur, Palos Heights, IL
27. Heuer, Ernest, Orland Park, IL
28. Ohlendorf, Herman, Dwight, IL
29. Nelson, Thomas, Beecher, IL
30. Nordmeyer, Cleo, Chebanse, IL

C. Advisory Pastors

- Hein, Steven, Maywood, IL
Spaude, Carl, La Grange Park, IL
Steinfeldt, Lyle, Waukegan, IL
Von Stroh, C. Dean, Winfield, IL

D. Advisory Teachers

- Becker, Elmer, Chicago Heights, IL
Bredehoeft, Erich, Roselle, IL
Gottschalk, John, Rolling Meadows, IL
Grass, Paul, Rockford, IL
Kirchhoff, James, Naperville, IL
Koenig, Gerald, Oak Park, IL
Kuenschner, Vernon, Elmhurst, IL
Marten, Donald, Chicago, IL
Oerkfitz, Kenneth, Chicago, IL
Rotermund, Melvin, Park Ridge, IL
Schaar, Dennis, Hazel Crest, IL
Schoepp, Carla, Maywood, IL
Strahle, Wm., Mt. Prospect, IL
Taylor, Ronald, Mt. Prospect, IL
Trusheim, Robt., Palos Heights, IL
Wuensche, Elmer, Maywood, IL
Zimdahl, Bernard, Elgin, IL

Northwest District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Banken, Robert, Grants Pass, OR
2. Rumerfield, Edwin, Klickitat, WA
3. Scholz, John, Corvallis, OR
4. Markgraf, Orville, Milwaukie, OR
5. Bauer, Edmund, Vancouver, WA
6. Lossner, Carl, Sherwood, OR
7. Riedel, Paul, Nampa, ID
8. Mietzner Leonard, Rupert, ID
9. Frericha, Donald, Pasco, WA
10. Schmidt, Paul, Spokane, WA
11. Wurster, Daniel, Okanogan, WA
12. Reinhardt, Larry, Snohomish, WA
13. Schuth, Paul, Port Orchard, WA
14. Kaiser, Edgar, Edmonds, WA
15. Hoffmann, George, Bellevue, WA
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B. Voting Laymen

1. Eaves, James, Florence, OR
2. Fountain, Ramon, Eugene, OR
3. Snider, Paul, Salem, OR
4. Hylton, Jack, Boring, OR
5. Kendall, Robert, Vancouver, WA
6. Huffman, Thomas, Hillsboro, OR
7. Connolly, Curtis, Summerville, OR
8. Kniep, Martin, Buhl, ID
9. Wascher, W., Prosser, WA
10. Schoen, Dorothy, Spokane, WA
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12. Wisman, Jay, Everett, WA
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15. Smith, Vivian, Mercer Island, WA

16. Reid, Lester, Fairbanks, AK
17. Buettner, Harvey, Tacoma, WA

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2. Weber, Paul, Napoleon, OH
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5. Marcis, Walther P., Cleveland, OH
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7. Woidke, Paul, Lakewood, OH
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9. Borchelt, Herbert, Solon, OH
10. Nelson, Carl, Painesville, OH
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13. Zachrich, David, So. Charleston, WV
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2. Bernath, Eugene, Wauseon, OH
3. Thorpe, Marylin, Maumee, OH
4. Meilander, Willard, Kent, OH
5. Gold, Gary H., Cleveland Hts., OH
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2. Martin, Richard, Broadview Hts., OH
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 Sohn, Lawrence E., Milwaukee, WI

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2. Coyner, Edwin, New Orleans, LA
3. Nelson, Louis, Jr., Harahan, LA
4. Rische, Gerhardt, Pascagoula, MS
5. Welmer, Michael, Shreveport, LA
6. Reichel, Charles, Oxford, MS
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8. Lemke, Mario, Birmingham, AL
9. Kettner, Joel, Auburn, AL
10. Rupp, Robert, Warrington, FL
11. St. Pierre, R. A., Fairhope, AL

B. Voting Laymen

1. Heck, Eldon, Arabi, LA
2. Ledet, Gerald, Houma, LA
3. Hansen, Alton, Kenner, LA
4. Schowalter, Will, Hattiesburg, MS
5. Cosemento, V.J., Monroe, LA
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9. Davis, John, Thomaston, AL
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Nau, John, Hattiesburg, MS

D. Advisory Teacher

Green, David, New Orleans, LA

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24. Lundi, Martin E., Tempe, AZ
25. Prifogle, Mitchell J., Needles, CA

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2. Krabbe, Robert, Simi Valley, CA
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10. Stuenkel, Mark H., Long Beach, CA
11. Sharkus, George, La Puente, CA
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13. Fick, Harlan, Anaheim, CA
14. Kruelle, George, Santa Ana, CA
15. Murphy, Michael, Highland, CA
16. Ramirez, Dave, Claremont, CA
17. Anderson, Ken, Riverside, CA
18. Ramlo, Setma, Palm Desert, CA
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25. Cherry, Joy, Las Vegas, NV

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Rudolph, Lawrence, San Diego, CA

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- Koch, John G., Collinsville, IL

D. Advisory Teachers

- Luedders, Arthur F., Worden, IL
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Sauls, Otis L.

Synodical Service Commission

Commission
Nieting, Ellis

Board of Doctrinal Review

Board
Klann, Richard

Concordia Historical Institute

Board
Kramer, Gerhardt
Staff
Sueflow, August R.

Board for Missions

Board
Kayser, Walter
Sohns, Wilbert J.
Staff
Barry, Alvin L.
Hintze, Otto C.
Leenerts, Roger W.

Board for Evangelism

Board
Bertram, Oswald H.
Graf, Arthur E.
Staff
Kolb, Erwin J.

Board for Church Extension

Board
Haast, Herbert
Hinrichs, Vance H.
Staff
Lietz, Fred E.

Council for Christian Medical Work

Council
Montz, Florence C.

Board of Social Ministry and World Relief

Board
Foard, Howard A.

Staff
Weber, Leslie F.
Witt, Melvin E.

Armed Forces Commission

Commission
Krieger, W. Herbert

Staff
Ernstmeyer, M. S.

Board for Higher Education

Board
Brunn, Walter F.
Niemoeller, Lewis C.

Staff
Ahlswede, Arthur M.
Bayer, Lester R.

Colloquy Boards

Board
Bohlmann, Ralph A.

Board for Lay Ministers

Board
Korth, Dale

Board of Parish Education

Board
Harm, Rudolph H.
Williams, Judy

Staff
Constien, Victor A.
Gaulke, Earl H.
Griffin, Dale
Senske, Al H.

Board of Youth Ministry

Board
Baumgarn, Jack
Schurb, Ken

Staff
Eggers, Ben
Symmank, Leo

Commission for Services to the Mentally Retarded

Commission
Voss, Hans A.

Staff
Nelson, Marshall R.

Commission on Architecture

Commission
Schulz, Francis A.

Commission on Church Literature

Commission
Steege, Barbara

Board for Public Relations

Board
Rickman, Victor C.

Staff
Bryant, Victor W.

Editorial Commission for Official Periodicals

Commission
Wittmer, George W.

Staff
Starr, Frank D.

Board for Lutheran Radio

Staff
Devantier, Paul W.

Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors

Board
Brown, J. Barclay
Linnemann, Arthur L.

Staff
Johnson, Thomas P.
Reinke, Ralph L.

Board of Stewardship

Board
Boesma, Charles
Kavasch, Robert W.

Staff
Zill, Marcus T.
Pape, James

Board of Trustees for Trust Funds

Board
Jouppi, Arvid

Board of Trustees, LCMS Foundation

Board
Schiewe, Edwin O.

Staff
Heino, J. David

Board of Managers Worker Benefit Plans

Board
Hopmann, Robert

Staff
Haake, Earl E.
Wahlers, Lorenz F.

Commission on Ministerial Health

Niedner, Frederick

President's Office

Preus, J. A. O.

Staff
Sauer, Robert

Secretary's Office

Mueller, Herbert
Rosin, Walter L.

Treasurer's Office

Carpenter, Milton

Controller's Department

Barrios, Edward C.
Sell, Norman D.

Legal Counselor

Draheim, Philip E.

Parliamentarians

Steege, Mark
Stickel, Mabel

Convention Manager

Barge, William

Chaplain

Streufert, Paul

OFFICIAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Alberta and British Columbia District
Gierach, Lester, Edmonton, Alta.

Atlantic District
Roth, Clarence, Queens Village, NY
Albers, Victor, Garden City, NY

California and Nevada District
Fickenscher, Ralph, Fremont, CA
Hartkopf, Walter, San Francisco, CA

Central Illinois District
Goldhammer, David L., Lincoln, IL

Colorado District
Wesch, Gustav, Wheat Ridge, CO
Wessler, Arnold, Littleton, CO

Eastern District
Kromphardt, Arnold E., Buffalo, NY

English District
Bertram, Robert, Milwaukee, WI
Drews, Richard, San Diego, CA

Florida-Georgia District
Frenk, Erdmann, Longwood, FL
Weerts, Milan, St. Petersburg, FL

Indiana District
Koch, Robert W., Louisville, KY
Locke, Geo., Columbus, IN

Iowa District East
Pillers, Robt., Clinton, IA
Schmidt, Lester, Clinton, IA

Iowa District West
Hoppe, James, Fort Dodge, IA
Wright, Wm., Fort Dodge, IA

Kansas District
Bruening, George, Larned, KS
Sommer, Art, Topeka, KS

Michigan District
Reimann, Fredrick H., Ludington, MI
Schinnerer, Carl F., Flushing, MI

Mid-South District
Buuck, Leroy, Chattanooga, TN
Reese, Herman, Stuttgart, TN

Minnesota North District
Franzmeier, Wilbur C., Sauk Rapids, MN
Uhrinak, James S., Brainerd, MN

Minnesota South District
Marxhausen, Victor H., White Bear Lake, MN
Schulz, Fred, St. Paul, MN

Missouri District
Hartmann, Robert, Cape Girardeau, MO
Rodewald, Alfred, Concordia, MO

Nebraska District
Bleick, Roy, Seward, NE
Meyer, Eldor, Grand Island, NE

New England District
Fiehler, Daniel G., East Hartland, CT
Radke, Fred, West Hartford, CT

New Jersey District
Armour, Thomas P., Hackettstown, NJ
Mueller, Ewald H., Ridgewood, NJ

North Dakota District
Sincebaugh, Norman, Fargo, ND

North Wisconsin District
Buelow, Leonard P., Green Bay, WI
Schultz, Joseph A., Antigo, WI

Northern Illinois District
Bohlmann, Herbert F., Kankakee, IL
Eckert, Edwin K., Chicago, IL

Northwest District
Freitag, Art, Bremerton, WA
Schroeder, W. A., Vancouver, WA

Ohio District
Kane, Ewald, Olmsted Falls, OH
Stanko, Paul, Dayton, Ohio

SELC District
Bajus, Luther, Norridge, IL
Kucharik, John J., Oviedo, FL

South Wisconsin District
Schmidt, Robert A., Milwaukee, WI
Schroeder, Rodney L., Grafton, WI

Southeastern District
Baskett, William, Norfolk, VA
Clancy, Bryant, Charlotte, NC

Southern District
Lieske, H. W., New Orleans, LA
Tewes, E. H., New Orleans, LA

Southern California District
Dammann, Dean, Tustin, CA
Waech, O. E., Los Alamitos, CA

Southern Illinois District
Harms, Elvin R., Edwardsville, IL
Rakow, Edgar C., Belleville, IL

Texas District
Loomans, Keith, Austin, TX
O'Shoney, Glen, Austin, TX

Wyoming District
Krohn, Orville E., Alliance, NE

OVERSEAS MISSIONARIES
Burce, Willard, New Guinea
Fajen, John, Nigeria
Groll, Douglas, Venezuela
Hilgendorf, Dennis, Middle East
Himmler, Arthur, Hong Kong
McClure, Garry D., Central America
Meyer, David, Hong Kong
Patschke, Arbie, Japan
Stotik, Karl, New Guinea

C. Special Representatives

AD HOC COMMITTEES

(Reporting to Convention)

American Bicentennial Committee
Suelflow, August R., St. Louis, MO

ALC-LCMS Commission on Fellowship
Warneck, Richard, St. Louis, MO

Black Centennial Committee
Lavalais, Joseph G., Philadelphia, PA
Robinson, DeWitt P., Memphis, TN

Black Mission Models Task Force
Leacraft, Paul, Greensboro, NC
Jones, Pearline, Chicago, IL

Budget Setting Bylaw Committee
Zill, Marcus, St. Louis, MO

Committee on Doctrinal Statements
Eggold, Henry F., Ft. Wayne, IN

Convention Format Committee
Bornemann, George W., Detroit, MI
Heckmann, Carl A., Austin, TX
Scherer, Herman C., St. Louis, MO

Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure
Hinz, Richard, Washington, DC
Wheeler, Roger G., Bloomington, MN

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Alberta and British Columbia District
Hennig, Paul, Calgary, Alta.

California and Nevada District
Jeske, Jeff, Gilroy, CA
Lucas, Diane, San Francisco, CA

Colorado District
Van Pelt, Jan, Littleton, CO
Painter, Cheryl, Arvada, CO

English District
Essman, Robin, El Cajon, CA
Winter, Gretchen, Chicago, IL

Florida-Georgia District
Garcia, Thomas, Hialeah, FL
Martin, Rosalie, Land O' Lakes, FL

Indiana District
Trueblood, Robt., Vallonia, IN
Vellinger, Robt., Lafayette, IN

Iowa East District
Heilmann, Dawn, Fairbank, IA
Meyer, Doug, Iowa Falls, IA

Manitoba and Saskatchewan District
De Block, Daniel, Saskatoon, Sask.
De Block, Paul, Saskatoon, Sask.

Michigan District
Malec, Ray, Ann Arbor, MI
Melton, Kim B., Detroit, MI

Minnesota North District
Schultz, Randy, Brainerd, MN
Barge, Miriam, Wood Lake, MN

Missouri District
Bogenpohl, Cynthia, Jackson, MO
Hoemann, David, Union, MO

Montana District
Brackebusch, Lynn, Missoula, MT

Nebraska District
Elston, Judy, Columbus, NE
Unick, Tim, Pleasanton, NE

North Dakota District
Erdman, Michael, Willow City, ND

Northern Illinois District
Hogan, Kim, Itaska, IL
Bell, Adriene, Chicago, IL

Northwest District
Harbine, Alan, Spokane, WA
Meichle, Kim, Idaho Falls, ID

Ohio District
Cahal, Judy, Independence, Ohio

Oklahoma District
Kamman, Lois, Duncan, OK
Boggow, Monte, Hunter, OK

SELC District
Bajus, Debi, Norridge, IL
Rolf, Duane, Minneapolis, MN

South Wisconsin District
Dawursk, Glen Jr., Milwaukee, WI
Hahn, Judith, Milwaukee, WI

Southern District
Bohnet, Stephen, New Orleans, LA
Pinkerton, Julie, Baton Rouge, LA

Southern California District
Kuntz, Susan, Garden Grove, CA
McClellan, David, Cypress, CA

Texas District
Paulus, Karen, Dallas, TX

Tabular Survey

	Delegates Present							Delegates Absent					
	Voting			Advisory				Voting		Advisory			
Synodical District	Pastors	Laymen	Totals	Pres. and Brd. Dir.	Pastors	Teachers	Totals	Pastors	Laymen	Pastors	Teachers	Others	Total
Atlantic	14	14	28	3	3	3	9	0	0	0	3		3
California-Nevada-Hawaii	18	18	36	3	0	3	6	0	0	0	0		0
California, Southern	25	25	50	3	2	8	13	0	0	0	0		0
Colorado	10	10	20	3	2	2	7	0	0	0	0		0
Eastern	16	16	32	2	2	2	6	0	0	1	0		1
English	21	20	41	3	2	4	9	0	1	3	0		4
Florida-Georgia	13	13	26	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0		0
Illinois, Central	13	13	26	2	1	3	6	0	0	0	0		0
Illinois, Northern	30	30	60	3	4	17	24	0	0	0	0		0
Illinois, Southern	7	7	14	3	1	2	6	0	0	0	0		0
Indiana	21	21	42	3	4	8	15	0	0	0	0		0
Iowa East	11	11	22	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0		0
Iowa West	21	21	42	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0		0
Kansas	13	13	26	3	2	2	7	0	0	0	0		0
Michigan	41	39	80	3	4	20	27	0	2	0	0		2
Mid-South	7	7	14	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0		0
Minnesota North	16	16	32	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0		0
Minnesota South	24	24	48	3	3	5	11	0	0	0	0		0
Missouri	26	26	52	3	9	12	24	0	0	1	0		1
Montana	5	5	10	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0		0
Nebraska	19	19	38	3	2	5	10	0	0	0	0		0
New England	11	11	22	3	0	1	4	0	0	0	0		0
New Jersey	8	8	16	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0		0
North Dakota	7	7	14	2	1	1	4	0	0	0	0		0
Northwest	17	17	34	3	4	2	9	0	0	0	0		0
Ohio	14	14	28	3	1	3	7	0	0	0	0		0
Oklahoma	6	6	12	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	0		0
SELC	3	3	6	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0		0
South Dakota	10	10	20	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0		0
Southeastern	16	16	32	3	1	4	8	0	0	2	0		2
Southern	11	11	22	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0		0
Texas	18	18	36	3	3	6	12	0	0	0	0		0
Wisconsin, North	18	18	36	3	2	2	7	0	0	0	0		0
Wisconsin, South	24	24	48	3	3	8	14	0	0	0	0		0
Wyoming	6	6	12	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	0		0
Alberta and British Columbia	8	8	16	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0		0
Manitoba and Saskatchewan	7	7	14	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		0
Ontario	6	6	12	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0		0
Argentina	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		0
Brazil	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0		2
Boards and Commissions (125)							107					1	1
General Officials (20)							15					0	0
Boards of Control							16					0	0
Faculty Members							50					1	1
Overseas Missionaries							9					3	3
Totals	562	559	1,121	101	65	133	496	1	4	7	3	5	20
Ad Hoc Committees (13)	6											0	0
District Youth Representatives	42											1	1

Comparative Figures

	1967	1969	1971	1973	1975	1977
Voting Delegates Present	875	993	1,020	1,075	1,118	1,121
Advisory Delegates Present	508	558	546	500	492	496
Total Delegates Present	1,383	1,551	1,566	1,575	1,610	1,617

(Figures in parentheses indicate the total number, including those who were registered also in other categories. These were deducted in order to arrive at the exact number of persons involved.)

CONVENTION FLOOR COMMITTEES

Key to Abbreviations

C—Chairman

AB—Alberta and Brit. Col.
Ar—Argentina
At—Atlantic
Br—Brazil
CN—California and Nevada
CI—Central Illinois
Co—Colorado
Ea—Eastern

P—Pastors

En—English
FG—Florida-Georgia
In—Indiana
IE—Iowa East
IW—Iowa West
Ka—Kansas
MS—Manitoba and Sask.
Mc—Michigan

L—Laypersons

MdS—Mid-South
MnN—Minnesota North
MnS—Minnesota South
Mo—Missouri
Mt—Montana
Ne—Nebraska
ND—North Dakota
NE—New England

T—Teachers

NJ—New Jersey
NW—North Wisconsin
NI—Northern Illinois
Nw—Northwest
Oh—Ohio
Ok—Oklahoma
On—Ontario
SD—South Dakota
SW—South Wisconsin
SE—Southeastern
So—Southern
SC—Southern California
SI—Southern Illinois
SELC—SELC District
Tx—Texas
Wy—Wyoming

Committee 1 REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS

C: A. Stanfel (On)
P: R. Elaner (En), M. Lieske (MnS), H. Sorensen (CN)
T: R. Bode (SW), H. Teschler (Oh)
L: O. Johnson (En), D. Rossow (IW)

Committee 2—MISSIONS

C: L. Behnken (FG)
P: M. Dienat (NE), J. Gedrat (Br), E. Grese (Mo), J. Heck (Ne), W. Holt (CN), J. Hoppes (IW), J. Horn (Ar), T. Koepke (En), B. Lutz (MnS), P. Meyer (In), R. Plagens (Ea), F. Riedel (Nw), G. Wollenburg (Mt), T. Zeile (Mc)
T: D. Schaar (NI)
L: R. Heuchert (ND), R. Jesse (Tx), R. Kath (NI), N. Kleinschmidt (CI), E. Muller (IW), G. Wallace (In), E. Weise (CN), T. Wolkos (SW)

Committee 3 THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS

C: E. Happel (NI)
P: D. Bell (Oh), G. Bornemann (En), C. Bornemann (Mc), A. Boysen (MdS), J. Domsch (IE), P. Fry (MS), R. Goodman (IW), S. Hein (NI), J. Jacobsen (Ka), P. Littmann (NE), K. Reidenbach (SE), D. Ritt (Ea), L. Rucki (MS), A. Simcak Jr. (Tx), E. Zimmermann (In)
T: D. Gade (Mo), J. Schumacher (Mc)
L: A. Freitag (Nw), R. Gangelhoff (MnN), A. Happel (IE), L. Menking (FG), H. Senkpiel (En), N. Zarnke (NW)

Committee 4—ADMINISTRATION

C: W. Griesse (MdS)
P: L. Butz (In), E. Gruell (FG), I. Janassen (SC), R. Knoll (On), G. Krenzel (IW), A. Kuntz (SC), J. Schuelke (MS), H. Simon (NW), E. Wessling (Co), J. Zimmermann (IE)
T: E. Bredehoeft (NI), C. Dietrich (Mc)
L: A. Behnke (MdS), K. Behrens (Tx), D. Borchard (SD), K. Brashear (Ne), M. Donaho (At), F. Liekweg Jr. (Mo), H. Schelp (Br), J. Weber (Mc)

Committee 5 CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

C: R. Schlecht (Mc)
P: P. Behling (At), L. Elgert (NE), A. Fedder (NI), A. Kollmann (SD), A. Kuehnert (CI), E. Meyer (Ne)
T: C. Egloff (SW), R. Zielske (Mc)
L: G. Drews (MnN), D. Fischer (MnS), R. Rauscher (Mo), L. Redick (SE), P. Snider (Nw)

Committee 6 HIGHER EDUCATION

C: A. Mennicke (MnN)
P: K. Barth (SW), E. Blomquist (MnN), A. Bruns (Ka), R. Fink (At), C. Heckmann (Tx), E. Jaech (Nw), D. Mann (SD), E. Neitzel (SW), R. St. Pierre (So), W. Schmelder (Mo), H. Schweigert (MnS), T. Wegener (IE), E. Weis (Mo)
T: G. Gable (NW), V. Soeken (CI)
L: G. Becker (NJ), W. Bell (AB), W. Busch (NI), W. Floetke (Mc), H. Grueber (SW), J. Kaylor (SE), W. Meilander (Oh), J. Nickerson (MnS), M. Tietjen (CN)

Committee 7—PARISH SERVICES

C: W. Zeile (NJ)
P: H. Brockhoff (Ok), D. Jung (En), D. Meyer (MnN), C. Nelson (Oh), H. Niemann (Wy), W. Priebe (MnS), G. Rode (AB), L. Saeger (CI), W. Schroeder (Nw), J. Uhrinak (MnN), D. Wuerz (IW)
T: R. Bultemeyer (In), W. Kirchhoff (NI), L. Sohn (SW), S. Sonnenberg (Ka)
L: K. Abel (IW), A. Barthel (In), W. Becker (MnS), N. Henke (SI), G. LaHaine (Mc), R. Paul (CN), D. Poertner (Mo), J. Wiederanders (Tx)

Committee 8—SOCIAL MINISTRY

C: A. Marcis (SELC)
P: J. Costello (SE), D. Fus (NW), W. Johnson (Tx), T. Mowry (Mc), C. Mueller (SE), R. Phipps (Co), E. Rakow (SI)
T: D. Dammann (SC), M. Patterson (CN)
L: A. Franks (CN), R. Heins (Ne), D. Ramirez (SC), S. Scot-Shepherd (SC), J. Teer (NI)

Committee 9 SPECIAL AND SUNDRY MATTERS

C: A. Bahr (Ea)
P: C. Gade (NW), D. Hakes (Mc), W. Krueger (SW), O. Oswald (CN), E. Pflug (At), M. Suhr (SC)
T: R. Hoffmann (MnS), R. Nieting (SW)
L: T. Erickson (NW), J. Jaques (Mc), V. Meyers (FG), E. Seifferlein (Mc)

Committee 10—ETHNIC CONCERNS

C: B. Clancy (SE)
P: A. Bodley (NI), A. Crosmer (SD), J. Ellermann (So), W. Fehl (Mo), E. Mickan (Tx), E. Thompson (At)
T: H. Miller (Mc)
L: J. Davis (So), L. Diggs (En), B. Hill (SE), J. McCants Sr. (In), J. Outlaw (SW), A. Pankow (ND), J. Smith (NI), A. Yancey (Ka)

Committee 11—NOMINATIONS

C: A. Mennicke (MnN)
P: P. Barth (En), H. Fry (MnS), E. Klug (In), J. Lavalais (Ea), E. Mather Jr. (At), J. Zimmermann (IE)
T: R. Beckmann (NE), R. Laesch (SW), W. Rusch Sr. (Mc)
L: R. Culley (Nw), A. Samuel (Tx), I. Shields (SC), E. Ziegler (MnS), M. Meyer (At)

Committee 12—ELECTIONS

C: A. Ziegler (Oh)
P: B. Bauer (En), H. Reiss (Co), H. Scherer (Mo), J. Wessel (CN)
T: L. Loomans (Mo), R. Scheele (SC)
L: C. Arends (NI), H. Schroeder (OK), L. Schultz (NW), R. Volz (Mc)

Committee 13 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

C: P. Zimmerman (NI)
P: K. Behnken (CN), J. Bollmann (NI), T. Grassinger (SD), N. Groteluschen (MdS), H. Koepchen (At), L. Kramer (SC), J. Kucera (SELC), C. Lossner (Nw), M. Maltz (SI), V. Marxhausen (MnS), M. Nauss (En), F. Niedner (Ne), E. Nieting (IW), G. O'Shoney (Tx), W. Petrich (Oh), A. Reimnitz (ND), G. Rentz (AB), C. Schinnerer (Mc), N. Sincebaugh (ND), E. Vetter (NW)
T: D. Koopman (MnN)
L: J. Bruss (SW), L. Campbell (OK), C. Cunningham (Ka), J. Fecht (FG), J. Gaebler (Mo), G. Gleichman (Co), D. Goertz (On), D. Goldhammer (CI), R. Guess (Wy), E. Hall (NE), A. Kurk (In), C. Rullman Sr. (SE), E. Tewes (So), W. Toenjes (IW), W. Urbom (Ne), R. Williams (Mt), T. William (MS), B. Wolfanger (Ea), E. Yerha (NJ)

Tellers

Norman Sell, ch., E. Barrioz, Richard Bode, Roy Knoll, Virginia Kohtz, Ray Petersen, Muriel Pingel, Joel Schmidt, Keturah Thunder, Ruth Trautmann, Ruth Wondrasch

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY—JULY 15

- 3:00 Opening Service
- 7:00 Devotions (President's Address)
- 7:15 Registration & Credentials (1)
- 7:20 Gavel Presentation, Proclamation—Black Centennial
- 7:25 Welcome and Response
- 7:35 President's Report, Part II
- 8:15 Standing Rules (14)
- 8:30 Constitutional Matters (5)
Registration & Credentials (1)
- 9:35 Nominations for President*
- 9:50 Devotions
- 10:00 Recess (tentative)

SATURDAY—JULY 16

- 8:00 Devotions
- 8:10 Constitutional Matters (5)
Registration & Credentials (1)
- 9:00 Resolutions A and B
- 9:30 First Ballot for President*
(continued as needed)
- 9:45 Nominating Committee (11)
- 10:30 Higher Education (6)
- 11:30 Theology & Church Relations (3)
- 12:10 Nominations for First Vice-President*
- 12:25 Devotions
- 12:30 Recess
- 2:00 Devotions
- 2:10 Registration & Credentials (1)
Constitutional Matters (5)
- 2:40 Parish Services (7)
- 3:30 Administration (4)
- 4:30 Missions (2)
- 4:30 Black Centennial Pageant
- 5:15 First Ballot for First Vice-President (or earlier)*
- 5:20 Dr. Robert Marshall—LCA
- 5:35 Devotions
- 5:45 Recess
- 6:00 B. B. Q. Texas Style
- 7:30 Black Centennial Pageant

SUNDAY—JULY 17

- 9:00 Bible Study
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 1:00 Devotions
- 1:10 Minutes
- 1:20 Constitutional Matters (5)
- 2:20 Theology & Church Relations (3)
- 3:45 Ethnic Concerns (10)
- 4:20 Primary Ballot for Other Vice-Presidents*
- 4:50 Devotions
- 5:00 Recess
- 7:00 Black Centennial Service

MONDAY—JULY 18

Main Emphasis: Missions

- 8:00 Devotions
- 8:10 Social Ministry (8)
- 8:40 Vice-President Elections*
(continued as needed)
- 9:00 Missions (2)
- 10:00 Bible Study

- 11:00 Recognition
- 11:05 Administration (4)
- 12:25 Devotions
- 12:30 Recess
- 2:00 Devotions
- 2:10 Minutes
- 2:15 Nominating Committee (11)
(if needed)
- 2:35 Missions (2)
- 3:05 Recognition
- 3:10 Missions (2)
- 4:00 Special and Sundry (9)
- 4:40 Administration (4)
Program Implementation (13)
- 5:50 Devotions
- 6:00 Recess
- 8:00 Alumni Gatherings

TUESDAY—JULY 19

Main Emphasis: Theology & Church Relations

- 8:00 Devotions
- 8:10 Social Ministry (8)
- 8:30 Theology & Church Relations (3)
- 9:45 Dr. George Harkins—LCUSA
- 10:00 Bible Study
- 11:00 Recognition
- 11:05 Constitutional Matters (5)
- 12:25 Devotions
- 12:30 Recess
- 2:00 Devotions
- 2:10 Minutes
- 2:15 Theology & Church Relations (3)
- 3:50 Recognition
- 3:55 Higher Education (6)
- 4:35 Elections* (12)
- 5:55 Devotions
- 6:00 Recess
- 8:00 Devotions
- 8:05 Special and Sundry (9)
- 8:55 Theology & Church Relations (3)
- 9:50 Devotions
- 10:00 Recess

WEDNESDAY—JULY 20

Main Emphasis: Education

- 8:00 Devotions
- 8:10 Higher Education (6)
- 9:30 Ethnic Concerns (10)
- 10:00 Bible Study
- 11:00 Recognition
- 11:05 LWML & LLL Representatives
- 11:15 Parish Services (7)
- 12:25 Devotions
- 12:30 Recess
- 2:00 Devotions
- 2:10 Minutes
- 2:15 Higher Education (6)
- 3:15 Missions (2)
- 3:45 Recognition
- 3:50 Constitutional Matters (5)
- 5:05 Social Ministry (8)
- 5:55 Devotions

*Elections will proceed as quickly as possible in spite of scheduling.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

6:00 Recess
 8:00 Devotions
 8:05 Theology & Church Relations (3)
 9:30 Memorial Service
 10:00 Recess

THURSDAY—JULY 21**Main Emphasis: Constitution & Administration**

8:00 Devotions
 8:10 Program Implementation (13)
 8:40 Missions (2)
 9:10 Theology & Church Relations (3)
 10:00 Bible Study
 11:00 Recognition
 11:05 Administration (4)
 12:25 Devotions
 12:30 Recess
 2:00 Devotions
 2:10 Minutes
 2:15 Constitutional Matters (5)
 4:20 Recognition
 4:25 Missions (2)

4:55 Unfinished Business
 5:55 Devotions
 6:00 Recess
 8:00 Devotions
 8:05 Unfinished Business
 9:50 Devotions
 10:00 Recess

FRIDAY—JULY 22

8:00 Devotions
 8:10 Unfinished Business
 10:00 Dr. David Preus—ALC
 Dr. S. T. Jacobson—ELCC
 10:30 Unfinished Business
 12:25 Devotions
 12:30 Recess
 2:00 Devotions
 Installation of Board Members
 2:15 Minutes
 2:20 Unfinished Business
 4:10 Closing Devotions
 4:30 Adjournment (tentative)

MINUTES OF THE CONVENTION

Opening Service

The opening service of the 52nd regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was held July 15, 1977, in the Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, Tex., with Dr. Walter A. Maier, Fourth Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod serving as the preacher and Dr. Carl Heckmann, President of the Texas District, serving as liturgist. In his sermon Dr. Maier reviewed the blessings as well as the shortcomings of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the past several years and pointed to the need for humble, heart-deep repentance as well as prayer for strengthening for eager obedience to the divine Word. He pointed out that life presupposes growth and that for that growth there must be nourishment, spiritual nourishment, which is the Word of God. When we do not use the Word for growth, God sometimes chastens us to bring us back to it. Our goal is unity of faith in the knowledge of the Son of God as well as the other things which are pointed out in Ephesians 4. We need to come to the throne of grace for pardon and for power to carry out the Lord's will. If we do, our horizons are virtually unlimited. Dr. Maier summarized the thoughts of his sermon in the words of the hymn "May God Bestow on Us His Grace and Favor."

Session 1

July 15, Evening

Opening

The opening devotion of the 52nd regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was conducted by Dr. Preus and began with the singing of the Reformation hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." Using the opening words of 1 Peter 1 as his text, Dr. Preus pointed to the paradoxical nature of the Christian religion. We are aliens, yet we are a people of God, and this is reflected in the statements of Martin Luther that a Christian is both saint and sinner at the same time. If we ask the question, How long are we here? we can answer that question in terms of the convention. However, we cannot answer it for the larger dimension, because we are gathered as the chosen ones, dealing with ultimate issues involving the Lord's business and top priorities. We are called to live in the world and serve in the midst of filth, grime, and poverty. Yet we have the promise that where sin abounded grace abounds much more. We are to be faithful and leave the results to God. The church is always pilgrim and alien but lives under God's covenant of forgiveness, grace, and blessing. Consequently we must do our work patiently, knowing that God is more patient with us than we can ever be with each other.

Registration and Credentials

Dr. Albin Stanfel, chairman of the Committee on Registration and Credentials, introduced Catherine Burkhard of the local committee on registration, who

reported that 477 voting lay delegates and 544 voting pastoral delegates were registered. This is more than the number constitutionally required for a quorum.

Convention Gavel

Dr. August Suelflow, Archivist of the Synod, presented to Dr. Preus a gavel which had been used in the opening ceremony of the synodical convention for the past 66 years. The gavel was first used in 1911 and has been used by four of the eight synodical Presidents, including Drs. Pfothhauer, Behnken, Harms, and Preus. The gavel itself contains a carving of Luther and Dr. C. F. W. Walther, as well as the first log-cabin seminary. It is made from a beam of the log cabin and includes the motto: "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the Law." Using this historic gavel, President Preus declared the convention in session in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Black Lutheran Centennial

Dr. Joseph Lavalais, Dr. Peter Hunt, and Rev. DeWitt Robinson, members of the Black Lutheran Centennial Committee, were presented to the delegates. Dr. Lavalais, chairman of the committee, expressed thanks to Dr. Preus for the counsel, advice, and help which had been given in preparation for the Black Lutheran Centennial year. He presented Dr. Preus with a proclamation prepared for this occasion. President Preus stated that the proclamation would be hung in the headquarters of the Synod and then read the proclamation to the delegates.

Announcements

A change of schedule was announced, stating that Committee 10, the Committee on Ethnic Concerns, would report on Sunday at 3:45 p.m. while Committee 9, the Committee on Special and Sundry Matters, would report at 4:00 p.m. Monday.

Dr. Preus then introduced Mrs. Mabel Stickel and Dr. Mark Steege, who will serve as parliamentarians for the convention, as well as Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, Dr. Walter Rosin, convention secretary, and pages Margaret Burkhard and William Schmidtke.

Welcome

Dr. Carl Heckmann, President of the Texas District, welcomed the delegates to Texas and expressed the regrets of Governor Briscoe that he was unable to be present. The welcome to Texas and the Texas District was issued on behalf of its 300 congregations and over 100,000 members. Dr. Ray Martens, president of Concordia College, Austin, also welcomed the delegates and invited them to visit Concordia College in Austin if they have the opportunity to do so. Dr. Harry Barr, member of the Board of Directors of the Synod, spoke on behalf of the Board of Directors, thanking Dr. Heckmann and the Texas District for their hospitality.

President's Report

President Preus began his report by pointing out that the first section of the report had been presented when the convention committees gathered for the preparation of resolutions and that this section of the report had been sent to all delegates. He began the second section of his report by expressing his thanks for the prayers, moral and financial support, and other assistance which had been given by all of the members of the Synod, with special reference to the efforts of Dr. Nickel, Third Vice-President of the Synod, Dr. Carpenter, the synodical Treasurer, Dr. E. C. Weber, First Vice-President of the Synod, and Dr. Robert Sauer, assistant to the President of the Synod. He also pointed out that the second section of his report, which would be included in an issue of *Today's Business*, would include appendices reporting the disposition of matters which had been assigned to the President's office by the convention at Anaheim as well as a listing of congregations who have left the Synod and those who hold dual membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the AELC, together with the situation of pastors in these congregations. Another appendix would include a list of the congregations who have joined the Synod during the past biennium.

President Preus continued his report by pointing to the positive achievements of the Synod in recent years. He indicated that in 1976 the Synod had reached its highest membership in its 130 years of history. It had also achieved the highest total and per-capita giving for all work, amounting to over \$375,000,000. In the past biennium 1,100 young people have been added to the list of professional church workers. Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, which had a total enrollment of 90 students in 1974, had increased to 360 in 1977. The latest reports in the Synod point out that 338,000 are enrolled in Bible classes, the highest number which has ever been enrolled. Several corners have been turned, including a stemming of back-door losses, which have begun to decline as a result of evangelism training and workshops. Another corner which has been turned was that of adult accessions, which have begun to increase once again and last year totaled over 27,000.

Of the hundreds of meetings requiring presidential attendance, President Preus cited two which were especially important. The first of these was held in Porto Alegre in 1975, a meeting of partner churches of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The second meeting was held in Hong Kong and was the first international mission planning conference. Dr. Preus stated that it was his belief that if all of the members of our church could have been present at these meetings, they would have been inspired to move forward and there would be no lack of funds or effort expended to share the Gospel with the world. Among other positive things to which President Preus pointed were the fact that we have the marvelous grace of God in Christ Jesus, that we are a confessional church and are not afraid to put on paper what our church stands for, and that we have a congregational form of church government in which all are part of the action.

In referring to the future, President Preus pointed to

certain things which could be described as stones in the cathedral for the future. Among these are the "Year of the Sunday School" and the Bible study program entitled "That We May Grow." Others include efforts at improving interchurch relationships, the Black Centennial, our concern for suffering, a national youth organization which is to be considered by the convention, the educational program of our Synod, efforts at reconstruction and restoration of the circuits, and the contributions of \$375,000,000 for all work of the Synod and its congregations.

While all these are positive factors, President Preus stated that there is apathy, uncertainty, and ignorance and that one of the purposes of a convention is to inspire delegates to go home and inspire the members of the circuits which they represent. He stated that we must get away from thinking that to be orthodox is to be against something. It includes positively being for something, for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Dr. Preus concluded his statements with the prayer that we may grow in faith, hope, and love.

Standing Rules

Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, addressed the delegates, pointing out that special standing rules adopted at the Anaheim convention had also been approved by that convention to serve as temporary rules for the present convention. Furthermore, a Convention Format Committee was continued to consider any change in rules which should be presented for the present convention. This committee had considered the convention format and proposed special standing rules as found on page 8 of *Today's Business*. The proposed rules were then adopted by the delegates as the standing rules for the present convention.

Constitutional Matters and Registration and Credentials

Dr. Richard Schlecht, President of the Michigan District and chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Matters, presented Res. 5-01 (TB 99) to the delegates. This resolution asked the delegates to declare the Synod's position on the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, especially dual membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches. Prior to the reading of the resolution several changes were made. In lines 34 and 35 (TB 99) the numbers 52 and 93 were changed to 45 and 107 respectively. The names which had been omitted on lines 60 and 61 (TB 99) were included. These names are Dr. Michael Stelmachowicz, Dr. Otto A. Dorn, and Pastor Louis Meyer. In line 72 (TB 99) the words "where conversations are taking place and where progress is being made toward what seems to be an imminent resolution," were placed between the words "case" and "such."

After the reading of this resolution the President of the Synod declared that parliamentarily Res. 1-01 (TB 36) should be read since it was related to Res. 5-01 (TB 99), but that before action would be taken on this resolution action should be completed on Res. 5-01.

After adding the words "or registered with the Secretary's office since publication" after the word "Workbook" (line 29, TB 36), Dr. Albin Stanfel, chairman of the Registration and Credentials Committee, read Res. 1-01 (TB 36). Following the reading of this resolution a motion was made and seconded to adopt Res. 5-01. Prior to the adoption of this resolution a motion was made, seconded, and adopted to amend the resolution by adding the words "as well as those who have refused ministry by their District President" after the words "AELC membership" and before "to regretfully notify" (line 67, TB 99). Following discussion of the resolution as amended the delegates agreed to call the question and accepted the amended resolution. After this action had been completed, the delegates then adopted Res. 1-01 (TB 36), which called for the seating of delegates and representatives as listed in the *Convention Workbook* or registered with the Secretary's office since publication of the *Workbook*.

Nominations

Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, explained the procedure for additional nominations for the office of President of the Synod. He referred the delegates to the listing of presidential candidates found in the *Convention Workbook* (11-01, p. 433). After some brief discussion the delegates adopted the slate as presented in the *Convention Workbook*.

Announcements

Dr. Mueller announced that greetings had been received from the Lutheran Laymen's League, Lutheran Women's Missionary League, the Dallas Council of Churches, International Lutheran Deaf Association, the Lutheran Church in Nigeria, the Lutheran Church of Australia, and from Dr. Martin Strieter, former Treasurer of the Synod.

Closing Devotion

President Preus introduced Dr. Paul Streufert, former Vice-President of the Synod, who is serving as chaplain for the convention. Dr. Streufert pointed out that the devotions would involve the use of various languages which are used by groups within the Synod.



Dr. Paul Streufert, convention chaplain

In the devotion Ephesians 4 was read in the German language by Rev. Clarence T. Schuknecht. Dr. Streufert then urged the delegates to follow the advice of St. Paul to "study to be quiet." The devotion was closed with the singing of the hymn "Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadows" and the benediction, which was spoken as the delegates hummed the melody of the hymn.

Session 2

July 16, Morning

Opening

After President Preus had called the meeting to order, Chaplain Paul Streufert led the delegates in the singing of the hymn "O Holy Spirit, Enter In" and in a devotion based on Phil. 4:13, pointing out that in Christ Paul was able to overcome the tradition of Jerusalem, the power of Rome, and the culture of Athens. The words "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me," were not an empty boast. The Scripture reading and devotion were also presented in sign language by Rev. Rodney Rynearson, executive director of Lutheran Institute for the Deaf, Detroit.

Constitutional Matters

Dr. Richard Schlecht, chairman of the Floor Committee on Constitutional Matters, introduced Res. 5-03A (TB 206) calling for the amendment of Bylaw 2.143 a for the purpose of improving election procedures by providing additional information on nominees. This resolution was adopted by the delegates. Before introducing Res. 5-04 (TB 102) the committee introduced a change in the wording of the resolution. In line 20 (TB 102) they added the words "and synodical and District boards, commissions, and staff" between the words "individuals" and "be given." After the resolution had been read with this change, the words "or spring" were added in line 19 (TB 102) with the consent of the committee between the words "fall" and "pastors." This resolution, calling for a progress report of the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure which would allow pastors' and teachers' conferences as well as congregations to respond to the report, was then adopted. Resolution 5-05A (TB 207), calling for an amendment in the Bylaws of the Synod relating to the method of determining synodical membership and the roster of the Synod's members, was introduced to the delegates. Consideration of this resolution involved extended discussion, including a number of amendments which were declined as well as one which was accepted. After extending the time for discussion and declining to recommit the resolution to the floor committee, President Preus called for a decision on the resolution when 30 minutes of debate had elapsed. The entire motion was declined. The delegates reconfirmed this decision after a question had been raised about the voting procedure.

Overtures Not Acted On by the Floor Committees (Resolutions A and B)

Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, presented Resolution A (TB 184), which stated that

those who had submitted certain overtures appearing in the *Convention Workbook* present their concerns to the appropriate boards or commissions for consideration and action. After declining a number of amendments asking that overtures be acted on by the present delegate convention and adopting one amendment referring Overture 2-26 (CW 36) to Floor Committee 2, the convention adopted Resolution A as amended. This action was taken after a motion to terminate debate on Resolution A had been adopted by the delegates. In addition to overtures listed in *Today's Business* (184), Report 13-03, 2 (TB 191), referring to the World Consultation on Stewardship, was added to the resolution. Resolution B with the addition of Overtures 8-08—8-10, calling for the referral of petitioners to previous convention action relating to overtures which were presented in the *Convention Workbook* for the Dallas convention, was adopted after the delegates had agreed to close debate on the matter.

Elections

President Arthur Ziegler of the Ohio District, chairman of the Committee on Elections, instructed the delegates on procedures to be followed in voting. Ballots were then distributed for the election of President of the Synod.

Nominations

Dr. August Mennicke, chairman of the Floor Committee on Nominations, presented the report of the floor committee as found in *Convention Workbook*, pages 328—334. Corrections in the list presented by the committee appear in *Today's Business*, page 190. Major changes were:

Board of Directors: Layperson Vernon Brugge for Ralph Niedert (ineligible)

Board of Appeals: Pastor John Choitz for Gary Fortkamp (declined)

Board for Church Extension: Teacher Jesse H. Kunkel for Eugene Brunow (declined)

Board for Missions: Pastor Louis C. Meyer for Herman R. Mayer (declined)

Board of Parish Education: Pastor Phillip Giessler for Paul G. Kiehl (ineligible); Layperson Glen Krohn for Neva A. Odell (declined)

Board of Youth Ministry: Synodical Institution Representative: Richard Gove and Benjamin Marxhausen for Alan H. Bachert and Harold L. Senkbeil (nominated in error)

Board of Control, Concordia, Mo.: Layperson George Hellwig for Melvin Simpson (ineligible)

Board of Control, Porto Alegre, Brazil: Delete layman Herbert Leichti (incumbent)

Changes in headings:

Board of Youth Ministry should read: "5 young people, 1 teacher, 1 synodical institution representative, 1 layman to be elected"

Board of Control, Porto Alegre, should read: "1 pastor, 3 laymen to be elected"

Board of Control, Sao Leopoldo, should read: "1 pastor, 1 teacher, 2 laymen to be elected"

After the corrected list had been read to the delegates, Dr. Mennicke referred to a problem which was confronted by the committee. The convention was asked to determine whether youth delegates would be eligible for a single 2-year term or for three 2-year terms since this matter is not clarified in the Bylaws of the Synod. In order to determine the sense of the convention, a motion was made to limit youth membership on the Board of Youth Ministry to one 2-year term. However, after agreeing to consider a substitute motion, the delegates resolved that young people may not be elected or reelected to the Board of Youth Ministry after they have reached the age of 21. An additional resolution adopted by the delegates stated that this procedure should not become effective until the next synodical convention. Following this action by the delegates, the slate of candidates for officers and boards was opened for nominations from the floor. The following additions were made to the slate:

Treasurer

LAYPERSONS

Norman Sell
Fred Strieter

Martin Bangert
Arthur Geidel
Walter Harms
R. John Perling

Board of Directors

PASTORS

John Gall
Oscar Gerken
Virgil Meyer

LAYPERSON

Wayne Grupe

Board of Parish Education

PASTOR

George F. Lobien

TEACHER

Julia Foad

LAYPERSONS

Roy Guess
John McCants

Board for Church Extension

TEACHER

George Zehnder

CPH Board of Directors

LAYPERSONS

Harry Barr
John Hoffmeyer
Raymond Wilson

Board of Stewardship

PASTOR

William F. Meyer

Board of Youth Ministry

TEACHER

Tom Buck

YOUNG PEOPLE

Rickie Krueger
Ken Schurb

Committee for Convention Nominations

PASTORS

Alan Bachert
Ronald Fink
Ronald Froehlich
Arthur Geidel
David Joeckel
Louis Pabor
Rudolph Prange
Martin Ramming

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

PASTORS

Hubert Beck
Paul G. Bretscher
John Fritz
Jim Haner
Philip J. Secker
Peter Steinke

Board for Evangelism

TEACHER

Warren Ford

Board for Higher Education

PASTOR

Richard Mazak

LAYPERSON

Herbert Kaiser

Board for Missions

PASTORS

Victor Albers

Board of Control, Austin

PASTOR

John Ellwanger

Board of Control, Bronxville

PASTORS

Ernst R. Pflug
Richard H. Skov

LAYPERSONS

Herbert Kohlmann

Thomas Olsen	<i>Board of Control, Fort Wayne</i>
Vincent J. Yurksaitis	<i>(Springfield)</i>
<i>Board of Control, Milwaukee</i>	PASTOR
PASTOR	Kenneth Gigstad
David V. Koch	<i>Board of Control, Seward</i>
	LAYPERSON
	Kermit A. Brashear II

The slate of nominees was then adopted as amended, and nominations were declared closed.

Higher Education

Dr. August Mennicke, chairman of the Floor Committee on Higher Education, introduced resolutions from the committee. Resolution 6-01 (TB 119), encouraging congregations to recognize their responsibility for recruiting and assisting young men to prepare for the pastoral ministry, was adopted as presented. Before introducing Res. 6-02 (TB 119), calling for the provision of adequate faculty salaries for professors, teachers, and administrators at synodical schools, a number of changes were made in the proposed resolution. Overture 6-72A was corrected to become 6-27. In line 64 the phrase "2-year period" was substituted for "4-year period." In line 71 the word "consider" was changed to "continue," and the last five words of line 72 were deleted. After declining an amendment asking that the Board of Directors consider this matter to be the top priority rather than one of the top priority items when dealing with budget matters and after adding the words "and Christian educators" between the words "pastors" and "who" in line 50, the convention adopted the resolution, which asks the Board for Higher Education to develop a salary schedule which would provide for an orderly means of salary increases and benefits and which asks the Board of Directors to consider this matter one of their top priorities when dealing with budget matters.

Elections

Chairman Ziegler of the Floor Committee on Elections presented the election report for the office of President. He reported that 1,097 ballots had been cast, of which seven were declared to be invalid. A majority of 546 was required for election. Results of the first ballot were as follows: Bernthal—80; Heckmann—19; Maier—168; Mueller—279; Preus—544.

Higher Education

The Floor Committee on Higher Education continued its presentation with the introduction of Res. 6-03A (TB 212). This resolution called for the withdrawal of Res. 6-03 (TB 120), which asked for the continued functioning of the present Board of Control of the Senior College until financial and academic responsibilities had been discharged. Since disposition of these matters had been fully planned, the delegates agreed to the withdrawal of the resolution. Resolution 6-04A (TB 212), calling for the regularization of arrangements for theological education at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, Sask., by a change in the Bylaws of the Synod was introduced.

During the extended discussion which followed delegates declined to eliminate the first resolved of Res. 6-04A. Since time for consideration of this matter had elapsed, final action on the resolution was postponed for a later session.

Elections

Chairman Ziegler of the Floor Committee on Elections directed the distribution of ballots for the second balloting for President of the Synod

Theology and Church Relations

Dr. Edmund Happel, chairman of the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations, addressed the delegates briefly and presented Res. 3-01 (TB 53), calling for promotion of concord and conciliation "That We May Grow." The resolution asks for efforts on the part of all to promote such actions and to adopt the goals of the "That We May Grow" program, so that in this way gratitude to God may be expressed for the precious heritage of the Sacred Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions in this 400th-anniversary year of the Formula of Concord. In the discussion which followed a motion to delete (b) of the third whereas (lines 29—32, TB 53) was declined. However, a motion to delete the words "(N.O. 3-09—Report of the Advisory Committee on Doctrine and Conciliation), which has endangered the St. Louis seminary, engendered divisive and schismatic activities (Anaheim 3-06) and even led some to leave the LCMS" (lines 34—37, TB 53) was adopted. An amendment asking that the words "and preserve the unity that they have" be substituted for the words "and resolve the theological issues that trouble us" (line 61, TB 53) was introduced. However, time expired before action could be taken on the amendment or the total resolution.

Nominations for First Vice-President

Dr. Herbert Mueller presented the slate of nominees for First Vice-President of the Synod as found in the *Convention Workbook*, page 433. The slate was adopted as presented. However, by action of the delegates nominations were reopened to permit amendment of this slate to include the name of Dr. Joseph Lavalais. The slate of candidates for First Vice-President of the Synod was then adopted as amended.

Closing

Chaplain Paul Streufert closed the session by leading the delegates in the singing of the table prayer "Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy."

Session 3

July 16, Afternoon

Opening

The third session of the convention was opened with a devotion led by Dr. Paul Streufert, convention chaplain. After the singing of the hymn "I Love to Tell the Story" by the delegates, Rev. Albert Marcis,

president of the SELC District, read Luke 10:1-9 in the Slovak language. Dr. Streufert led the delegates in prayer.

Elections

Chairman Ziegler of the Floor Committee on Elections announced the final results of the election for President of the Synod. 1,083 votes were cast, all of which were valid. 542 were required for a majority. The results of the election were as follows; Bernthal—38, Maier—119, Mueller—330, Preus—596. President Preus received a standing ovation from the convention for his election to a third consecutive term as President of the Synod. Ballots were then distributed for the election of the First Vice-President of the Synod

Constitutional Matters

Dr. Richard Schlecht, chairman of the Floor Committee on Constitutional Matters, presented Res. 5-06 (TB 105), calling for a change in the Bylaws of the Synod to provide for a better method of signing Synod's Constitution by pastors, teachers, and congregations. The change in the Bylaws would allow the pastors and teachers to file a signed statement which indicated that they had read the Constitution and with the filing of the statement affix their signatures to it. The delegates adopted the proposed Bylaw changes. With the adoption of Res. 5-07 (TB 105) the length of terms for members on the Commission on Constitutional Matters was changed to 8 years from 4 years, which had been the case previously. Adoption of this resolution includes a change in the Bylaws and was accepted after the delegates had declined to add a final resolved asking that the matter be given to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure for further consideration.

Point of Privilege

Dr. Milton Carpenter, Treasurer of the Synod, was granted a point of privilege to present Mrs. J. A. O. Preus to the convention and to honor her with a bouquet of flowers. After receiving a standing ovation from the delegates, Mrs. Preus expressed her thanks and dedicated the flowers to Mrs. Edwin Weber, the wife of the First Vice-President of the Synod.

Parish Services

Rev. Walter Zeile, President of the New Jersey District and chairman of the Floor Committee on Parish Services, introduced Dr. Victor Constien, Executive Secretary of the Board of Parish Education, who in turn introduced Dr. Al Senske, Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Schools. Both of them referred to the growth in the number of Lutheran high schools as well as the 75th anniversary of Lutheran high schools, which will be celebrated during the academic year 1977-78. Following this the floor committee introduced Res. 7-01 (TB 132), which called for the church to recognize with gratitude and provide support to volunteer church school workers. By adopting the resolution the delegates asked that this be done through expressions and official publications, through

demonstration of appreciation by the congregations, and through support of the work of these people. Resolution 7-02 (TB 132) encouraged congregations to support the "Year of the Sunday School" by emphasizing it, improving the quality of Sunday schools, and by seeking to enroll all members in formal education experiences. The convention approved this resolution as well as Res. 7-03 (TB 133), which encouraged participation at the 1978 convention of our church school workers to be held in Chicago July 14—16, 1978, and asked congregations to provide financial assistance to enable workers to attend. After adding the words "set up a system of personal contacts" after the words "be urged to" (line 48, TB 133), members of the Synod were encouraged to participate in Biblical and confessional studies "That We May Grow" (Res. 7-04, TB 133). Delegates declared their support for early childhood/parent education programs by asking congregations to promote them (Res. 7-05, TB 134). After changing the word "develop" to "encourage" in line 50 (TB 134), the convention asked for promotion of evangelism among youth as well as an affirmation of the youth ministry directions for the future as presented in the *Convention Workbook* report (CW 279). They did this by adopting Res. 7-06 and 7-07 (TB 134—135). Resolution 7-08 (TB 135) was presented, asking for the development of a synodical youth organization. This was done after changing the word "a" to "the" in line 37 (TB 135). Time for discussion of this matter elapsed before action on it could be completed.

Point of Privilege (Nominations)

Dr. Wilbert Rusch, member of the Committee on Nominations, asked for a point of privilege, stating that because of Bylaw 2.71 of the synodical *Handbook*, which did not allow for two members on the Board of Directors from the same District, the name of Ralph Niedert would have to be eliminated from the slate of nominees for the Board of Directors of the Synod. Vernon R. Brugge of Memphis, Tenn., was approved by the convention as a replacement.

Administration

Dr. Wibert Griesse, chairman of the Floor Committee on Administration, presented Res. 4-01A (TB 200) to the delegates, who subsequently adopted it. By doing so they urged the Synod and its Districts to make greater use of the Circuit Counselor in communicating the needs of the parish pastor and the person in the pew to Districts and the Synod, and asked the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure to strengthen the role of the Circuit Counselor, so that maximum use would be made of him. The delegates also asked for a rearrangement of financial responsibilities in order to improve the accounting procedures of the Synod. This resolution also provided for a change in the Bylaws to facilitate the matter (Res. 4-02A-1, TB 200). In order to make it possible to assemble, review, and coordinate position descriptions more easily, they approved Res. 4-02A-2 (TB 202) which made this possible by changing the Bylaws. This resolution was approved after they had agreed to retain the present wording of 2.83 b of the

Bylaws of the present synodical *Handbook* instead of the change in wording which had been proposed by the committee. Delegates, however, declined to refer the consideration of making the office of the Treasurer of the Synod a full-time and appointive office to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure (Res. 4-03, *TB* 81). The Board of Directors was commended by the convention for sharing information with the church in the past and was encouraged to expand its efforts to communicate to the members of the Synod as many details as possible concerning its work (Res. 4-04, *TB* 82). By adopting Res. 4-05 (*TB* 82) the transfer of Grace Lutheran Church of Strasburg, Ill., to the Central Illinois District; of Redeemer Lutheran Church of Seymour, Ind., to the Indiana District; of Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cleveland, Ohio, to the Ohio District; and of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Midland, Mich., to the Michigan District was approved. The request of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, for transfer from the South Wisconsin District to the English District and that of Holy Comforter Lutheran Church, Mt. Vernon, New York, for transfer from the English District to the SELC District were also granted by adoption of Res. 4-06 (*TB* 83). The passage of Res. 4-07A (*TB* 205) by the delegates permitted the transfer of All Saints of Livonia and The Savior of Kalamazoo from the Michigan District to the English District while declining action on the transfer requests of Holy Trinity, Livonia, and Faith, Livonia, because of their withdrawal from the Synod. Resolution 4-08 (*TB* 83), calling for deferral of the request of Immanuel, Charleston, Ill., to transfer from the Central Illinois District to the English District, was introduced after substituting the word "solution" for "conclusion" in line 66 (*TB* 83). After some discussion the convention agreed to consider a substitute motion that the transfer be granted as requested. Time for consideration of this motion expired before the matter could be resolved.

Elections

Rev. Arthur Ziegler, chairman of the Committee on Elections, reported that 1,047 ballots had been cast for the office of First Vice-President of the Synod, one of which was invalid. 524 were required for election. Results of the election were as follows: Bernthal—46; Heckmann—20; Lavalais—39; Maier—191; Mueller—327; Weber—423. Ballots for a run-off election were then distributed to the delegates.

Missions

Rev. Lloyd Behnken, chairman of the Floor Committee on Missions, introduced the resolutions of the committee by asking the delegates to lift up their sights and to view the tremendous needs and opportunities for sharing the Gospel. He pointed out that personal involvement with the Lord Jesus Christ means that we are involved because His Spirit lives in us. After referring to some of the mission activities of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Rev. Behnken called on President Preus to introduce President Fuliga, president of the Lutheran Church of the Philippines. President Fuliga brought the greetings from 14,000 to



President Fuliga of the Lutheran Church of the Philippines

15,000 Philippine Lutherans and described the work which is being carried on there at the present time. In his remarks he stated that this is a crucial period in the history of the Philippine Lutheran Church. It is a rapidly growing church in which it is difficult to meet all of the needs because of the meager salaries which are provided to pastors, who receive \$80 to \$100 per month. The Philippine Lutheran Church has close to 100 congregations and over 50 new mission stations in a nation of 46,000,000 people. No mission work at all is being done on many of the islands. The emphasis of the Philippine Lutheran Church is presently on evangelism, stewardship, and education. President Fuliga concluded his remarks by praying that it would not be said on Judgment Day that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod spent too little money on missions. After receiving some background from Rev. Hintze, Secretary for World Areas, on the opportunities for work in West Africa, the delegates approved Res. 2-01A (*TB* 193) authorizing new mission work to be established there. After hearing from missionary John Fajen, missionary to Nigeria, who has been responsible for the translation of the New Testament in a native language, the delegates expressed their thanks to God for the translation of the New Testament into the Yala, Bokyi, and Kukele languages (Res. 2-03, *TB* 38). Upon the request of the Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod and the recommendation of the Board for Missions and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, the delegates agreed to recognize the Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod as a sister church (Res. 2-02, *TB* 37).

Elections

Rev. Arthur Ziegler, reporting for the Committee on Elections, stated that 1,060 ballots had been cast, of which three were invalid. 529 votes were required for election. The results of the election for the First Vice-President of the Synod were as follows: Bernthal—22; Lavalais—14; Maier—74; Mueller—391; Weber—556. Dr. E. C. Weber was declared reelected as First Vice-President of the Synod and received a standing



Black Centennial Pageant

ovation. Voting was then begun on a primary ballot for the other vice-presidential positions.

Missions

After hearing from Rev. Wilbert Sohns regarding the importance of the work of partner churches and the need of full support of their evangelistic work, the convention passed Res. 2-19 (*TB* 45), commending the partner churches for their work. Congregations were urged to note the challenges and opportunities in overseas missions as reported by the Board for Missions in the *Convention Workbook* (pp. 13–14) and to use this report in presenting them to their congregations (Res. 2-29, *TB* 50).

Greetings

Dr. Robert Marshall, president of the Lutheran Church in America, who was introduced by President Preus, congratulated Dr. Preus on his reelection and spoke of the pleasure of working together with members from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in various capacities, making special reference to the commitment of the LCA to work together with fellow Lutherans as well as a commitment to proclaim the Gospel of Christ as clearly as possible.

Representatives and official observers of other Lutheran Churches in the United States and Canada were then introduced by President Preus and welcomed to the convention.

Closing Devotion

Chaplain Paul Streufert led the convention delegates in a closing devotion, including the singing of the hymn “The Church’s One Foundation” and prayer.

Session 4

July 17, Afternoon

Opening

The fourth session of the convention was called to order by President Preus and was opened with a

devotion led by Chaplain Streufert. Dr. Andrew Melendez read a portion from Galatians 1 in the Spanish language, followed by a reading of the entire chapter by Dr. Streufert in the Cotton Patch Version of the New Testament. The convention joined in the singing of the hymn “Salvation unto Us Has Come” and in a brief three-sentence prayer.

Minutes

The minutes for the first and second sessions of the convention were approved by the delegates.

Constitutional Matters

Chairman Schlecht of the Floor Committee on Constitutional Matters introduced Res. 5-08 (*TB* 107), calling for a change in the Bylaws which would clarify the method of electing delegates. After declining an amendment which called for deletion of the sentence which required the submission of names of lay delegate nominees prior to the day of the circuit meeting in which delegates were to be chosen, the resolution was adopted as presented. Since questions have arisen regarding the current election procedures which require prior consent of candidates for the office of President and First Vice-President of the Synod to serve if elected, the delegates agreed that this matter should be referred to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations for its view of this matter in relation to the doctrine of the call (Res. 5-09, *TB* 108). By adopting Res. 5-10 (*TB* 108) delegates reaffirmed the relationship between the Synod and Districts pertaining to District resolutions as stated in Article XII (*Handbook* pp. 21–22) and Bylaws 3.07 and 3.11. Since the 1973 convention had resolved that the tally of votes cast for each candidate should be announced after each ballot in all elections, the convention agreed that this procedure should be incorporated in the Bylaws of the synodical *Handbook* (Res. 5-11, *TB* 109). Before introducing Res. 5-12 (*TB* 109) Chairman Schlecht reported that 4.111 c (lines 66–68, *TB* 109) should be section “d” and that a new section “c” should be added as follows: “A representative from the office of the President of the Synod, together with a member of the Synod’s programmatic staff, shall be in attendance for at least one of the annual meetings.” After the resolution had been introduced, a motion was made to amend it by deleting the section “c” which the floor committee had proposed. This amendment was adopted. After additional discussion the motion was then adopted as amended, calling for a change in the Bylaws regarding pastor and teacher conferences. The delegates also accepted a change in Bylaw 2.127 d, which would allow for engaging an external auditing firm to tabulate nominations of all clergymen who have received nominating votes for the office of President and First Vice-President (Res. 5-13, *TB* 111). In doing this they amended the original resolution so that the word “shall” in line 20 was replaced by the word “may.” Prior to presenting the resolution the committee had added the words “and tallies” between the word “names” and “of” in line 23 and by replacing the words “at least five” with the word “nominating” in line 24.

Elections

Chairman Ziegler of the Floor Committee on Elections read the Bylaw from the synodical *Handbook* relating to the election of Vice-Presidents to the convention and then reported that 117 names had been proposed, half of them receiving one vote. The twelve receiving the highest votes were: Karl Barth—99; Lloyd Behnken—57; August Bernthal—413; Carl Heckmann—253; Oswald Hoffmann—58; Arnold Kuntz—113; Joseph Lavalais—122; Walter Maier—592; Guido Merckens—562; Charles Mueller—454; Robert Sauer—304; George Wollenburg—299. Karl Barth, Arnold Kuntz, and Carl Heckmann requested that their names be withdrawn. Those receiving the next-largest number of nominating votes were Richard Schlecht, August Mennicke, E. H. Happel, and Arthur Ziegler. Richard Schlecht, Arthur Ziegler, and E. H. Happel also requested that their names be removed. After the convention had agreed to accept their declinations, a motion was made to reconsider this action. The convention then declined to remove the names of Karl Barth, Arnold Kuntz, and Carl Heckmann, leaving the slate as originally presented.

Theology and Church Relations

After vice-presidential ballots had been distributed, Chairman Happel of the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations reintroduced Res. 3-01 (TB 53), on which action had not been completed in a previous session. Discussion was resumed on an amendment to replace the words "and resolve the theological issues that trouble us" with the words "and preserve the unity that they have" in line 61 (TB 53). In the discussion which followed a motion was made to amend the amendment by retaining the wording of the resolution as presented and adding the words "and preserve the unity that they have." After further discussion and after declining to extend the time for discussion, the question was called on the amendment to the amendment, the amendment, and the resolution. Both the amendment and the amendment to the amendment were declined, and the resolution was then adopted as it had been previously amended by eliminating from the final whereas the words "(N.O. 3-09—Report of the Advisory Committee on Doctrine and Conciliation), which has endangered the St. Louis seminary, engendered divisive and schismatic activities (Anaheim 3-06) and even led some to leave the LCMS." The resolution called for the promotion of concord and conciliation "That We May Grow." Delegates next began discussion of Res. 3-02A (TB 195), calling for the Synod to declare a state of "fellowship in protest" with the ALC. In the discussion which followed a motion to delete lines 54—63 (TB 195) and the words "in declaring that it is now in a state of 'fellowship in protest' with the ALC" was declined. During the discussion on the amendment the chair ruled that because of the important nature of the motion 30 minutes should be allowed to the discussion of the amendment rather than to the entire subject. The chair ruled that 20 minutes had elapsed during discussion of the amendment and allowed 10 more minutes for its consideration before the

vote on the amendment was taken. The amendment was then declined. Time for discussion of the resolution expired before action could be completed on it.

Ethnic Concerns

Bryant Clancy, Second Vice-President of the Southeastern District and chairman of the Floor Committee on Ethnic Concerns, briefly addressed the delegates before presenting the resolutions from this committee. He stated that the committee came with praise to God for blessings of the past but also came with some concerns regarding the involvement of Black Lutherans in decision-making in the church, Black recruitment, and other matters. The resolutions which would be presented would reflect these concerns.

Resolution 10-01A (TB 236) was introduced, calling for the establishment of an administration for Black ministry. The resolution asked for a Black Ministry Commission of at least nine members, for a convocation of Black congregations every 2 years prior to the convention of the Synod, for the evaluation and promotion of Black ministry, and for the continuation of the Black Mission Models Task Force, among other things. After discussion and agreement to terminate debate, this resolution was adopted as presented. Eugene Crawford, speaking for the National Indian Lutheran Board, brought greetings from the group and presented President Preus with a cross made by a Navajo silversmith. The convention then adopted Res. 10-02 (TB 160), calling for reaffirmation of Indian ministry commitments. This was done after agreeing to replace the word "peculiarly" (line 12, TB 160) with the words "differently and uniquely," after striking the word "unfairly" from line 23 (TB 160) and substituting the words "the Board for Missions' Indian Ministries Task Force" for the words "our church" in lines 38 and 42 (TB 160). By adopting Res. 10-03 (TB 160) the convention agreed that the recommendations of the Hispanic Task Force should be implemented, calling for teacher training programs in bilingual, bicultural education, for exploring with Concordia College, Milwaukee, the possibility of providing special lay training for Hispanics, and for supporting the first National Hispanic Workers Conference. Consideration of Res. 10-04 (TB 161), calling for the building of a library facility at Alabama Lutheran Academy and College, was begun. In the discussion which followed a motion was made and seconded to amend the resolution by deleting the words "before it approves any other construction in the system" from line 37 (TB 161). Time for the discussion of this resolution expired before action could be completed on the amendment.

Elections

Chairman Ziegler of the Floor Committee on Elections reported on the balloting for Vice-Presidents of the Synod. He reported that a total of 1,074 valid votes had been cast, with 538 required for a majority for election. Results of the election were as follows: Barth—22; Behnken—214; Bernthal—411; Heckmann—18; Hoffmann—317; Kuntz—13; Lavalais—354; Maier—609; Merckens—719; Mueller—485; Sauer—488;



Wollenburg—455. As a result of the balloting Dr. Merkens was declared Second Vice-President of the Synod, with Dr. Maier being declared Third Vice-President. The next ballot for the remaining vice-presidential positions would include the names of Bernthal, Mueller, Sauer, and Wollenburg.

Closing Devotion

Chaplain Paul Streufert closed the session with a prayer for a delegate who had become ill during the convention and then, referring the delegates to the Communion service which would be held in the evening, asked the delegates to join in the singing of the hymn "Lord Jesus, Think on Me."

Session 5

July 18, Morning

Opening

After President Preus had called the fifth session of the convention to order, Chaplain Streufert led the delegates in a devotion based on James 1:1-8 by asking the question: "Is prayer essential?" After using a number of examples of the power of prayer, he closed his devotion with the same question with which it began and led the delegates in prayer and in the singing of the hymn "May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill."

Social Ministry

Chairman Albert Marcis of the Floor Committee on Social Ministry began discussion of this area with the introduction of Res. 8-01 (TB 145), directing the

Commission on Ministerial Health to further implement the Ministerial Health program. This resolution, which was adopted by the delegates, asked for a review of the entire Ministerial Health program for church workers and encouraged the establishment and activity of responsible District representatives in these areas. Following a short presentation by Dr. Leslie Weber, Executive Secretary of the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief, and by Rev. Melvin Witt, Secretary of World Relief, the convention adopted a resolution calling for the support of World Relief/World Hunger, encouraging congregations to provide prayerful offerings for this purpose, and urging the making and redeeming of "Faith Promise" pledges for this purpose (Res. 8-02, TB 145). After adding the words "alcoholics and others" between the words "ministry to" and "drug abusers" on line 38 (TB 146) and changing the word "remain" to "remains" in line 15, discussion was begun on Res. 8-03 (TB 146), a resolution encouraging more effective ministry to alcoholics and other drug abusers. After adopting an amendment substituting the word "disease" for "problem" and "affects" for the word "confronts" in line 9 (TB 146) and declining to add the word "spiritual" before "disease" in the same line, the resolution was adopted as amended. This resolution encouraged church workers' conferences to consider the topic of ministry to alcoholics and other drug abusers during the next biennium and endorsed the concept that 12 Districts during the next biennium conduct special workshops in this area. It also asks the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief to report to the next convention in regard to the implementation of this resolution. Resolution 8-04 (TB 147) was next considered, calling for the sponsorship of "Serve Your

Neighborhood" workshops. After some discussion the delegates declined a motion to refer the resolution back to committee for reconsideration. Time expired before action on the resolution could be completed.

Elections

After distribution of the ballots for the remaining vice-presidential positions, Chairman Ziegler of the Floor Committee on Elections declared the elections closed.

Point of Information

In response to a question from the floor, "May an employee of the Synod serve as an officer of the Synod?" the chair answered "Yes."

Missions

Before introducing the resolutions from the Floor Committee on Missions, Chairman Behnken introduced Dr. Erwin Kolb, Executive Secretary of the Board for Evangelism, who addressed the delegates briefly. He pointed to the tremendous back-door losses of membership and stated that in the next biennium there should be an attempt to bring adult losses and accessions together at the level of 35,000. Resolution 2-12 (TB 42) was then introduced, calling for an increase in outreach by increasing adult accessions from 27,000 to 35,000 and urging congregations to develop an effective organization for outreach. After amending the resolution to include "encouragement to pastoral leadership" as an additional facet of congregational organization in the last resolve and placing the words "pastors and" between the words "training" and "lay people" in line 55 and declining to strike lines 42-43 (TB 42), the delegates adopted this resolution. In order to deal with the opposite pole relating to membership increases, the delegates adopted Res. 2-13 (TB 43), which calls for a decrease in back-door losses. The delegates called for this to be done through restoration of delinquent members, through practical activities, and adoption of a 2-year goal to decrease back-door losses from 50,000 to 35,000.

Point of Privilege

On a point of privilege a delegate asked that the chairmen of floor committees be permitted to introduce resolutions by title if in their judgment this would be proper. By common consent it was agreed that this procedure would be followed.

Missions

The Floor Committee on Missions continued its presentation with the introduction of Res. 2-24 (TB 48), calling for the promotion of child evangelism and urging congregations to develop effective outreach ministries for children. This resolution was adopted by the convention. Since 22 Districts had conducted Renewal Retreats with positive and encouraging results, the delegates agreed to adopt a 2-year goal of completing the program of such retreats as outlined in Anaheim Res. 1-03, and urged that the program be implemented throughout the congregations of the

Synod (Res. 2-04, TB 38). An additional goal which was accepted was that of having at least 75 percent of the congregations of the Synod offering courses with a new series of books on cults entitled "The Response Series" relating to the understanding of cults and the method of witness to their adherents (Res. 2-26, TB 49). Further goals adopted were those of persuading 50 percent of the congregations of the Synod to prepare themselves for effective witness to Jewish people and the conducting of 10 District workshops to stimulate interest and equip members in witnessing to such persons (Res. 2-27, TB 49). The convention also urged the Board of Directors to fund the calling of an Associate Secretary of Evangelism, a position which had been approved at the 1975 convention of the Synod (Res. 2-20, TB 46). After hearing from Florence Montz, a member of the Council for Christian Medical Work, with regard to the importance of Christian medical work, Res. 2-07 (TB 40) was adopted, approving Bylaw changes which would clarify the role of the Council for Christian Medical Work in the Synod. The convention also resolved that the Board for Missions should proceed with the appointment of a staff person for medical work in order to more effectively and efficiently carry out its programmatic goals relative to health and healing concerns where partner churches and missions are involved (Res. 2-08, TB 41). Resolution 2-09 (TB 41), authorizing the Council for Christian Medical Work to secure the necessary staff services to carry out its objective, was introduced. Time expired, however, before action could be taken on this resolution.

Elections

Chairman Ziegler of the Floor Committee on Elections reported that 1,047 ballots had been cast for the remaining vice-presidential offices, with a majority of 524 being required for election. The results of the election were as follows: Bernthal—428; Mueller—479; Sauer—583; Wollenburg—579. On the basis of these results Robert Sauer was declared to be the Fourth Vice-President of the Synod and George Wollenburg the Fifth Vice-President.

Presentation

Dr. Theodore Raedeke introduced the director of World Home Bible League, William Ackermann, who presented a copy of the complete new American Standard Version of the Bible to President Preus.

Essay

Rev. Samuel Nafzger, Executive Secretary of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, introduced the convention essay. In his opening remarks he referred to the passage from 1 Peter, urging Christians to yearn, as newborn babes, for the pure milk of God's Word. He characterized Peter in his strength and weaknesses. Rev. Nafzger indicated that the essay would take the form of a study of 1 Peter as well as an emphasis on the proper distinction between Law and Gospel together with its implications for Christian faith and life. A study of 1 Peter 1:1-12 was led by Dr. Guido Merckens with Rev. Nafzger presenting

that portion of study relating to Law and Gospel. Delegates participated in the Bible study and concluded this section of the morning session with the singing of the hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns."

Recognition

Although preparations had not been completed for the formal recognition scheduled for this time, President Preus introduced the delegates to what is perhaps the first father-daughter representation at a convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Administration

Resuming the business section of this session, Chairman Wilbert Griesse of the Floor Committee on Administration reintroduced Res. 4-08 (TB 83), which called for deferring the request of Immanuel, Charleston, Ill., for transfer from the Central Illinois District to the English District. Consideration was first, however, given to a substitute motion which the convention had previously agreed to consider, asking that the transfer be granted as requested. After considerable discussion, the convention agreed to terminate debate on the substitute motion and declined it. The original resolution was then adopted as presented. After inserting the words "congregations of the" between the words "the" and "Eastern District" in line 37 (TB 205) and changing the word "is" to "are" in the same line, delegates began consideration of Res. 4-09A (TB 205), encouraging the Eastern District to work out a solution to their difficulties which would meet the basic requirements of Anaheim Res. 5-02A, and to report the resolution of these difficulties to the 1979 convention of the Synod. After agreeing to consider Overture 5-116UA (TB 16) as a substitute motion and after considerable discussion, the delegates declined it. The resolution as presented by the floor committee was then adopted. A resolution agreeing to hold synodical conventions in St. Louis for the purpose of economy was adopted after the delegates had accepted an amendment to the resolution adding the words "effective with the 1981 convention" after the words "St. Louis" and before "with" in line 51 (Res. 4-10, TB 84). This action was taken after the delegates had agreed to close debate on the amendment and the pending resolution and after a motion to table the matter had been declared out of order. The convention agreed that the adoption of this resolution was understood to mean that the 1979 convention would be held in Kansas City, Mo. Since there was still some confusion with regard to the possible arrangements for the next convention, the chairman suggested that a motion for reconsideration of the matter be delayed with the understanding that it could be considered at a later time in the convention if the delegates wished to do so. Res. 4-11 (TB 85) was adopted, adding an explanatory paragraph to the synodical *Handbook* regarding the support program for eligible pastors, teachers, and other professional workers who are in financial need. Since the Great Commission of our Lord is being given high priority in our church, Overture 4-50 (CW 158) was declined (Res. 4-12, TB 85). After changing the last word in line 55 (TB

85) to "renew" and adding the words "be it" at the end of line 58, the Floor Committee on Administration introduced Res. 4-13 (TB 85), which called for declining Overture 4-69 (CW 163), calling for relocation of synodical headquarters. A substitute motion was made, asking for the adoption of Overture 4-69 (CW 163) with the addition of a first resolve stating "that we terminate the lease at the end of this 10-year period." Time, however, expired before action could be taken on this resolution.

Closing Devotion

Chaplain Streufert closed this session by leading the delegates in a dinner prayer.

Session 6

July 18, Afternoon

Opening

The sixth session of the 52nd regular convention of the Synod was called to order by President Preus and opened with a devotion led by Chaplain Streufert. The Scripture lesson from Rom. 10:9-18 was first read in the Tamil language of India by Missionary Theodore Michalk and then in the English language from a translation by Goodspeed. The convention joined in prayer and in the singing of "We Have a Sure Prophetic Word."

Point of Privilege

A delegate who was granted a point of privilege apologized to Dr. Preus for statements which he had made and requested that an accusation made by another delegate in the morning session be withdrawn. The apology was graciously accepted by Dr. Preus.

Minutes

The minutes of the third session were approved without any substantive changes.

Nominations

Chairman August Mennicke of the Committee on Nominations referred the delegates to *Today's Business*, page 273, and called their attention to the names of Victor Albers (line 7), Julia Foard (line 43), and Tom Buck (line 66), who had been nominated for various synodical positions from the floor and had either declined to be nominated or were declared ineligible. He also pointed out that Vernon Brugge had not been nominated from the floor but had been nominated by the convention floor committee (TB 271, line 42).

Point of Privilege

On a point of privilege a delegate was permitted to make a motion requesting that the convention take action relating to the use of election lists. After some discussion in which it was suggested that the matter be referred to the Floor Committee on Constitutional Matters, the convention determined to vote on the issue and declined the proposed resolution. A division of the

house revealed that the proposed resolution had been declined by a vote of 534 to 441.

Missions

Chairman Behnken of the Floor Committee on Missions reintroduced Res. 2-09 (TB 41), on which action had not been completed in a previous session. After brief discussion the delegates adopted the resolution, authorizing the Council for Christian Medical Work to secure the necessary staff services needed to carry out its objectives.

Point of Information

An apparent discrepancy was noted in the fact that Res. 2-07 (TB 40) had eliminated from Bylaw 2.83 a the position of Secretary for Medical Work while retaining a reference to other officers to be appointed by the Board of Directors, whereas Res. 4-02A-2 (TB 202) had eliminated from Bylaw 2.83 the entire list. The convention agreed with Secretary Mueller that the larger Res. 4-02A-2 should take precedence.

Missions

Rev. Otto Hintze, Secretary for World Missions, introduced missionaries who were present to the convention and indicated that they would be introduced individually at a later time. Following this the convention adopted Res. 2-18 (TB 45), thanking God for the missionaries of the Synod and asking for His continued blessings on their labors.



Naomi Warth, minister of love to deaf children in Brazil

Citation

Mrs. Naomi Warth of Porto Alegre, Brazil, was escorted to the platform to receive the John of Beverly award for her work in the ministry to the deaf in Brazil. Among the accomplishments for which she was cited was the founding of a Lutheran school for the deaf in Porto Alegre. Mrs. Warth has taught in this school, provided counsel and love, and has translated the John of Beverly workbooks for the school in Brazil. After receiving the award Mrs. Warth graciously thanked the Board of Directors of Mill Neck Manor and the convention for the award which she had been given.

Missions

By adopting Res. 2-05A (TB 193) the delegates urged the Synod and each District of the Synod to make a thorough study of Church Growth materials and to organize and put into action the Church Growth principles which are needed to evangelize the nation and the world.

Point of Order

In response to a question from the floor, Secretary Mueller explained the procedure which is followed in certifying delegates for the convention. The question was related primarily to missionaries who are on terminal leave as opposed to those who are on furlough (Bylaw 1.61 d).

Missions

By adopting Res. 2-21A (TB 261) and Res. 2-31A (TB 262) the delegates commended the Board for Missions for the work which had been done on the "position and directional statement," resolved that it be accepted, and asked the Board for Missions to continue its consultative work with those involved in campus ministry. It also commended Districts for avoiding unnecessary duplication in campus ministry, but asked that when participating in inter-Lutheran campus ministries the synodical resolutions and policies be observed. The delegates expressed thanks to God for the marvelous gift of television and commended the International Lutheran Laymen's League for its forward-looking and Gospel-centered plans, asking that every member of the Synod support this mission ministry through prayer and personal gifts (Res. 2-14, TB 43). By adopting Res. 2-17 (TB 44) the delegates expressed their thanks to God for the blessings received by the church through the faithful service of Dr. Koppelman during his lifetime. Resolution 2-23A (TB 261), declining overtures requesting the establishment of a separate Commission for the Deaf and asking the Board for Missions to fill the position of Secretary of North America/Blind-Deaf Ministries, was introduced. The delegates accepted an amendment which placed an additional resolve between the present second and third resolves, stating "that the person filling this staff position be able to communicate in the sign language." After declining to consider a substitute resolution as well as declining an amendment which would have required that the staff person have 8 to 10 years' experience, the resolution was adopted as amended. Delegates asked the Board for Missions to

serve as coordinator in exchanging information regarding circuit-rider ministries and directed it to work with concerned Districts in their efforts to meet the spiritual needs of scattered Lutherans (Res. 2-25, *TB* 48). They overwhelmingly adopted a resolution recognizing the contributions of all agencies, auxiliary organizations, and fraternal-benevolent agencies in assisting in carrying the Gospel throughout the world (Res. 2-28, *TB* 50). At the request of Dr. Coates the Floor Committee on Missions presented a resolution declining Overture 2-29 (CW 36), which was adopted by the delegates (Res. 2-15A *TB* 194). The Board for Missions was asked to consider the concerns presented in a minority report by a member of the Board for Missions when evaluating their work and relationships (Res. 2-16, *TB* 44). Since the concerns expressed in Overtures 2-24A—B (CW 35) were in the area of the Synod working at the District level rather than at the national level, these overtures were declined (Res. 2-33A, *TB* 263). Delegates also declined to consider Overture 2-28 (CW 36), relating to the employment of Citizen Band radio in the service of the Gospel (Res. 2-34, *TB* 52), as well as Overture 6-110 (CW 263), requesting \$10,000 for the Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ building (Res. 2-35, *TB* 52). During the discussion of the last resolution a substitute motion, asking that congregations and individuals be encouraged to begin or increase their support for the Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ program, was withdrawn. Resolution 2-36 (*TB* 263) was adopted, commending the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots for their concern and love in the work which they are doing, and asking that the Board for Missions seek to determine what relationship might be established between this group and the Synod.

Special and Sundry Matters

Chairman Bahr of the Floor Committee on Special and Sundry Matters began the work of this committee by presenting Res. 9-01A (*TB* 269), asking for the establishment of themes for the 1979 and 1981 conventions in the areas of missions and stewardship respectively. This resolution was adopted. Since financial support for military chaplains being separated from active duty is now provided through government auspices, the delegates agreed to revise Bylaw 15.25, relating to military and veterans administration chaplains (Res. 9-02, *TB* 153). They expressed their support for the ministry of the Armed Forces Commission and asked all pastors and congregations to cooperate with the commission by promptly reporting all names and addresses of those serving in the Armed Forces to the commission, and participating in the annual Mother's Day offering, which is used to support this vital ministry (Res. 9-03, *TB* 154). Resolution 9-04A (*TB* 269), asking for the release of funds for completion of an addition to Concordia Historical Institute, was introduced. By committee consent the word "tentatively" was added between the words "meeting" and "approved" in line 55 (*TB* 269), and the words "subject to the availability of funds" after "Thankoffering" in line 56 (*TB* 269). Because of some unresolved questions relating to the availability of funds, this resolution was tabled by the delegates. The convention expressed its

thanks to God for pastors, teachers, and other retired servants of God as gifts to the church and asked that the Synod show its thanks by providing free synodical mailings of such items as would assist them to continue to advise and serve the church (Res. 9-05, *TB* 155). The convention expressed its support for and urged the promotion of the "Growth in Ministry" program on District and congregational levels (Res. 9-06, *TB* 155). It agreed to study equity compensation for pastors and teachers who are provided with a parsonage or teacherage as part of their compensation (Res. 9-07, *TB* 156) and revised the requirement regarding attendance at conferences, asking that conference programs be developed with specific attention to the fulfillment of the aims of paragraph 4.121 of the *Handbook* (Res. 9-08, *TB* 156). After substituting the word "fair" for the word "honest" in line 56 (*TB* 156) and declining an amendment to add as a final resolve "that we urge the Council of Presidents to find a way for at least three evaluations to be given and that these evaluations be signed and dated," the delegates adopted Res. 9-09 (*TB* 156), asking for the development of standardized instruments and procedures for pastoral and congregational characterizations of candidates for the office of pastor in a congregation. Since the synodical *Handbook* already clearly delineates the duties of the synodical President, District Presidents, and the Circuit Counselors regarding the supervision of clergy and congregations, the delegates agreed to decline consideration of Overtures 9-08A—D (CW 213). They did this by adopting Res. 9-10 (*TB* 157). The chairman announced that with the exception of the motion which had been tabled, this completed the work of the Floor Committee on Special and Sundry Matters.

Program Implementation

Dr. Paul Zimmerman, chairman of the Floor Committee on Program Implementation, addressed the delegates briefly, explaining that program implementation is all about taking the Gospel into the world. He stated that we have many assets, including many people and above all the limitless power of God's blessing. Resolution 13-01 (*TB* 171), asking for provision of an ongoing stewardship program and the prioritizing of budgets on the basis of the Great Commission, was introduced. This was done after striking the word "the" in line 53 (*TB* 171) and changing "this" to "its" in line 61 of the same page. After some discussion debate was terminated by action of the convention, and the resolution was adopted as presented. Resolution 13-02 (*TB* 172) was next introduced, asking for implementation of a Circuit Counselors conference for the training of Circuit Counselors under the synodical Stewardship Department with the understanding that all Circuit Counselors would visit each congregation in their circuits to apply the principles which had been learned and discuss with them the work of the Synod and the congregation's responsibility. In the discussion which followed the convention declined to consider a substitute motion which asked that after the word "arrange" in line 24 (*TB* 172) the words "for

development, publication, and distribution of a handbook for Circuit Counselors to assist them in the performance of their duties" be substituted for the words "such a conference in 1978 following the District conventions" (lines 24—25, *TB* 172). After agreeing to terminate debate, the convention declined this resolution. After adding the words "or institutes" after the word "workshops" and before "to" (line 24, *TB* 173), delegates directed the Stewardship Department of the Synod to promote God-pleasing proportionate giving through such workshops or institutes, encouraging those who attend them to return to their congregations and present to their members the challenge of raising their level of proportionate giving (Res. 13-03, *TB* 173). They encouraged the promotion of mission education in our church on all levels and asked the President of the Synod to invite and host leaders of the partner churches for the 1979 convention in order to assist in such promotion (Res. 13-04A, *TB* 240). After considerable discussion they also resolved to reestablish a "Synodical Sunday," asking that the Board of Directors designate such a Sunday, with offerings on that day being designated for the use of the Synod to finance its programs and asking the Board of Stewardship to coordinate the activities of this Sunday (Res. 13-05, *TB* 174). Discussion was begun on Res. 13-06 (*TB* 174), calling for acceptance of the reports of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer/Acting Controller. Time for discussion of the resolution expired, however, before action could be completed on it.

Closing Devotion

As a closing devotion of this session Chaplain Streufert led the delegates in a brief patriotic service.

Point of Privilege

Following the closing devotion President Preus granted a point of privilege to a delegate, permitting him to address the assembly for a few minutes. His remarks were related to a statement which had been made in an earlier session and were intended by him to be a message of "healing and understanding."

Session 7

July 19, Morning

Opening

The seventh session of the convention was opened with the singing of "Awake, My Soul" by the delegates and with the reading of John 10 in Wendish by Pastor John Socha. After Chaplain Streufert read this same section in English, he led the delegates in a prayer for peace and concord within the church.

Remaining Resolutions

President Preus announced that a large number of resolutions remain to be acted upon by the convention and asked the committee chairmen to begin prioritizing their resolutions.

Social Ministry

As the first order of business the convention resumed discussion of Res. 8-04 (*TB* 147), asking for the sponsorship of "Serve Your Neighborhood" workshops. Action on this resolution had not been completed in a previous session. After Floor Committee Chairman Marcis introduced a member of the committee who had had experience with these workshops to explain their function to the convention, the delegates adopted this resolution as proposed. Resolution 8-06 (*TB* 148) was adopted, encouraging congregations and individuals to seek ways to conserve energy wherever possible and to be especially concerned for those who suffer hardship because of the energy crisis. They did this after placing the words "be urged to" between the words "Synod" and "individually" in line 21, the words "be encouraged to" between the words "member" and "determine" in line 24, and the words "be strongly encouraged to" between the words "congregations" and "show" in line 27 by common consent. After Dr. Preus had received a citation in behalf of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod from the National Voluntary Organization for Independent Living for the Aging because of the work of the Synod in this area, the delegates adopted Res. 8-07 (*TB* 148), calling for expansion of Project Compassion and setting as a goal 25,000 trained Project Compassion volunteers in the field by 1980. They also adopted Res. 8-08 (*TB* 149), encouraging growth in social ministry on the part of pastors, teachers, and congregations through the establishment of boards and committees related to this work. Prior to presenting the resolution the committee had struck Overture 8-03 from line 7 (*TB* 149). The convention also expressed its continued concern for criminal justice and prisoner rehabilitation and asked that funds be included in the operating budget of the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief for the preparation and distribution of appropriate guidelines relating to this matter (Res. 8-10, *TB* 150).

Parliamentary Procedure

Prior to beginning the work of the next floor committee, the convention approved the introduction of resolutions by title unless there was objection. The delegates were, however, reminded that resolutions relating to Bylaw changes must be read.

Theology and Church Relations

Chairman Happel of the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations reintroduced Res. 3-02A (*TB* 195), on which action had not been completed in a previous session. Before resuming discussion on the resolution the delegates heard from Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, a member of the Commission on Fellowship. In the discussion which followed the delegates declined to consider a substitute motion calling for deletion of lines 41—63 (*TB* 195) and the replacement of these lines with the resolve "that the LCMS declare with regret that fellowship with the ALC at the synodical level does not exist on account of the doctrinal differences listed above." It also would have

replaced the words "it is now in a state of 'fellowship in protest' with the ALC" (lines 6—7, *TB* 196) with the words "fellowship with the ALC at the synodical level does not exist." If the substitute motion had been accepted, the title would also have had to be changed to "To Declare that Fellowship with the ALC Does Not Exist" (line 9, *TB* 195). An additional amendment, calling for the substitution of the words "fellowship with reservation" for all references to "fellowship in protest" in the resolution and the substitution in lines 13—15 (*TB* 196) of the words "that the Synod review the progress made with the ALC in the 1979 convention" for the present wording in the resolution was also declined. After agreeing to terminate debate the resolution was then adopted as presented, declaring a state of fellowship in protest with The American Lutheran Church. Resolution 3-03A (*TB* 196), calling for continuation of selective participation in LCUSA, was also adopted. This was done after the delegates had declined to consider Overture 3-121A (*CW* 104) as a substitute motion and after they had received an explanation from Dr. Preus with regard to the operation of LCUSA. By adopting Res. 3-05A (*TB* 197) the delegates amended the Bylaws of the synodical *Handbook* relating to the approval of synodical books of worship. As a result of this change all service books and hymnals which are accepted as *official* receive this status only by action of a convention of the Synod.

LCUSA

Dr. George Harkins, General Secretary of LCUSA, who was introduced to the delegates by Dr. Preus, addressed them with regard to the work of this organization. He stated that the hope of closer unity within the Council has not vanished but now burns less brilliantly than it did some years ago. He expressed the thanks of LCUSA for the men and women from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who serve in staff positions in the organization, for involvement of the Synod in the establishment and relocation of congregations through the Commission on Mission and Ministry, for the financial, moral, and spiritual support which is given to members of the Armed Forces, for involvement in the resettlement of refugees, for the theological studies which are carried on and in which The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is involved, and for the involvement of the Synod in the work of the Division of Campus Ministry and Services. He urged The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to participate in the Office of Governmental Affairs again if possible, as well as in the work of the Office of Communications and Information. Dr. Harkins concluded by predicting that for the next decade LCUSA will become more important than ever for all Lutheran bodies. He stated that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will continue to need LCUSA, and it surely will need The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Essay

Rev. Samuel Nafzger, Executive Secretary of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations and convention essayist, began the presentation by con-

tinuing his discussion on the topic of Law and Gospel, pointing to the difficulty of properly distinguishing between the two. He pointed out that we must not only know what they are but when they are to be applied, and then illustrated the proper and improper use of the Law and Gospel. The Bible study of 1 Peter 1:13-25 was led by the Rev. DeWitt Robinson. This portion of the morning session concluded with the singing of the hymn "Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake."

Constitutional Matters

Chairman Schlecht of the Floor Committee on Constitutional Matters introduced Res. 5-02A (*TB* 265), calling for the acceptance of certain newly organized congregations by the Synod. In the discussion which followed a motion to delete the words "Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lawrence, Kans.; Concord Lutheran Church, Prairie Village, Kans.; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Great Bend, Kans.;" (lines 19—20, *TB* 265), and to change the words "finally" to "further" in line 31, and to add a final resolve stating "that the request of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lawrence, Kans.; Concord Lutheran Church, Prairie Village, Kans.; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Great Bend, Kans., be referred to the Kansas District at this time for resolution of any difficulties and action on their requests" was declined after the convention had agreed to close debate on the amendment. After the amendment had been declined, the delegate who offered the amendment was granted the privilege of speaking to it. Following further discussion on the resolution a motion was made and adopted to recommit Res. 5-02A (*TB* 265) to the Floor Committee on Constitutional Matters. The delegates adopted Res. 5-14 (*TB* 111) and thereby revised Bylaw 1.27 c, relating to overtures which shall not be accepted for convention consideration. They did this after declining amendments to add the words "or overtures which contain defamatory allegations" after the word "appeal" in line 47 (*TB* 111) or the words "or in matters for which the Constitution or Bylaws have provided specific procedures" at the same point. By adoption of Res. 5-15 (*TB* 111) the Secretary of the Synod was authorized to make the election results of 1969 and 1971 available upon request. Through adoption of a change in Bylaw 2.127 a of the synodical *Handbook*, congregations were granted the privilege of nominating two clergymen for the office of President and two for that of First Vice-President of the Synod rather than only one, as had been the case previously (Res. 5-16, *TB* 112). After declining to consider Overture 5-68A (*CW* 191) as a substitute resolution, the convention adopted Res. 5-17 (*TB* 112) and retained the present provisions of the synodical *Handbook* for the submission of overtures. They declined to clarify the role of the synodical and District President since this matter would require study and consideration and properly belongs to the assignment given to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure. The matter was referred to the Task Force for their consideration and recommendation to the 1979 synodical convention (Res. 5-18, *TB* 112). During the discussion of the resolution the delegates agreed to delete the word "possible" in

line 68 (TB 112) before adopting the resolution as amended. During the discussion of Res. 5-19 (TB 113), calling for referral of Bylaw changes for the election of delegates and voting privileges to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure, the convention agreed to vote on Res. 5-19, 5-20, and 5-21 (TB 113) collectively by title. However, because of discussion which arose on each of the resolutions, they were considered separately. Resolution 5-19 (TB 113) was adopted by the convention after agreeing by common consent to change the word "matter" to "question" in lines 23-24 (TB 113). In response to a question from the floor after adoption of this resolution the Secretary of the Synod explained that Bylaw 1.53 as previously adopted by the convention (Res. 5-08) would prevail until the Task Force makes its recommendations and until the convention acts upon them. Resolution 5-20 (TB 113), referring the limitation of the size of conventions to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure, was also adopted. During the discussion of Res. 5-21 (TB 113), which called for the referral of the matter of cumulative voting to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure, the delegates declined to consider a substitute motion which added as a first resolve "that we approve the process of cumulative voting" and to change the word "matter" in line 60 (TB 113) to "approval." A further amendment was offered, calling for the change of "could be" to "has been suggested as" in line 57 (TB 113) and of the word "matter" to "question" in line 60 (TB 113). Time expired, however, before action could be taken on the amendment or the resolution.

Closing

Chaplain Streufert brought the morning session to a close by leading the delegates in prayer.

Point of Privilege

After the closing devotion a delegate was granted a point of privilege. In his statement he urged the delegates to be present during the essay and Bible study and to consider it as the most important matter of the convention.

Session 8

July 19, Afternoon

Opening

Chaplain Paul Streufert led the delegates in the opening devotion for Session 8. The Scripture reading for the devotion consisted of the beatitudes from Matthew 5, read first in the Finnish language by J. William Sippola of Lansing, Mich., and then in English by Dr. Streufert. In his devotion he referred to the "triple S" of theology, that of sinner, Savior, and servant. The delegates joined in the singing of the hymn "Bow Down Your Ear, Almighty Lord."

Minutes

The minutes of Sessions 4 and 5 stood approved as submitted.

Theology and Church Relations

Dr. Happel, chairman of the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations, introduced Res. 3-04 (TB 55), which offered a way to deal with the proposed *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Before discussing the resolution he indicated that Overture 3-16 (CW 103) should be added in line 42 (TB 55) and that the word "theological" should be struck from line 14 (TB 56). In the extended discussion which followed the delegates adopted an amendment, adding a fourth option on line 25 (TB 56). It was listed as "d) continue using the present *The Lutheran Hymnal*." By a vote of 548 to 501 they declined to consider a substitute motion. This had called for retaining lines 44-58 (TB 55) to be followed with the words "and Whereas, The final manuscript is undergoing the doctrinal review process to insure conformity with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions as required by the Synod's Bylaws; therefore be it Resolved, That the LCMS in convention receive the new *Lutheran Book of Worship* as one of the resources for worship available to the congregations of the Synod, subject to successful completion of the doctrinal review process." The delegates also declined an amendment to change line 12 (TB 56) to read "6, 7, & 8) three lay members appointed by the synodical President." Although the convention agreed to terminate debate on Res. 3-04 (TB 55), additional information caused them to reconsider the action and to decide to continue discussion of the resolution.

Task Force on Women

At this point Dr. Happel introduced Mrs. Jean Garton, a member of the Task Force on Women, who addressed the delegates briefly. She called attention to the resolution on abortion, which would be considered later, and pointed out that this matter involves justice and rights but also compassion. She stated that we need to be concerned about the alternatives to abortion.

Theology and Church Relations

When discussion of Res. 3-04 (TB 55) was resumed, a motion was made and seconded to reconsider the substitute motion which had previously been offered. However, no action was taken on this when the delegates voted to recommit the entire matter to the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations. Resolution 3-06 (TB 57), commending the Task Force on Women and asking for a continuation of the study of the role of women in the church, was adopted. Prior to its introduction the committee had added Overture 3-85 in line 7 (TB 57), as well as the words "CTCR and its" between the word "the" and "Social Concerns" in line 25. Resolution 3-07 (TB 57), calling for adoption of the recommendation of the special Committee on Doctrinal Statements was introduced. After brief discussion it was declared that time had expired for consideration of resolutions from this committee during the present session.

Lutheran Television Ministry

Dr. Martin Neeb of the Lutheran Television ministry addressed the convention with particular

emphasis in his remarks on the production of "Freedom Is," which was prepared for the bicentennial celebration of our country. He pointed out that the production was funded by Sunday school children who secured funds in many different ways and that no church has used television with the imagination which the LCMS has to bring the Gospel to people. It is people who love the Gospel who sponsor the Lutheran Television ministry. Thanks were expressed to the Synod and especially to the International Lutheran Laymen's League for its support. Dr. Neeb presented a picture of Benji and Waldo to a student from Holy Cross, Dallas, who represented all of the other children who had made the production of "Freedom Is" possible. This production has received a silver medal award which was presented to Dr. Preus in behalf of the Synod. Dr. Al Senske also received a citation with the words "For 'Freedom Is' to Dr. Al Senske and all of his children."

Higher Education

Chairman August Mennicke of the Floor Committee on Higher Education introduced Res. 6-04B (TB 285), which the convention resolved to consider as a substitute motion for Res. 6-04A (TB 212). After Chairman Mennicke explained that this resolution differed from the original, in that it provided a temporary arrangement rather than a Bylaw change, the delegates adopted it, thereby providing for a temporary arrangement for the endorsement of Canadian students at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon. Because of the requirements of Canadian law, the delegates also adopted Res. 6-05A (TB 213) in order to provide for the Canadian operation of Concordia College, Edmonton. Before introducing the resolution the committee had added the words "—Alberta-British Columbia District" between the words "LCMS" and "and" in line 65 (TB 213). Delegates next began discussion of Res. 6-07A (TB 287), calling for the further development of Christ College Irvine. After brief discussion a motion was made to amend the resolution by adding in line 31 (TB 287) the words "from its supporters and its foundation" after the number

"\$500,000" and the words "viability and future development of Christ College Irvine including" after the words "resolved that the" in line 34 (TB 87) and before "approval." Time for discussion of the amendment expired before action could be taken on it.

Elections

Prior to the distribution of ballots for the election of remaining officers and boards, a member of the Committee for Convention Nominations was granted a point of privilege to make a statement to the convention. In it she urged the delegates to use their wisdom and the guidance of God in the choices which they make rather than any slate of candidates which had been prepared and distributed. At the request of Dr. Preus, Chairman Ziegler of the Floor Committee on Elections led the delegates in prayer before the ballots were distributed. After instructing the delegates on voting procedures, ballots were distributed and Chairman Ziegler declared the elections closed.

Orders of the Day

Dr. Preus announced that in the evening session the Floor Committee on Program Implementation would replace the Committee on Special and Sundry Matters in presenting resolutions for consideration by the convention.

Closing Devotion

Chaplain Paul Streufert, assisted by the Foresters of Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, led the delegates in a closing devotion, including the singing of a hymn and a dinner prayer.

Session 9

July 19, Evening

Opening

The Tuesday evening session of the convention opened with a prayer led by Chaplain Paul Streufert and with the singing of the hymn "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" by the members of the convention. This was followed by a reading of Psalm 121 and the benediction.

Program Implementation

A discussion of Res. 13-06 (TB 174), calling for acceptance of the reports of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer/Acting Controller, was resumed. Action on this resolution had not been completed in a previous session. After brief discussion the delegates adopted the resolution as presented. Before beginning discussion on Res. 13-07 (TB 175), which asks for the development and conduct of Circuit Counselor conferences designed to bring congregational giving up to the congregation's existing pledge level or higher and the designation of Nov. 6, 1977, as Synodical Sunday, the delegates were introduced to President Johannes Gedrat of the Brazil District. President Gedrat presented a glowing report of the work in the largest District of the Synod in terms of geographical area and in number of congregations. The



Elections!

District numbers over 180,000 members. In his remarks President Gedrat spoke of the growth and the activity of the church in Brazil and the tremendous opportunities which are there before it. During the last year 59 new mission stations were opened. However, the number of workers is small, and the average number of stations per pastor at this time is six. In addition to support received from the Synod it was reported that the stewardship level of Brazilian members is also increasing rapidly, with many of the mission stations becoming self-supporting within 3 years. The work which was begun in Brazil in 1900 has obviously been blessed by God.

Following this report the delegates were addressed by Rev. Marcus Zill, Stewardship Counselor of the Synod. In his remarks he pointed out that our fight is against our real enemy, Satan. We have the resources to meet the financial needs of the Synod, and the efforts of the Stewardship Department are in agreement with the theme of the convention since we are to grow in the grace of giving also. Rev. Zill referred to a number of items which are being prepared by the Department of Stewardship for distribution to congregations which should aid in raising the stewardship level of individuals and congregations. Discussion was then begun on the resolution. After declining to change the first resolve (line 36, *TB* 175) to substitute the words "Circuit conferences using the pastoral and the lay delegates of this convention" for the words "Circuit Counselor conferences," the convention adopted the resolution as presented. Discussion of Res. 13-14A (*TB* 249) was begun, calling for the establishment of a required course in stewardship at the seminaries. Time, however, expired before action could be completed on this resolution.

Theology and Church Relations

Chairman Happel of the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations reintroduced Res. 3-07 (*TB* 57), calling for adoption of the recommendations of the special Committee on Doctrinal Statements. Action on this resolution had not been completed in a previous session. The convention declined an amendment which called for placing the words "within 6 months" after the word "if" in line 58 and eliminating the words "which respond within 6 months" in line 59 by a vote of 536 to 449. They also declined to place the words "or a congregation" after the word "conference" in line 41 (*TB* 58). An additional amendment calling for inclusion of the words "and which in no way restrict" on line 22 (*TB* 58) after the words "in harmony with" was also declined. The delegates, however, adopted an amendment substituting the words "two-thirds majority" for the words "simple majority" in line 58 (*TB* 58). After agreeing to cease debate the delegates then adopted the resolution as amended. Following adoption of the resolution a delegate raised a question of the legality of "uphold publicly," which was noted by the Secretary.

Closing Devotion

Chaplain Paul Streufert led the delegates in prayer at the close of the session and asked them to join in the

singing of the hymn "Abide with Me," speaking the benediction while the hymn was hummed by the delegates.

Session 10

July 20, Morning

Opening

The opening devotion of the Wednesday morning session of the convention was led by Chaplain Paul Streufert and was based on a reading from Deut. 6:4, first in the French language by an attorney from Oshawa, Ont., and then in English by the chaplain. The theme of his brief remarks was: "Take Care of Your Foundation." This was related particularly to the educational matters which were to be discussed by the convention during the day.

Convention Progress

President Preus reminded the convention delegates of the tremendous amount of business which still needed to be transacted and asked chairmen of the floor committees to identify those resolutions which must be acted on before the close of the convention.

Higher Education

Chairman August Mennicke of the Floor Committee on Higher Education reintroduced Res. 6-07A (*TB* 287), which called for the further development of Christ College Irvine. Discussion resumed on a pending amendment calling for the addition of the words "from its supporters and its foundation" after the word "\$500,000" in line 31 (*TB* 287) and the words "that the viability and future development of Christ College Irvine including" be added between the words "resolved" and "approval" in line 34 (*TB* 287). An amendment to the amendment asked for the addition of the words "and from borrowed funds" after the word "foundation" in the amendment. After agreeing to call the question on the amendment to the amendment, the amendment, and the resolution, delegates declined both the amendment to the amendment and the amendment but adopted the resolution as presented by the floor committee. Discussion was then begun on Res. 6-06A (*TB* 286) which was a response to overtures requesting a change to 4-year status by junior colleges. The convention declined to consider a substitute resolution presented by the Board for Higher Education, as well as to delete lines 40-41 (*TB* 286). A motion for recommittal was also declined. Since the resolution dealt with two major concepts, that of a planning committee of the Board for Higher Education to deal with a systemwide model of higher education and that of a change of Concordia College, Portland, from 2-year status to 4-year status, delegates agreed to divide the question. After discussing each of the matters separately the delegates voted on them individually, adopting both, and thereby adopting the entire Res. 6-06A (*TB* 286) as presented.

Ethnic Concerns

Chairman Bryant Clancy of the Floor Committee on

Ethnic Concerns reintroduced Res. 10-04, relating to the construction of a library facility at Alabama Lutheran Academy and College. Discussion was resumed on a pending amendment calling for the removal of the words "before it approves any other construction in the system" from line 37 (TB 161). After some discussion the delegates adopted an amendment which changed the second resolve (line 36—37, TB 161) to read: "Resolved, That this convention direct the Board of Directors and the Board for Higher Education to give highest priority to and proceed with the construction of the library facility at Alabama Lutheran Academy and College with synodical funds." The resolution was then adopted as amended. The convention asked for the establishment of a recruitment program for Black church workers, asking that a full-time Black recruiter for Black ministry be given first priority among the next full-time persons to be employed by the Synod (Res. 10-06A, TB 237). Prior to introducing the resolution the committee had inserted the word "Black" between the words "full-time" and "recruiter" in line 28 (TB 237). By the adoption of Res. 10-10A (TB 238) the Board for Higher Education, in consultation with the Hispanic Task Force, was directed to establish a school for the training of Hispanic lay workers at Concordia College, Austin, Tex., and resolved that the in-service training program should be a part of this school under the direction of the Board for Higher Education. After declining to consider a substitute motion calling for the location of a Hispanic seminary extension program at Austin, Tex., the delegates adopted Res. 10-09A (TB 237), which instructed Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., to locate a Hispanic extension program in the Chicago metropolitan area, with full implementation of this program to be carried out under the direction of the Board for Higher Education by the 1978-79 school year.

Essay

Rev. Samuel Nafzger, convention essayist, continued his discussion of the proper distinction between Law and Gospel. The Bible study portion of the essay was led by Rev. Dale Griffin, a member of the Parish Education staff of the Synod. This section of the morning session closed with the singing of the hymn "We Have a Sure Prophetic Word" by the assembly.

Elections

Chairman Ziegler of the Floor Committee on Elections reported that results of some of the elections were now available. (The full election results are attached to the Minutes.) The following elections were reported:

Secretary: Herbert Mueller

Board of Directors: Henry Koepchen, Edward Westcott, William Ludwig, Robert Hirsch, Lester Schultz

Commission of Adjudication: Ottis Sauls, Cecil Klages, Alfred Blessing, Walter Tesch

Board of Appeals: Victor Hellman, Matthias Krey, Lorenz Wunderlich, Richard Bodensab, Ronald Ruff

Board of Stewardship: Robert Demske, Vincent

Meyer, John Saxton

Board for Higher Education: Charles Reimnitz, Arthur Brackebusch, Alvin Czanderna

Board of Parish Education: Maynard Brandt, Raymond Mueller, Fay Richert

Commission on Theology and Church Relations: Marvin Erdman, Philip Tanger

Board for Missions: Eugene Bertermann, Wilbert Sohns, Walter Kayser, Dorothy Rosin, Walter Haas

CPH Board of Directors: Fred Kuhlmann

Board for Church Extension: Carl Hiller, Vance Hinrichs, Rayburn Hahn, Paul Mack

Convention Arrangements Committee

Secretary Herbert Mueller introduced President Heckmann of the Texas District, who in turn introduced Mr. Bill Schmidtke, coordinator of the Convention Arrangements Committee. Mr. Schmidtke introduced the remaining members of the group responsible for the arrangements. The delegates expressed their thanks to the committee with a standing ovation.

Special Guests

President Preus introduced Mrs. Helen Morris, president of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, to the convention. Mrs. Morris addressed the convention briefly, summarizing the activities and accomplishments of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League since its beginning. She pointed out that this is the 35th anniversary of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and that during the time of existence of the group it has contributed many millions of dollars to the work of missions on national, international, and District levels. After closing her remarks, Mrs. Morris presented President Preus with the newest mustard seed, a booklet titled "Lift Me Up, Lord."

President Walter Hanf of the International Lutheran Laymen's League was then introduced to the convention. He brought greetings from the officers and staff of the International Lutheran Laymen's League and briefly summarized some of the projects which the league has carried out during its existence. He referred to the financial contributions supporting the work of



The local arrangements committee

the Synod; the Lutheran Hour, which is the largest denominational religious network in the world; the project of "Preaching Through the Press"; the television ministry, which has been transferred from the Synod to the International Lutheran Laymen's League; and to a chair of business ethics which has been established at Valparaiso University.

Committee on Parish Services

Since some of the resolutions from the Committee on Parish Services would be dealing with Valparaiso University, President Preus introduced the president of Valparaiso, Dr. Alfred Huegli, who brought the greetings of the university to the delegates. In his remarks he outlined the growth and development of the institution and thanked the Synod for its support.

Chairman Zeile of the Floor Committee on Parish Services then called on Rich Bimler, president of the LEA, to present the Christus Magister award on behalf of the LEA to Dr. Arthur L. Amt. This is an award presented to an outstanding leader and educator in the church. Dr. Amt addressed the delegates, expressing his appreciation for having been able to serve his Lord and his church.

Chairman Zeile reintroduced Res. 7-08 (TB 135), which called for the development of a synodical youth organization. Action on this resolution had not been completed in a previous session. After hearing an explanation of the change in direction which had occurred within the international Lutheran Walther League and referring to the confusion which occurs when congregations use the term "Walther League" for their youth organizations, the delegates adopted the resolution as presented. In keeping with this resolution the delegates adopted Res. 7-17 (TB 140), which called for deletion of all references to the Walther League from the synodical *Handbook*, and stated that the Synod no longer recognizes the Walther League as an auxiliary organization of the Synod. After adding the resolve "that the Synod encourage the congregations to provide barrier-free access and handicap parking" to Res. 7-13 (TB 138), the delegates accepted it. This resolution called for the improvement of services to persons with handicaps through the provision of materials and through continuing to seek ways and means to implement an evangelical outreach to people who endure blindness, deafness, developmental and learning disabilities, and emotional problems. After changing the final resolve of Res. 7-09 (TB 136) to read: "Resolved, That the Board for Youth Ministry be encouraged to plan a synodical youth gathering in 1979 or 1980 to encourage youth, young adults, and adults in their commitment to the service of Jesus Christ in place of an All-Lutheran Youth/Adult Gathering in 1979," the committee introduced this resolution to the convention, which adopted it as amended by the committee. It then began discussion of Res. 7-10 (TB 136), a resolution intended to give direction to the Board of Youth Ministry with respect to All-Lutheran Youth/Adult Gatherings. Time for discussion of this matter expired before the delegates could hear a substitute resolution which was to be introduced from the floor at the

beginning of the next session when resolutions from the Floor Committee on Parish Services are considered.

Closing Devotion

Chaplain Streufert led the delegates in a closing dinner prayer. The session was concluded with the singing of several hymns by a teachers' choir and with the benediction.

Session 11

July 20, Afternoon

Opening

The eleventh session of the convention opened with a devotion led by Chaplain Streufert. After hearing the reading from Acts 13 by President Gerdat of the Brazil District in Portuguese, Chaplain Streufert read the identical section in English. He then led the delegates in prayer.

Minutes

The minutes of the afternoon session of July 18 and the morning session of July 19 were presented to the delegates. No substantive changes were made. A change, however, was reported in the afternoon session of the minutes for July 16. In lines 45-47 (TB 276) all of the words from "Livonia" to the end of line 47 were replaced with the words "and The Savior of Kalamazoo from the Michigan District to the English District while declining action on the transfer request of Holy Trinity, Livonia, and Faith, Livonia, because of their withdrawal from the Synod." No further substantive changes were reported in the minutes for that day.

Convention Agenda

A delegate was granted the privilege of making a motion which was adopted by the convention and which placed Res. 9-04A (TB 269) on the active agenda of the convention once again. This resolution had previously been tabled.

Point of Privilege

President Dienst of the New England District was granted the privilege of addressing the convention. He brought an apology to the delegates from a delegate of the District who had interrupted the morning session of the convention. The delegate had been under stress, and the members of the convention were asked to remember him in their prayers.

Higher Education

Chairman Mennicke of the Floor Committee on Higher Education introduced Res. 6-08 (TB 123), which called for retaining the present endorsement procedures for candidates for the pastoral office but also asked that each member of the Board of Assignments be consulted regarding candidates being recommended for placement in his District and for inclusion of their suggestions and recommendations in the final recommendation of the plenary Board of Assignments. The resolution (6-08, TB 123) was adopted. The necessary

changes in the *Handbook* reflecting this change in procedure are to be made by the Commission on Constitutional Matters. This action was taken after the convention had declined to consider Overture 6-46 (CW 245) as a substitute motion. Resolution 6-09 (TB 123), encouraging Seminex graduates to seek endorsement according to the procedures established by the Synod, was adopted as presented. This action, however, was taken only after considerable discussion had ensued and after a number of suggested amendments had been declined. One of these called for striking the words "1976 and 1977" and substituting the words "if any" in line 7 (TB 124) and adding after the word "graduates" in line 8 the words "and that any residency study previously and successfully completed at any one of the Synod's recognized seminaries be credited in the colloquy procedure." Another called for substitution of the words "at the time of the convening of the 1979 synodical convention" for the words "after January 1, 1978" in line 10 (TB 124). Delegates also declined to delete the words "in a spirit of mutual repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation" in lines 68-69 (TB 123). A recommendation to add a final resolve stating: "Resolved, That the Colloquy Board, when dealing with Seminex graduates who have applied for colloquy, be called upon to include in its process, with vote, the following: the District President under whose supervision and pastoral concern the candidate has placed himself, and a pastor, teacher, or professor in good standing in the LCMS of the candidate's choosing" was also not accepted. Prior to the final vote on the resolution, President Oswald of the California and Nevada District was given an opportunity to address the delegates. President Preus also addressed the assembly on the issue before the vote was taken.

Standing Rules

The delegates amended the standing rules of the convention by agreeing to limit debate after each resolution to 30 minutes rather than to grant 30 minutes of debate for each amendment which is proposed as well as for the main resolution.

Missions

Prior to considering resolutions from the Floor Committee on Missions, Chairman Behnken of the floor committee presented Mr. Fred Lietz, Executive Secretary of the Church Extension Board, who has been involved with the activities of the Church Extension Fund for the past 20 years. In his remarks Mr. Lietz stated that the program, which began 75 years ago with \$400, has present assets of almost \$57,000,000. Mr. Vance Hinrichs, chairman of the Board for Church Extension, spoke briefly to the convention, announcing a gift to the church in the form of a new program. One-half million dollars in interest-free funds is being made available from the Church Extension Fund for the purpose of providing foreign mission facilities. After the convention had viewed a Church anniversary film, the delegates considered Res. 2-10 (TB 41), encouraging congregations to participate in the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Church

Extension Fund. It was adopted as presented, as was Res. 2-11 (TB 42), directing the Board for Church Extension to continue its effort to comply with security laws in various states. The delegates declined to take action with respect to Overture 2-23 (CW 35), relating to the continuation of Church Extension Fund loans to AELC congregations, since this matter had already been acted on through a policy previously adopted by the Church Extension Board (Res. 2-32A, TB 262).

Recognitions

At this point in the session the convention paused to honor a number of former synodical officers. Former Vice-Presidents Wiederaenders, Friedrich, Nitz, Streufert, and Wittmer were present and were recognized with a standing ovation by the delegates. Former President Dr. Oliver Harms, who had been present previously in the session, could not be present at this time. Other officers who could not be present were former Vice-Presidents Lichtsinn and Herman Harms and former Treasurer of the Synod, Martin Strieter.

Constitutional Matters

Chairman Schlecht of the Floor Committee on Constitutional Matters reintroduced Res. 5-21 (TB 113), which called for the referral of the question of cumulative voting to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure. Discussion was begun on a motion to amend the resolution by substituting the words "has been suggested as" for the words "could be" in line 57 and the word "question" for "matter" in line 60 (TB 113). This amendment was adopted. After declining to consider Overture 5-77 (CW 194) as a substitute resolution, the amended resolution was declined by the delegates. Resolution 5-02A (TB 265), which had been referred to the Floor Committee on Constitutional Matters for reconsideration in a previous session, was reintroduced. After declining to delete the words "Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lawrence, Kans.; Concord Lutheran Church, Prairie Village, Kans.; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Great Bend, Kans.;" from lines 19-20 (TB 265), the resolution was adopted as originally presented.

Bylaw 2.129 f of the synodical *Handbook* was changed by adoption of Res. 5-22 (TB 114). This Bylaw prescribed the procedure to be followed in amending the slate of candidates for the office of President and First Vice-President of the Synod. Three resolutions referring matters to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure were adopted collectively. The first of these declined to deal with an overture which asked for clarification of the nature of a Christian congregation and its relation to the Synod (Res. 5-23, TB 114). The second declined an overture asking for a more precise description of the relationship between the Synod and its District Presidents (Res. 5-26, TB 115). The third declined an overture asking for revision of the procedure for the election of District Presidents (Res. 5-27, TB 115). In adopting Res. 5-25 (TB 115) the convention concurred with the basic concerns of Overture 5-112 (CW 205) and reminded the members of the Synod to observe Scriptural and *Handbook* re-

quirements for filing charges and to deal with one another in an evangelical, loving spirit. Before introducing Res. 5-29 (*TB* 116), the Floor Committee on Constitutional Matters added the word "seek" between the words "and" and "advice" in line 29. An amendment adding the word "all" between the words "encourage" and "congregations" and striking the words "which have such concerns" in line 27 (*TB* 116) was accepted. The resolution was then adopted as amended, urging congregations to review their constitutions with respect to provisions relating to the disposition of congregational property. The convention declined to eliminate Bylaw 2.127 e, since the Bylaw speaks specifically on the subject of circularizing the Synod concerning the nominations of President and Vice-President (Res. 5-30, *TB* 116). This action was taken after declining to consider a substitute motion which called for changing the word "decline" to "accept" in line 36, changing "a" to "no" in line 46, and eliminating "5-83 and" and changing the word "declined" to "accepted" in line 48. Although Res. 5-32 (*TB* 117) was introduced, calling for the convention to decline a review of the election procedures at Anaheim, time expired before action could be taken on it.

Elections

Chairman Ziegler of the Floor Committee on Elections reported on the results of some of the elections which were complete at this time. These were as follows:

Board for Evangelism: Arthur Graf, William R. Wright, Evelyn H. Hartman

Committee for Convention Nominations: Eugene L. Krentz, Norman T. Laesch, Ellis Nieting, Gilbert R. Heine, H. Allen Herbst, Melvin L. Zilz, John Daniels, Carl T. Egger, Ralph M. Fickenscher, Lud Haluska, Frederick W. Shepherd

Board of Youth Ministry: Benjamin Marxhausen, William O. Karpenko, Mark Schoepp, Jennifer Darkow, Steven Fuchs, Timothy Marcis

Board of Control, St. Louis: Ewald J. Otto, Leland P. Schroeder, Charles H. Burmeister, Alvin Narjes, Ray C. Rauscher

Board of Control, Fort Wayne: Walter C. Maas, Roy Kaiser, David G. Ebeling, Ronald L. Reinking

Board of Control, River Forest: Harold Krueger, Arnold C. Stoppenhagen, Ralph Brauer, James R. Haar, Henry J. Mathews

Board of Control, Seward: Harold T. Stelzer, Louis Herring, Donald Bauer, Richard R. Stauffer

Board of Control, Ann Arbor: Richard H. Bernthal, Edwin A. Benz, Edward P. Staubit

Board of Control, Selma: Albert Dominick, Paul D. Lehman, Jack E. Pellegrin

Board of Control, St. Paul, Minn.: Paul J. Pfotenhauer, John S. Harms

Board of Control, Milwaukee: David P. Wallschlaeger, Leo A. Bordeleau, Gordon R. Fairbert

Board of Control, Bronxville: Albert W. Bahr

Board of Control, Austin: Herbert Graf, Ray A. Malzahn

Board of Control, Concordia, Mo.: Carl Heilman,

Roger Alewel

Board of Control, Edmonton: Don E. Unterschultz, Paul G. Otke

Board of Control, Portland: Walter A. Anderson, George Rummel, Edward H. Schwartz

Board of Control, Winfield: John Bredehoft, Thomas G. Kent, Erwin Knocke

Board of Control, Oakland: Richard H. Wolkenhauer, Carl W. Hafner, Arnold F. Kemmerle

Board of Control, Sao Leopoldo: David J. Flor, Paulo Raschke, Werner Klein

Board of Control, Argentina: Oscar W. Elseser, Juan Groh, Samuel Haller, Jose Kroh

Board of Control, Porto Alegre: Ruben E. Becker, Antonio DeOliveira, Johannes Engel, Emilio Kaminski

Point of Privilege

Rev. Arthur Graf, who had been elected to the Board for Evangelism, made a statement to the convention in which he spoke of his concern with regard to the actions and publications of some unofficial groups within the Synod.

Social Ministry

Chairman Marcis of the Floor Committee on Social Ministry introduced Res. 8-11 (*TB* 150). In adopting it the convention commended the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief for its work and encouraged it to continue its efforts as outlined in its report. The convention urged congregations to show concern for the unemployed and underpaid by establishing crises-help centers or affiliating with existing organizations which render assistance for such people, encouraged congregations and synodical institutions to review the salary schedule of those who work for them, and urged individual congregational members in their capacity as responsible Christian citizens to serve as advocates in behalf of the unemployed and underpaid in the legislative process of government at all levels (Res. 8-09A, *TB* 267). Congregations which have sponsored refugee families were commended and encouraged to sponsor additional families. Those who have not yet done so were urged to consider sponsoring such a family singly or in cooperation with neighboring Lutheran parishes, and the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief was encouraged to continue its work together with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. This encouragement was offered in Res. 8-15 (*TB* 268). After the floor committee had added the words "Bylaw 9.73" after "2.85 c, 2" (line 31, *TB* 303), they introduced Res. 8-05A (*TB* 303), calling for the Board of Stewardship together with each District's Social Ministry Committee to plan for a funding effort in behalf of housing concerns, and for the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief to administer these funds in accordance with guidelines presently operative. This resolution was adopted by the convention. In accepting Res. 8-12 (*TB* 151) the convention noted the 25th anniversary of the Lutheran Human Relations Association of America and urged the Synod's Districts, congregations, and members to continue to pray for,

support, and utilize this ministry as a resource and complement of their own.

Closing Devotion

Chaplain Streufert led the delegates in the common table prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus," as the closing devotion for the afternoon session.

Session 12

July 20, Evening

Opening Devotion

The convention was led in an opening devotion by Chaplain Streufert. It included the singing of the hymn "How Precious Is the Book Divine" and a prayer of thanksgiving for blessings received by several of the delegates.

Theology and Church Relations

Chairman Happel of the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations introduced Res. 3-08 (TB 59), calling for the support of efforts to protect the unborn. In the extended discussion which followed the delegates adopted an amendment substituting the word "sin" for the word "evils" in line 71 but declined to place the words "abortion on demand" in quotations (lines 70—71, TB 59). They agreed also to insert the words "living but" before the word "unborn" in lines 30 and 71 (TB 59) and line 5 (TB 60). They declined to delete the words "corporately and" in line 70 (TB 59) as well as to add a resolve that would have stated: "Resolved, That Lutheran hospitals be urged to perform abortions only when necessary to prevent the death of the mothers and that these hospitals give a clear Christian witness also by refusing any and all cooperation to abortion mills, as regards equipment, services, personnel, etc." The motion was then adopted as amended. By adopting Res. 3-09 (TB 60) the Synod officially declared itself to be in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Selbststaendige Evangelisch Lutherische Kirche, thereby continuing the fellowship it has enjoyed for many years with the member bodies of this church. After the floor committee had added Overture 3-180 (CW 120) to the overtures being dealt with in the resolution (line 55, TB 65) and had added the words "and/or" between the words "initiate" and "and" in line 67 (TB 65), it introduced Res. 3-20 (TB 65), which encouraged the President of the Synod, in consultation with the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, to initiate and continue discussions with all Lutheran church bodies regarding fellowship, and requested them to report to the Synod on the progress and results of these discussions. During the discussion of Res. 3-10A (TB 198), asking for clarification of the Synod's position regarding charismatic teaching, the delegates adopted a number of amendments. They agreed to add the words "and that the pastors of the Synod be strongly urged to emphasize to their congregations in a positive way what the Scriptures teach concerning the work of the Holy Spirit" after the word "teaching" in line 43 (TB 198). By

common consent the word "some" was placed between the words "by" and "individuals" in line 15 (TB 198). A major amendment included the following changes:

A) After the second whereas of the present resolution the following words were added:

WHEREAS, Scripture so clearly teaches:

1. That we are justified alone by the atoning work of Jesus Christ.
2. That the forgiveness of our sins on account of Christ, promised and offered in the Gospel, is our righteousness before God.
3. That it is by faith alone that we accept God's promised offer of forgiveness and are justified.
4. That the faith by which we accept God's forgiveness on account of Christ is the work of God's Spirit through the external means of grace, namely, the preaching (teaching) of the Gospel, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. Through these external means the Holy Spirit works faith in the heart when and where it pleases God. Through these external means of grace the Holy Spirit, together with all that is necessary for life and salvation, is given to those who believe.
5. That faith, which is the work of God's Spirit, is the confident assurance that for Christ's sake we are forgiven and accepted by God as righteous. Through this confident faith in the promise of God the accusing voice of conscience is quieted, and the troubled heart finds rest.

B) The word "and" was deleted from line 16 (TB 198), a comma was placed after the word "opinion" in the same line, and after the word "Scripture" the following words were added:

and therefore contrary to the Holy Scriptures, and therefore dangerous to the salvation of men to teach:

1. That God desires every Christian, following baptism, to have a 'second experience' such as the 'baptism with the Spirit.'
2. That the so-called 'gifts of the Spirit' are external signs by which we can assure ourselves that we have faith, are living in God's grace, or have the Spirit of God.
3. That God promises every Christian such gifts as speaking in tongues, healing, discerning of spirits, and prophecy, and that God has given such a promise as a part of the 'full' or 'complete Gospel.'
4. That a 'conversion experience,' 'baptism with the Spirit,' or other inner religious experience is necessary for, or should be urged upon, Christians in order that they may be certain either of having faith and salvation or of the indwelling of God's Spirit.
5. That a Christian who has not had such an experience either has an incomplete faith, is unconverted and is still living under the rule of sin, or has only accepted Christ as his Savior but not as his Lord.
6. That the sanctification of a Christian is incomplete unless he possesses the gift of speaking in tongues.
7. That God promises healing and health to every Christian in this life and that, if such healing does not occur, it is due to a lack of faith.
8. That God gives guidance and leadership to the church today through visions and dreams of direct prophecy.

C) Lines 18—30 (TB 198) were deleted. The delegates then adopted Res. 3-10A (TB 198) as amended after declining a motion to table it.

They approved the appointment of a doctrinal committee of the LCMS for Canada (Res. 3-14, TB 63) and encouraged the CTCR to complete its report on Communion practices (Res. 3-12, TB 62). Before introducing the latter resolution the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations had changed the word "our" to "the" in line 10 (TB 62) and the word "on" to "in" in line 38 (TB 62). After some discussion the

delegates adopted Res. 3-11 (*TB* 61), declaring the position of the Synod on the historical-critical method. This resolution rejected and repudiated as opposed to sound Lutheran theology and injurious to the Gospel any view of the Bible and method of interpreting it which relates history to the production of the sacred writings in such a way as to diminish their "not of this world" character and deprive them of their divine authority. It also reassured the members of the Synod that the Synod still adheres faithfully to its historic position on the Scriptures as God's very own inspired, inerrant, and authoritative Word for all matters of doctrine and practice, and asked the responsible officers of the Synod to implement evangelically the provisions of the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws, which are intended to assure that in all institutions under the Synod's control this position will be upheld and preserved. In adopting Res. 3-13A (*TB* 199) the convention issued a warning against Transcendental Meditation/Science of Creative Intelligence and asked the Commission on Organizations of the Synod, which has prepared a paper on this matter, to send a copy of it to all pastors, teachers, congregations, schools, and officials of the Synod, as well as any civil authorities that may be affected by this movement. After adding Overtures 3-179A—B (*CW* 120) to the overtures dealt with in the resolution, the convention reaffirmed the Synod's position on women with reference to the pastoral office by adopting Res. 3-15 (*TB* 64).

Memorial Service

Former Vice-President of the Synod, Dr. Roland Wiederaenders, led the delegates in a memorial service, thanking God for the faithful workers of the Synod who had departed this life trusting in Christ and now enjoy the blessings of being in His presence.

Session 13

July 21, Morning

Opening

The Thursday morning session of the convention began with the singing of the hymn "Holy Ghost, with Light Divine" by the delegates. Chaplain Streufert introduced Alfred Bartel, a consulting engineer from Indianapolis, who read John 15:1-11 in Russian. After reading the same section in English, Dr. Streufert briefly discussed the closing words of the lesson, "that your joy may be full," and led the delegates in a prayer for joy for their homes. After he had announced that he would not be present for the remainder of the convention and that Dr. August Bernthal would be conducting other devotions of the sessions, the convention expressed their appreciation for the work of Dr. Streufert with a standing ovation.

Orders of the Day

After calling the convention to order, President Preus indicated possible changes which would be made in the orders of the day.

Program Implementation

After reminding the delegates that the words "be strongly encouraged to" had been placed between the words "representatives" and "develop" in line 75 (*TB* 249), Floor Committee Chairman Zimmerman re-introduced Res. 13-14A (*TB* 249), asking for the establishment of a required course in stewardship at the seminaries. After brief discussion the delegates adopted the resolution as amended. The convention approved a revision of Bylaw 9.01 and the following, which established budget-setting procedures to be followed (Res. 13-01A, *TB* 244). In presenting the resolution the chairman of the floor committee explained that this revision allows the convention not only to adopt a work program but also to adopt a spending budget. The action was taken after the delegates had declined to add the words "if they so desire to do this" after the word "meeting" in line 11 (*TB* 247).

Missions

Before accepting Res. 2-37 (*TB* 317), calling for the continued implementation of Mission Study Commission recommendations, the delegates adopted an amendment calling for a final resolve stating: "That we hold our mission workers high on our prayer list, and that while these studies are under way during the next biennium, the Board for Missions strive for even greater effectiveness by placing special emphasis on the promotion of God-pleasing understanding and unity among our missionaries and between the Board for Missions and our workers in the field, so that we may also grow in the love of Christ and the power of the Spirit in this vital work of the Lord." The resolution was then adopted as amended.

Rev. Wilbert Sohns, chairman of the Board for Missions, introduced missionary Harold Ottemoeller, missionary to Nigeria during most of the 40 years of that mission's existence. In his remarks he related the exciting story of missionary outreach which has developed in that country. He was given a standing ovation by the delegates at the close of his presentation.

Elections

Chairman Ziegler of the Floor Committee on Elections called for elections to complete the roster of officers and boards of the Synod. Ballots were distributed after Chairman Ziegler had explained that because of an omission of the name of a pastoral nominee on the first ballot for pastoral members of the Committee for Convention Nominations, a new vote would have to be taken for this position. Because of the error the Commission on Constitutional Matters had ruled that no election had occurred for the position of pastoral members on this committee. The ballots were then distributed and the elections declared closed.

Missions

Missionary Arbie Patschke, missionary to Japan for the past 23 years, addressed the delegates and reviewed recent developments in this mission field. He described the changed situation which has occurred in Japan, which is described as "interdependence," in which the

Japan Lutheran Church has recognized the responsibility of the Japanese Christians to evangelize other members of their country. This interdependence involves both provision of men and money by the Japan Lutheran Church as well as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. As an example of what has occurred, he indicated that presently the average annual contribution of each member of the Japan Lutheran Church is \$176.

Missionary Dennis Hilgendorf, missionary to the Muslim Arabic-speaking people in the Mid-East, began his presentation by asking the delegates to join him in prayer. He spoke of the tragedy which has occurred in the country of Lebanon in which 60,000 people have been killed in the last 2 years. As his second point he spoke of the blessing that during the tragedy the Lord had chosen to protect and guide the missionaries and staff. As his final point he offered a loving rebuke and appeal to the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to get more in touch with the world in which God is at work.

Chairman Behnken of the Floor Committee on Missions indicated that this completed the report of his committee and then led the delegates in prayer.

LCMS Foundation

Mr. Edwin Schiewe, chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation, was granted the privilege of addressing the convention. He described the activities of the Foundation and the importance of the work which is being carried out by it, reminding the delegates of the opportunities which the Foundation offers them for serving the church with the blessings which they have received.

Theology and Church Relations

Dr. Happel, chairman of the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations, introduced Res. 3-04A (TB 318), which called for the convention to deal with the proposed *Lutheran Book of Worship*. The resolution which was presented was identical with Res. 3-04 (TB 55) with the exception of the 5th, 6th, and 7th resolves, which were added, and the change of the words "the synodical Vice-President" to "a synodical Vice-President."

Orders of the Day

In order to provide for discussion of this resolution, the chairman indicated that the orders of the day would be changed so that the convention essay would begin at 10:10 rather than 10:00 as indicated.

Theology and Church Relations

In the discussion of Res. 3-04A the delegates declined to consider a lengthy substitute motion. An additional substitute motion was then offered. After it had been presented to the delegates, the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations stated that they had received a ruling from the Commission on Constitutional Matters which declared a proposed substitute motion unconstitutional. On a point of order



A lighter moment

one of the delegates indicated that if the convention agreed to consider the substitute resolution, it had in effect overruled the Commission on Constitutional Matters. Secretary Mueller, however, indicated that if the convention wished to consider this substitute resolution, it would be better to deal with the matter directly and to overrule the decision of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The substitute resolution asked that the "Blue Ribbon" committee be responsible for reviewing the final ILCW draft of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* after it had followed the regular review process, that the committee complete its work as quickly as possible, and that CPH be authorized to proceed with the publication of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* in cooperation with the ALC and LCA publishing houses as soon as the review processes were completed. It also asked that the matter of official endorsement be taken up at the next regular synodical convention.

Essay

Rev. Samuel Nafzger, convention essayist, presented the final portion of his essay relating to the proper distinction of Law and Gospel. The Bible study based on 1 Peter 2:11—3:17 was led by Dr. Richard Schultz, director of Advanced Studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Following the presentation and study the delegates joined in singing "The Church's One Foundation" and thanked Rev. Nafzger and those who had led the Bible studies during the convention with a standing ovation.

Recognition

Dr. Arthur Borden, speaking for the American Bible Society, thanked the Synod for its part in the distribution of God's Word, for the participation of leaders and individuals of the Synod in the work of the American Bible Society, and for the financial support which has been given it. During the first six months of 1977 this financial support has been \$72,000. He also referred to a number of projects which are being carried out by the American Bible Society. Among these are the Good

News Bible, literature in signed English for the deaf, and the distribution of the Scriptures in eastern Europe.

Orders of the Day

President Preus announced changes which had been made in the orders of the day, indicating that further changes might be made later.

Administration

Chairman Wilbert Griesse of the Floor Committee on Administration introduced Res. 4-10-2 (TB 301), which called for holding the 1979 convention of the Synod in St. Louis but also resolved that the members of the Synod in Kansas City be encouraged to invite the convention to Kansas City for some future convention year. This resolution was adopted after striking the word "tentative" in line 18 (TB 301). This resolution was to replace the resolution which had previously been passed by the convention, but about which questions had arisen after its passage. Discussion was next resumed on Res. 4-13 (TB 85), declining an overture which called for the relocation of synodical headquarters. Action on this matter had not been completed in a previous session. A substitute motion which was under consideration calling for termination of the lease after a 10-year period was declined. The resolution was then adopted as presented. The convention commended Dr. Preus and other officers of the Synod for their leadership, expressed its thanks to God for their faithfulness and diligence, and assured them of their continued prayers with a rising vote of thanks (Res. 4-14, TB 86). The procedure to be followed by the Synodical Service Commission for acquiring names for positions to be filled was specified with the adoption of Res. 4-15 (TB 86), which called for amending Bylaw 2.103 of the synodical *Handbook*. After the floor committee had added the words "Pensions and Support" after the word "Managers" in line 9 and "of pastors, teachers, and professors" after the word "list" in the same line (TB 87), the delegates adopted Res. 4-16 (TB 87), which amended Bylaw 10.31 to make the list of pastors, teachers, and professors appearing in the current records of the synodical Department of Statistics the official lists for the purpose of the Board of Managers—Pensions and Support. After declining to consider the substance of Overture 4-56A (CW 160) as a substitute motion, but agreeing to delete the third whereas, Res. 4-17 (TB 87) was accepted, declining Overtures 4-56A—B (CW 160). The convention asked the Pension Work Committee and the Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans to continue to study the feasibility of increased retirement benefits for retired workers (Res. 4-18, TB 88).

Point of Order

In response to a question on a point of order it was declared that Res. 4-10-2, relating to the location of the 1979 convention of the Synod, took precedence over the resolution which had been passed in a previous session.

Administration

After agreeing to consider Overture 4-64 (CW 162) as

a substitute motion for Res. 4-19 (TB 88), the convention declined it and then approved the resolution as presented by the floor committee, thereby declining to ask the Concordia Retirement Plan to develop plans through which pastors and teachers who are not covered by social security might receive additional coverage through additional payments. After declining to delete lines 27—49 (CW 89), the delegates approved a change in Bylaw 2.105 so that the Synod through the witness of its retirement policies might indicate that arbitrary retirement at 65 may be impractical, unwise, dehumanizing, and a form of discrimination (Res. 4-20, TB 89). This resolution also encouraged persons facing retirement to avail themselves of preretirement counseling from the Synod and other organizations, and encouraged congregations to involve persons of retirement age in their programs. With the adoption of Res. 4-21 (TB 90) the name of the California and Nevada District was changed to California-Nevada-Hawaii District. The Council of Presidents was encouraged to practice good stewardship and schedule meetings at locations which would be beneficial to the entire Synod (Res. 4-22, TB 90). Bylaw 7.23 was amended to include the Board of Parish Education and the presidents of the seminaries and teachers colleges in assisting the President of the Synod in selecting representatives of the institutions for appointment to the Board of Parish Education (Res. 4-23, TB 90). Since no definitive guidelines exist for determining auxiliary status within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod structure, questions regarding the status of such organizations was referred to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure (Res. 4-24, TB 91). Because certain groups have suggested changes in congregational constitutions relating to the disposition of property in the event of a division of the congregation, delegates were advised to use extreme caution in making such changes and were encouraged to seek appropriate legal advice regarding property rights in the event of division (Res. 4-25, TB 91). This matter is crucial since constitutional changes may have the effect of altering the confessional subscription of a congregation. Since the cost of providing guidance counselors on an employed basis would be prohibitive and since these resources are already available, members of the Synod were encouraged to continue drawing from existing human resources to provide guidance counseling (Res. 4-27, TB 92). After changing the subject of Res. 4-28 (TB 92) to read: "To Refer Concerns to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League," the delegates adopted this resolution, encouraging the congregation which had submitted an overture expressing concerns about this organization to share those concerns directly with the LWML. Overture 4-83 (CW 167), requesting the Board of Directors to review requests from faithful minority groups and to assist them financially if necessary, was declined since structures already exist within the Synod to answer the needs described in the overture (Res. 4-29, TB 92). Because the Concordia Retirement Plan provides for the vesting of benefits in accordance with the provisions of pension legislation enacted in 1974, and contains provisions for "transferred

member" status, Overture 4-62 (CW 161) was declined (Res. 4-32, TB 94). Overtures 4-35A—B (CW 151) were also declined since the dates on which the synodical conventions are held are selected by those responsible for planning the convention. Delegates agreed that the complexity of convention arrangements required a convention manager and therefore declined Overtures 4-40A—C (CW 151) by adopting Res. 4-34 (TB 94). Because the assets of the Synod are held for the work of God's kingdom as this work is carried on by the Synod, and the Synod has provided for equitable disposition of financial matters as well as loving solutions to problems which arise, Overture 4-81 (CW 166), calling for a distribution of the assets of the Synod, according to a specific formula, to congregations who resign from it, was declined (Res. 4-31, TB 93). The delegates changed Bylaw 10.27 of the synodical *Handbook* and deleted Bylaw 10.29, thereby abolishing District subcommittees of the Board of Managers—Pensions and Support (Res. 4-30, TB 93).

Elections

Chairman Ziegler of the Floor Committee on Elections reported the results of some of the unfilled positions for boards of the Synod. The following elections were reported:

Board of Stewardship: Charles W. Keturakat
Board of Control, Sao Leopoldo: Walter Warth
Committee for Convention Nominations: Eugene L. Krentz, Norman T. Laesch, Ellis Nieting

Closing Devotion

After the singing of a hymn by the LEA choir, Dr. Bernthal led the delegates in prayer as a closing devotion for the session.

Session 14

July 21, Afternoon

Opening Devotion

Dr. August Bernthal led the delegates in the opening devotion for the Thursday afternoon session of the convention. After missionary John Fajen had read the Scriptures in one of the languages of Nigeria, the delegates joined in reading the same section in the English language. The reading was taken from a section of Colossians titled "The Incomparable Christ." Dr. Bernthal based his remarks on this section and asked the delegates to close the devotion by joining in the singing of the hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns."

Elections

Chairman Ziegler of the Elections Committee reported that ballots would be distributed for filling the remaining unfilled positions for officers and boards of the Synod. After the ballots had been distributed, he declared the elections closed.

Minutes

The minutes of Sessions 8, 9, and 10 were approved as presented.

Program Implementation

Chairman Paul Zimmerman of the Floor Committee on Program Implementation introduced Res. 13-08A (TB 241), calling for the establishment of the 1978—79 work program of the Synod. During discussion of the resolution delegates adopted an amendment adding the words "and that these changes shall be communicated to the delegates to the Dallas convention" after the word "projects" in line 42 (TB 241). They also changed the amount recommended for the Board for Missions for 1978 and 1979 by \$200,000 annually (line 8, TB 242). This necessitated a change in lines 28 and 29 (TB 241), so that the figures would read \$30,057,306 and \$32,921,269 respectively. The resolution was then adopted as amended. By accepting Res. 13-09B (TB 304) delegates made it possible to carry out budgeted work and other authorized work by permitting borrowing a sum equal to five percent of the finalized budget for each year if this action is necessary. The report of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation was accepted, and members of the Synod were encouraged to make themselves aware of and to utilize the LCMS Foundation's various services (Res. 13-13, TB 182). Delegates resolved that the Synod recognize the present need of educational institutions to raise increasingly larger amounts of money by their own efforts and development and asked for exploration of the coordination of fund-raising efforts by educational institutions. They also resolved that the Synod provide at least the present percentage level of subsidy (including current inflationary trends) for its educational institutions (Res. 13-12, TB 182). At the conclusion of action by the convention on proposals from the Floor Committee on Program Implementation, Pastor Vetter of No. Wis., a member of the floor committee, spoke to the delegates, urging that "we and the Father work together" in meeting the needs for program implementation.

Parish Services

Chairman Zeile of the Floor Committee on Parish Services brought Res. 7-14 (TB 138) before the convention. This resolution, designating the *Reporter* as an official periodical, was adopted by the delegates. In order to allow the fiscal year of Concordia Publishing House to coincide as closely as possible with the Synod's fiscal year, Bylaw 11.21 was amended so that the fiscal year of Concordia Publishing House would begin on the first day of January in each year (Res. 7-16, TB 140). Resolution 7-10 (TB 136) was reintroduced to the convention. Action on this resolution had not been completed in a previous session. After the delegates had declined to consider the recommendation of paragraph *f* of the *Convention Workbook*, page 278, as a substitute motion, they adopted the resolution as presented by the floor committee, giving direction to the Board of Youth Ministry with respect to All-Lutheran Youth/Adult Gatherings.

Recognition

At this point the convention paused in its deliberations to recognize the retiring officers of the Synod and members of the Board of Directors. Among those recognized were Dr. Milton Carpenter, Dr. Theodore Nickel, Dr. Harry Barr, Dr. G. E. Nitz, Dr. Alvin W. Mueller, Mr. Walter Hinck, Dr. August Bernthal, and Mr. Walter Steinberg. Mrs. Milton Carpenter was also recognized and presented with a corsage by Mrs. Herbert Mueller, wife of the Secretary of the Synod. President Preus presented Dr. Milton Carpenter with a gift portraying the Cross of Iona, one of the earliest of the Christian era. The wood on which the cross is placed is from the doorposts of the Board of Directors' room in the old Lutheran Building at 210 N. Broadway, St. Louis. After the delegates had adopted Res. 13-11A (TB 249), recognizing and thanking Dr. Milton Carpenter for his services as Treasurer of the Synod, Dr. Carpenter addressed the delegates briefly, thanking them for the privilege of serving the Synod and stating that they could give him another gift by making the work program which they had adopted a reality. President Preus then asked the delegates to join him in expressing their thanks to retiring Vice-Presidents Dr. August Bernthal and Dr. Theodore Nickel. The convention gladly agreed with this request.

Presentation

A Lutheran Laymen's League representative from the Texas District presented President Gedrat of the Brazil District with a check for \$5,000 as a first portion of the project to bring the program "This Is the Life" to Brazil. The funds will be used to dub Portuguese into the "This Is the Life" films already produced.

Parish Services

The delegates agreed that the Synod should again participate in the LCUSA Office of Governmental Affairs and that in this participation provision should be made for preservation of the position of the Synod in both doctrine and practice (Res. 7-15, TB 139). Authorization was given for an annual appropriation of \$25,000 in addition to the amount set aside as the Scholarly Research Fund for the development and publishing of materials deemed necessary for the church by the Commission on Church Literature (Res. 7-23, TB 143). In adopting Res. 7-11 (TB 137) delegates called for augmenting Bible study opportunities and directed the Board of Parish Education and Concordia Publishing House to provide additional Bible study materials which reflect our Lutheran confessional stance with emphasis on the needs of contemporary society. They asked that this be done for all age groups and that the Board of Parish Education be granted sufficient staff to produce these materials at a reasonable cost to local congregations. The convention approved the extension of the Marriage Enrichment Program under the administration of the Field Services Division of the Board of Parish Education for 4 years (Res. 7-12, TB 137). Congregations were requested, singly or in association with other parishes, to explore the feasibility of initiating or of expanding and strengthening their

programs of full-time Lutheran education, not in opposition to public education but as unique alternatives that promote the Christian faith (Res. 7-18, TB 140—141). After amending Res. 7-19 (TB 141) with two final resolves stating: "Resolved, That Concordia Publishing House be requested to attempt to obtain plates for *Culto Cristiano*, the Spanish Lutheran hymnal, for the purposes of reprinting and distribution; and be it further Resolved, That Concordia Publishing House be requested to reprint Luther's Small Catechism in Spanish," the delegates adopted it, asking that all agencies involved in the production, printing, and distribution of religious educational materials be urged to provide materials that are appropriate to and effective with individuals with differing cultural and ethnic backgrounds. The American Bible Society was commended for its work, and congregations of the Synod were urged to become acquainted with the work of this group and other Bible societies and to support it with their prayers and gifts (Res. 7-20, TB 141). Concerned parents who are members of the Synod were urged to examine courses and textbooks which are used in the public schools and to protest against public school systems which use school time to inculcate only one side of religious theories, beliefs, or value systems in opposition to Biblical revelation (Res. 7-21, TB 142). The Board of Parish Education was directed to continue to provide encouragement, information, and guidelines for the development of policies and procedures that are nondiscriminatory according to sex and are in keeping with Christian principles and legal requirements, and congregations were urged to take immediate action to determine and eliminate any sex discrimination which may now exist (Res. 7-22, TB 142). The delegates asked all who instructed confirmands to give as thorough instruction as possible in the Six Chief Parts of Christian doctrine as presented in Luther's Small Catechism (Res. 7-24, TB 143). They commended congregations who are engaged in local radio ministry and encouraged others to seek opportunities to initiate and expand such local radio ministries (Res. 7-25, TB 143). Since the Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors receives monthly fiscal and other reports from its management, and the Board of Directors of the Synod receives regular reports from the CPH Board of Directors, the delegates agreed that an independent study of Concordia Publishing House is not warranted and agreed with the floor committee to decline Overtures 7-41A—B (CW 293—294). They did this by adopting Res. 7-27 (TB 144). They also agreed to decline overtures calling for the recommendation of *Missouri in Perspective* and the acknowledgment of services rendered by *Christian News* (Res. 7-28, TB 144). The convention, however, declined Res. 7-26A (TB 302) with respect to Valparaiso University. Chairman Zeile then stated that this completed the work of the Floor Committee on Parish Services.

Elections

Chairman Ziegler, speaking for the Floor Committee on Elections, reported the results of balloting for some of the offices and boards of the Synod which were still

unfilled. The results were as follows:

Board for Higher Education: Elmer J. Moeller

Board for Missions: Peter R. Hunt, Bernhard Lutz

Treasurer: Norman Sell

CPH Board of Directors: Marvin L. Jenkins, David A. Kaufmann

Board of Control, Bronxville: Ernest Pflug, Thomas Olsen

Board of Directors: Harold Olsen

Commission on Theology and Church Relations: H. Armin Moellering

Board of Parish Education: Roy Guess, James E. Price

Social Ministry

Chairman Marcis of the Floor Committee on Social Ministry presented Res. 8-14 (*TB* 317), which encouraged the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief to continue its concern for combating racism and to work together with the Black Ministry Commission. The adoption of this resolution completed the work of the Floor Committee on Social Ministry.

Special and Sundry Matters

Chairman Bahr of the Floor Committee on Special and Sundry Matters presented Res. 9-04A (*TB* 269) to the convention. This resolution, which had been tabled earlier in the convention, had been removed from the table. The resolution had been previously amended by placing the word "tentatively" between the words "meeting" and "approved" in line 55 and the words "subject to the availability of funds" after the word "Thankoffering" in line 56 (*TB* 269). After brief discussion the convention adopted this resolution, calling for the completion of the addition to the Concordia Historical Institute, using undesignated funds from the 125th Anniversary Thankoffering and authorizing the Board of Directors to borrow funds, if necessary, for completion of the project.

Theology and Church Relations

Discussion on Res. 3-04A (*TB* 318), asking the convention to deal with the proposed *Lutheran Book of Worship*, was resumed. Action on this resolution had not been completed in a previous session when questions arose about the constitutionality of a substitute resolution which had been offered. Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, explained the position of the Commission on Constitutional Matters, which had stated that a previous substitute resolution submitted to the CCM by the committee for review would not be acceptable. However, the commission pointed out that if certain suggested changes were made in the substitute resolution which was now being proposed from the floor, it could be regarded as constitutional and could be considered by the convention. The delegate who had submitted this substitute resolution agreed to the suggested changes. The convention agreed to consider the substitute and asked the committee to have the revised substitute printed to facilitate debate.

Elections

Since it was necessary to complete the elections, the convention agreed to vote during the discussion.

Point of Order

A delegate who wished to raise what he considered a point of order was ruled out of order by the chairman, who was sustained in his ruling by the delegates.

Higher Education

By adopting Res. 6-13 (*TB* 125) the convention requested the Board of Directors of the Synod to dispose of the Oakland campus in accord with Anaheim Res. 6-08A and authorized them to discuss with the California and Nevada District Board of Directors their request for the educational building on the Oakland campus, giving the synodical board the authority to take appropriate action. They also agreed to decline an overture requesting an investigation of Concordia Teachers College, Seward, since the concerns in the overture are being dealt with by the Board of Control, the administration, and the faculty of that school (Res. 6-11A, *TB* 214). The delegates accepted Res. 6-12 (*TB* 124), directing the Board of Higher Education to conduct a study to determine the best situation for the future training, placement, and colloquy of deaconesses, and directed that they report to the 1979 synodical convention with concrete recommendations. This action was taken after declining to consider a substitute motion calling for the establishment of a deaconess program on the campus of Ann Arbor or River Forest, and reporting progress in the establishment of this program to the next convention. The words "colloquy and placement" were added by the committee (placement) and by amendment (colloquy) between the words "training" and "of" (line 63, *TB* 124). Resolution 6-12 (*TB* 124) was adopted as revised and amended. Bylaw 6.91 of the synodical *Handbook*, relating to membership on a faculty hearings committee, was amended (Res. 6-24, *TB* 130). As a result of the change the president of an institution can no longer serve as an ex-officio member of a standing hearings committee or of another standing committee which functions in this capacity. Bylaws 6.53 and 6.54, relating to the notice of nonreappointment of faculty members, were also amended (Res. 6-15, *TB* 125). As a result of this change, individuals under consideration for permanent tenure are to receive notice of nonreappointment 12 months before the expiration of the current appointment. In cases in which the decision is made to terminate an individual's contract, the contract shall be extended for one year beyond the time at which notice is given.

Point of Privilege

A member of the Board of Control of Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebr., thanked the delegates for the passage of the resolution which declined an investigation of the institution.

Point of Interpretation

Dr. Herbert Mueller reported that the Board of Directors had requested an interpretation of the word

Elections

Dr. Herman Scherer, speaking for the Floor Committee on Elections, declared the elections closed after ballots had been distributed for the remaining unfilled positions of officers and boards of the Synod.

Point of Privilege

Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, on a point of privilege, stated that he hoped President David Preus would not misunderstand the resolution regarding fellowship which had been adopted by the convention. He pointed out that no due date had been set for the end of fellowship but that the resolution only asked for reconsideration of the matter at the convention in 1979.

Information

Secretary Mueller reported the address of delegate Norman David to the convention in order to provide an opportunity for delegates to write to him if they wished to do so. He also asked them to remember Pastor David in their prayers.

President Preus announced that the packets containing a cassette and filmstrip of the convention would be available to voting delegates at the close of the session.

Ethnic Concerns

Chairman Bryant Clancy of the Floor Committee on Ethnic Concerns presented Res. 10-17 (TB 167), calling for the support of ministry among North American Indians. In adopting it the convention resolved that the synodical task force for ministry to the American Indians should receive the full support of the Synod, asked it to recognize the Center for Indian Ministry and Studies at Concordia Teachers College, Seward, as a valuable resource for ministry to the American Indian people, and resolved to establish on one of the college campuses a program for training workers for evangelism work among the American Indians. After the floor committee had deleted the first three whereases of Res. 10-14 (TB 166), as well as the words "Blacks and" in lines 3 and 25 (TB 166), and after the convention had adopted an amendment changing the resolve to read: "That the Synod in convention direct the Board of Directors to provide \$25,000 to make possible a program of scholarships to Hispanics who are enrolled in a pastoral training program at a synodical college or seminary," it adopted the resolution as amended. Resolution 10-15 (TB 166), calling for the Synod to recognize the need for training students in ethnic ministries and for insertion of required courses, workshops, and seminars into the curriculum of the schools of higher education for the accomplishment of this, was also accepted. By adoption of Res. 10-13 (TB 165) delegates resolved that special and concerted efforts should be made by officials, boards, and congregations of the Synod to correct the image of church work which is present for young Blacks since this image often discourages many who are qualified academically, spiritually, and emotionally from entering the work, and in Res. 10-21 (TB 169) encouraged

Black youth representation on youth boards. Since many Black teachers enter into teaching in Lutheran schools from public institutions, the Synod was asked to review the requirements for the colloquy program with the purpose of qualifying public college graduates for the teaching ministry in the church through correspondence courses and other methods (Res. 10-20, TB 169). The convention agreed with the Floor Committee on Ethnic Concerns in declining Overture 10-08 (CW 323), calling for the development of liturgical music and hymnody appropriate to Black congregations, by adopting Res. 10-22 (TB 169). They agreed that support for Alabama Lutheran Academy and College should be accelerated, that one Sunday out of the year should be designated as Alabama Lutheran Academy and College Sunday, that on this Sunday congregations should be informed about this important segment of the Synod's ministry, and that offerings should be received in support of it (Res. 10-05, TB 161). Adoption of this resolution completed the work of the Committee on Ethnic Concerns. Chairman Clancy commended the spirit of the convention which was evident in adopting the resolutions of the committee.

Point of Privilege

On a point of privilege a member of the Board of Control of Alabama Lutheran Academy and College also expressed his appreciation for the actions of the convention.

On another point of privilege a member of the Board for Missions proposed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Black Lutheran Centennial Committee was formed by our Synod and has carried out a commendable task; and

WHEREAS, The Black Mission Model Task Force was authorized by the Synod in convention at Anaheim and was duly appointed by the Board for Missions; and

WHEREAS, The Ethnic Concerns Floor Committee of the convention carried out a very responsible task; and

WHEREAS, The above three entities are a most joyous, historic milestone in the Synod's history; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS assembled in convention commend the Black Mission Model Task Force and the Ethnic Concerns Committee for the respective work and leadership; and be it further

Resolved, That we thank God for their diligence and for the historic milestone by a rising vote of thanks.

This proposal was enthusiastically adopted by the convention.

On another point of privilege the delegates, in response to a plea from President Zimmermann of the Indiana District, agreed to reconsider Res. 7-26A (TB 302) by a vote of 427 to 394. Following discussion they passed a motion to postpone action on this matter indefinitely.

Information

Rev. Marcus Zill, Stewardship Counselor, presented to the Synod a gift of \$12,700 from Lakeside Lutheran Church of Venice, Fla., which had been gathered through the Mission 2 effort for scholarships for national New Guinea workers.

Elections

The Elections Committee reported the election of Rickie Krueger to the Board of Youth Ministry. After announcing that there had been no further decision in the recent balloting for unfilled positions, and pointing out that it would be impossible to complete elections before the close of the convention, Dr. Scherer, speaking for the Floor Committee on Elections, introduced a resolution stating: "Be it resolved, That all positions not filled through the regular balloting procedure be filled by appointing the next highest candidates in the last ballot gathered in this convention; and be it further Resolved, That the Secretary cast the vote for the winning candidate." The delegates adopted this resolution, and Secretary Mueller cast the following votes in accordance with the resolution:

Committee for Convention Nominations: Edwin C. Bek, David A. Caspersen, Albert G. Pullmann

Board of Youth Ministry: Deanna Bond

Higher Education

Chairman August Mennicke of the Floor Committee on Higher Education introduced Res. 6-18 (TB 127—128), calling for an aggressive recruitment and training program at the seminary level for pastors to the deaf. The resolution was adopted as presented. By adopting Res. 6-26 (TB 130) after the committee had deleted the words "as soon as feasible" in lines 72—73 (TB 130), sex discrimination was eliminated in the redistribution of high school scholarships which had previously been given only to male graduates of a Lutheran community high school who enrolled as professional ministerial students at a synodical college. The Board for Higher Education was asked to give careful study to the matter of defining the term "church worker" and to present its report to the 1979 convention for approval (Res. 6-22, TB 129). No further changes are to be made in the present usage of this term until that report is acted upon. Bylaw 6.80, which deals with the removal of a faculty member from office, was clarified by adding a sentence which stated that "the written decisions of the Commission of Adjudication and the Board of Appeals required under Bylaw 5.37, including the finding of fact, the conclusions, and the reasons for such conclusions, shall be conveyed in writing to the Board of Control of the faculty member involved" (Res. 6-25, TB 130). The matter of overlap and ambiguity in the responsibilities of the Board for Higher Education and the Boards of Control and the faculties of synodical institutions outlined in Section VI of the *Handbook* was referred to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure for study and resolution (Res. 6-16, TB 127). Since it is unlikely that funds would be available from the synodical treasury for the specialized training of future faculty members, administrators of the colleges and seminaries in cooperation with the Board for Higher Education were encouraged to solicit fellowship or scholarship funds from other sources (Res. 6-17, TB 127). The delegates agreed that parish experience was desirable for college and seminary professors but that it should not be a requirement for teaching in the schools of the Synod (Res. 6-19, TB 128). The convention

encouraged the expansion of continuing education, asking the Board for Higher Education to make a variety of educational programs for the church's professional workers available through the synodical schools, and to plan a system of continuing education units, if feasible, implementing it through these schools (Res. 6-20, TB 128). This resolution also urged congregations to make time and funds available to their full-time church workers for continuing education. Overture 6-25 (CW 240) was respectfully declined, and the convention agreed to retain the present eligibility standards for membership on Boards of Control (Res. 6-14, TB 125). It declined a resolution calling for the sponsorship of a pastoral education Sunday (Res. 6-21, TB 129), but agreed that Overture 6-30 (CW 241) should be declined and that faculty members should not be required to subscribe to "A Statement" since it was not the intention of the Synod in adopting it to demand that individual members of the Synod sign a declaration subscribing to it (Res. 6-23, TB 129). Since it was felt that the present *Handbook* provisions are adequate, the delegates agreed that overtures suggesting changes in the colloquy procedures should be declined (Res. 6-10, TB 124). After declining an amendment to delete the third whereas and the reference to Valparaiso in the second resolve, Res. 6-27 (TB 131) was adopted, encouraging members of the Synod to utilize opportunities for Lutheran Lay Higher Education which are available at the colleges and seminaries of the Synod, at Valparaiso University, other Lutheran colleges and universities, and the programs provided by the various departments of the Synod. With the adoption of this resolution the work of the Floor Committee on Higher Education was completed.

Theology and Church Relations

Chairman Happel of the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations introduced Res. 3-21 (TB 66). By adopting it the delegates reaffirmed the fact that the Synod understands the term "Word of God" to describe both the Holy Scriptures as the written Word of God and Christ as the "incarnate" Word and rejected any understanding of the term which would limit its use to one sense or to the other. After adding "Scriptural and" by mutual consent to the second resolve, they adopted Res. 3-22 (TB 66), reaffirming that the Law as well as the Gospel is the Word of God, and reaffirmed the Scriptural and confessional Lutheran position with respect to the threefold use of the Law as a curb, a mirror, and a rule. The convention asked the Synod to continue to express its public opposition to public sins of our society and to engage in continual efforts to offer our people guidance from God's Word on the moral issues which confront them (Res. 3-23, TB 67). After striking the words "comprised of three Canadian Districts" in lines 39—40 (TB 199), the delegates adopted Res. 3-24A (TB 199), asking the Commission on Constitutional Matters, the CTCR, and the Canadian District Presidents to study the advisability of amending the Synod's Bylaws to grant Canadian Districts authority to negotiate towards fellowship in Canada through the Lutheran Church—Canada and to report

the results of their study to the next convention. Since in many mixed marriages the pastors of both parties to the marriage are being invited to it and are being invited to participate in the wedding service, and since questions have arisen regarding this practice, the delegates stated the position of the Synod on this matter by affirming the validity of Article VI of the Constitution of the LCMS and by stating that pastors and congregations were expected to follow this article with respect to mixed wedding ceremonies (Res. 3-25, *TB* 68). This action was taken after declining to substitute the word "encourage" for the word "expect" and "examine" for the word "follow" in line 36 (*TB* 68) and after the word "and" had been added at the end of line 14 (*TB* 68). The convention resolved to provide assistance regarding bioethics (Res. 3-26, *TB* 68). The convention declined a motion calling for the addition of the last three resolves of Overture 3-114A (*CW* 103) and then adopted Res. 3-27 (*TB* 69), reminding elected officials of the responsibilities of their office and encouraging them to perform their work with confidence in the power of the Spirit working through the Word. The convention commended the CTCR for all of its work and referred the "Revision of A Statement" and other CTCR documents to the church for prayerful study and use. It adopted Res. 3-37 (*TB* 73), thereby approving amendments to the Constitution of LCUSA which define a commission and an office and designated their position in the structure of LCUSA. The delegates adopted Res. 3-29 (*TB* 69), urging that a unified witness be given against anti-Christian organizations and that congregations study and discuss Art. XIV of the synodical *Handbook* together with materials available from the synodical Commission on Organizations in seeking to give this unified witness. They also reminded District officials of their responsibility to exercise Christian, evangelical supervision and discipline in matters relating to these anti-Christian organizations whenever necessary. Before introducing Res. 3-30 (*TB* 70), the floor committee substituted the words "its Social Concerns Committee" for "the Social Concerns Committee" in line 38 (*TB* 70) and inserted the word "its" between the words "and" and "SCC" in line 55 (*TB* 70). The convention then adopted this resolution, affirming the sacredness of human life and declaring unequivocally that the practice known as euthanasia is contrary to God's Word and will and cannot be condoned or justified. It also asked the Commission on Theology and Church Relations and its Social Concerns Committee to complete their study of this matter as soon as possible. The delegates encouraged congregations, Districts, and parish worship leaders to promote communication between one another in church music and worship practices through workshops, institutes, training sessions, and other channels of communication (Res. 3-31, *TB* 71). In Res. 3-32 (*TB* 71) the convention respectfully declined Overtures 3-112A—C (*CW* 101—102), which called for the establishment of a Bible Science Commission. Lay involvement in worship and other services of the church within the limitations established by the Scriptures and the Confessions was

encouraged (Res. 3-33, *TB* 71). Study of the issues involved and working toward the goal of giving women equal rights before the law was encouraged, and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations was commended for its "Report on Equal Rights Amendment," which offered guidance to the Synod in this matter (Res. 3-34, *TB* 72). After declining to consider a substitute motion, the convention commended the CTCR for its work in preparing a paper which provided guidelines for making judgments regarding capital punishment and asked the Synod to receive this paper for study and response (Res. 3-35, *TB* 72). Since the *Handbook* spells out the details of doctrinal review and since the names of doctrinal reviewers are not revealed in order to assure candidness and objectivity of review, the convention agreed to decline Overture 3-110 by adopting Res. 3-36 (*TB* 72). With the adoption of this resolution the work of the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations was completed.

Point of Privilege

A delegate was granted a point of privilege to make the following motion, "That we, as a church body and as individuals, declare that we do humbly ask for forgiveness from anyone who may have suffered hurt or pain as a result of our words or actions, at this convention or in the past, and that we do earnestly seek a God-pleasing reconciliation with anyone who is alienated from us, and in total reliance upon our heavenly Father, call upon Him to grant it." This motion was adopted by the convention.

Constitutional Matters

Chairman Schlecht of the Floor Committee on Constitutional Matters introduced Res. 5-24 (*TB* 114), Res. 5-28 (*TB* 116), Res. 5-31 (*TB* 116), Res. 5-32 (*TB* 117), Res. 5-33 (*TB* 117), Res. 5-34 (*TB* 117), Res. 5-35 (*TB* 117), Res. 5-36 (*TB* 118), Res. 5-37 (*TB* 118), and Res. 5-38 (*TB* 118), and asked that they be considered collectively since they all dealt with the declining of overtures which had been presented for convention consideration. A motion was made and adopted to consider all except Res. 5-32 (*TB* 117) in this manner. They were then adopted as presented by the floor committee. Resolution 5-24 (*TB* 114) declined Overture 5-101 (*CW* 199) since the functions of the Council of Presidents are adequately defined in applicable Bylaws pertaining to the Council of Presidents. Overtures calling for the requiring of loyalty on the part of officers and appointees of the Synod were declined since all synodical officials are expected to respect all resolutions of the Synod (Res. 5-28, *TB* 116). An overture calling for a 4-year limit on the effectiveness of resolutions adopted by a convention was declined because it would be impractical and cumbersome when applied to all resolutions (Res. 5-31, *TB* 116). Because the Constitution of the Synod sets the standards for membership and voting privileges in the Synod, Overture 5-63 (*CW* 190), which asked that voting privileges be given to ALC pastors serving LCMS congregations, was declined (Res. 5-33, *TB* 117). Overtures asking that laymen be made eligible for all

synodical offices were declined because our present system of electing synodical officials has proven to be beneficial and because the assignments of certain officials within the church call for a higher degree of theological competency, for which pastors are especially trained (Res. 5-34, *TB* 117). Because the situation presented in Overture 5-100 (*CW* 199) was no longer relevant, the delegates also agreed to decline this overture (Res. 5-35, *TB* 117). The convention also declined to consider an overture calling for the reorganization and redistricting of the Synod because the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure will be dealing with matters of this nature in presenting their report at the next convention (Res. 5-36, *TB* 118). The difficulty, expense, and time-consuming procedure involved caused the delegates to decline an overture which asked for ratification of convention resolutions by congregations (Res. 5-37, *TB* 118). Overture 5-111 (*CW* 204-205) was declined because concerns about the San Francisco Night Ministry of the California and Nevada District had been resolved (Res. 5-38, *TB* 118). After adopting these resolutions the delegates resumed consideration of Res. 5-32 (*TB* 117), on which action had not been completed in a previous session. After brief discussion they adopted the recommendation of the floor committee and agreed to decline to review the election procedures of the Anaheim convention.

Personal Privilege

Speaking on a point of personal privilege, a delegate was granted the permission to present a resolution declaring that all business of the floor committees (except for Committee 1) had been completed and that no resolution should be brought back to the floor for reconsideration. This resolution was adopted.

Registration and Credentials

Mrs. Catherine Burkhard, a member of the Convention Arrangements Committee, reported for the Committee on Credentials and Registration that 1,695 persons (corrected after audit) had been officially registered in addition to media and public relations persons: 562 voting pastoral delegates, 559 voting lay delegates, 65 advisory pastors, 133 advisory teachers, 288 official representatives, 42 youth, 13 special guests, 21 convention committee and staff members, 6 official observers, and 6 ad-hoc committee members.

Installation of Officers

Prior to the close of the convention, President Preus installed members of the boards who had been elected at the convention. The officers and Board of Directors of the Synod will be installed at a September service in St. Louis.

Minutes

The minutes of Sessions 11, 12, and 13 were approved as submitted.

Closing

After reading a section from Philippians 3, President Preus addressed the delegates, referring to the spirit of this convention as a positive, forward-looking one. He cited some of the actions which had been taken by the convention and encouraged the delegates to return home with joy and to seek to implement the resolutions which had been adopted, asking for the power and blessing of God upon their work. The convention was then adjourned by resolution of the delegates.

Walter Rosin, *Assistant Secretary*

Election Results



Reelected: First Vice-President Edwin Weber
and President J. A. O. Preus

<i>President</i>	Nominating Ballot (Congregations)	Election Ballot (1) (2)	
*J. A. O. Preus	1,625	544	596
Charles S. Mueller	277	279	330
Oswald C. Hoffmann	206	declined	
August Bernthal	142	80	38
Arnold G. Kuntz	128	declined	
Walter A. Maier Jr.	105	168	119
Guido A. Merckens	93	declined	
Edwin C. Weber	49	declined	
Karl L. Barth	33	declined	
Carl A. Heckmann	23	19	
August T. Mennicke	18		
L. Lloyd Behnken	17		
Wilbert E. Griesse	14		
Arthur H. Ziegler	12		
Emil G. Jaech	12		
Frederick A. Niedner	11		
Edmund H. Happel	11		
Ralph A. Bohlmann	7		
Richard L. Schlecht	6		
Robert C. Sauer	6		
John E. Ellermann	6		
Herman R. Frincke	6		
Richard J. Schultz	5		

	Nominating Ballot (Congregations)	Election Ballot (1)	Election Ballot (2)	Other Vice-Presidents	Nominating Ballot (1)	Election Ballot (2)
George Rode	5			Walter A. Maier Jr. (3) ...	592	609
W. Theophil Janzow	5			Guido Merckens (2)	562	719
Henry E. Simon	5 †			Charles Mueller	454	485
<i>First Vice-President</i>				August Bernthal	413	411
*Edwin C. Weber	1,173½	423	556	Robert Sauer (4)	304	488
Walter A. Maier	247	191	74	George Wollenburg (5) ...	299	455
Guido A. Merckens	225	declined		Carl Heckmann	253	18
Charles S. Mueller	188	327	391	Joseph Lavalais	122	354
August Bernthal	141½	46	22	Arnold Kuntz	113	13
Arnold G. Kuntz	138	declined		Karl Barth	99	22
Oswald C. Hoffmann	65	declined		Theo. Nickel	61	declined
Karl L. Barth	42	declined		Oswald Hoffmann	58	377
J. A. O. Preus	35	declined		Lloyd Behnken	57	214
Carl A. Heckmann	29	20		Richard Schlecht	54	
L. Lloyd Behnken	25			August Mennicke	46	
Wilbert E. Griesse	22			E. H. Happel	24	
Theodore F. Nickel	20			Arthur Ziegler	22	
Edmund H. Happel	19			Wilbert Griesse	21	
Henry E. Simon	16			Fredeck Niedner	16	
August T. Mennicke	16			Emil Jaech	15	
Arthur H. Ziegler	15			John Ellermann	13	
Herman C. Scherer	14			Ellis Nieting	10	
Emil G. Jaech	12			Oscar Gerken	7	
Richard L. Schlecht	12			W. Th. Janzow	7	
Frederick A. Niedner	10			Walter Zeile	7	
Walter L. Zeile	9			John Zimmermann	7	
Richard C. Dickinson	9			George Bornemann	6	
Robert C. Sauer	8			Richard Dickinson	6	
John E. Ellermann	8			Orval Oswald	6	
Herman R. Frincke	7			Henry Simon	6	
Richard T. Hinz	7					
Arlen J. Bruns	6					
George Rode	6					
Joseph G. Lavalais	5	39 ‡	14			
Edgar E. Barg	5					
George F. Wollenburg	5					
W. Theophil Janzow	5					
Harold E. Brockhoff	5					
Oswald A. Waech	5 †					

† Persons who received fewer than 5 nominating votes are listed in the *Convention Workbook*, page 434.

‡ Nominated by amendment from the floor.

The following received 5 votes: H. Frincke, M. Lieske, W. Meyer, H. Scherer

Four votes: G. Bornemann, A. Bruns, T. Raedeke, G. Rode, W. Sohns

Three votes: R. Fink, Schlecht, P. Zimmerman

Two votes: L. Biesenthal, H. Brockhoff, B. Clancy, H. Eggold, A. Geidel, R. Hinz, T. Koepke, A. Marcis, V. Marxhausen, C. Moeller (?), H. Mueller, Otte, C. Piazza, R. Preus, Roth, R. Schlutz (Schultz?), A. Stanfel

One vote: 58 individuals (as reported by the Elections Committee).

Following are the results of balloting for officers and boards of the Synod other than President and Vice-Presidents.

Individuals who were elected are indicated by means of an asterisk (*) to the left of the nominee's name.

	Vote		Vote
<i>Secretary</i>		<i>TEACHER</i>	
Valid ballots cast, 1,069		Valid ballots cast, 1,056	
Graudin, John E. (SE)	176	Holliday, Robert D. (SC)	422
*Mueller, Herbert A. (Mo)	893	*Ludwig, William E. (Mt)	634
<i>Treasurer</i>		<i>LAYPERSONS</i>	
Valid ballots cast, 1,069		Bernt, Charles (At)	395 251 368
Fincke, Eugene E. (CI)	472 437 441	Brugge, Vernon R. (MdS) ...	222 105
Plegge, Erwin (SI)	172 194	*Hirsch, Robert W. (SD)	703
*Sell, Norman (Mo)	288 395 461	*Olsen, Harold (CI)	462 392 523
Strieter, Fred (Tx)	130	Schmidt, Franklin (Mc)	142
<i>Board of Directors</i>		Schoknecht, Mark (Mt)	219 135
Valid ballots cast, 1,069		*Schultz, Lester W. (NW)	607
<i>PASTORS</i>		Snyder, Donald E. (Ea)	311 128
Gall, John (NE)	172	<i>Board for Church Extension</i>	
Gerken, Oscar (FG)	249	Valid ballots cast, 1,045	
*Koepchen, Henry (At)	585	<i>PASTOR</i>	
Krueger, Karl (FG)	174	*Hiller, Carl (CN)	643
Meyer, Virgil (Tx)	150	Kaminska, Clyde W. (At)	402
Ondov, Daniel J. (Neb)	213		
*Westcott, Edward A. (SC) ..	551		

TEACHER	Vote
*Hinrichs, Vance (Neb)	628
Kunkel, Jesse (Mo)	166
Zehnder, George (Tx)	244

LAYPERSONS

*Hahn, Rayburn (Tx)	611
*Mack, Paul W. (IW)	633
Pate, Vern J. (SC)	378
Seaberry, James J. (NI)	389

Board for Evangelism

Valid ballots cast, 1,056

PASTOR

*Graf, Arthur (Tx)	702
Nau, John (So)	354

TEACHER

Ford, Warren (NI)	104
Jiede, Edwin (FG)	275
*Wright, William R. (IW)	645

LAYPERSON

*Hartman, Evelyn H. (Nw) ...	670
Koehlinger, Gerhard E. (In) .	359

Board for Higher Education

Valid ballots cast, 1,050

PASTORS

Irsch, Ronald W. (Mc)	408	251
Mazak, Richard (Tx)	221	
*Moeller, Elmer J. (Co)	407	347 432
*Reimnitz, Charles A. (Neb) ..	569	
Wians, Herbert T. (En)	459	402 411

LAYPERSONS

Aho, Frederick (Ea)	367
*Brackebusch, Arthur P. (Mt) ..	579
*Czanderna, Alvin (Ea)	551
Kaiser, Herbert (Ks)	233
Schoer, Lowell (IE)	329

Board for Missions

Valid ballots cast, 1,063

PASTORS

Bangert, Martin (SW)	214	145
*Bertermann, Eugene (SC) ...	669	
Cloeter, O. H. (MnS)	256	206 238
Geidel, Arthur (At)	108	
Harms, Walter (Tx)	240	186 265
*Hunt, Peter (So)	523	500 500
*Lutz, Bernhard (MnS)	516	461 496
Meyer, Louis (NJ)	217	145
Otte, Gerald P. (Tx)	335	238 264
Perling, R. John (SC)	117	
*Sohns, Wilbert J. (CI)	624	
Wagner, Merlyn D. (CI)	256	128

TEACHER

Valid ballots cast, 999	
Bluma, George W. (Neb)	404
*Haas, Walter D. (SW)	596

LAYPERSONS

Grupe, Wayne (SE)	229
Harbeck, William J. (NI)	297
*Kayser, Walter W. (Mc)	564
*Rosin, Dorothy (SW)	663
Thurston, H. David (Ea)	276

Board of Appeals

Valid ballots cast, 1,053

PASTORS

Choitz, John (On)	297
*Hellman, Victor T. (SW)	586
*Krey, Matthias R. L. (On) ...	613
Mueller, B. G. (In)	469
Strohschein, Marcus T. (MnS)	403
*Wunderlich, Lorenz (Mo)	594

LAYPERSONS

*Bodenstab, Richard G. (NI) ..	646
Drung, Donald R. (FG)	367
Garber, Edward H. H. (SE) ..	400
*Ruff, Ronald A. (Neb)	634

*Concordia Publishing House**Board of Directors*

Valid ballots cast, 999

Barr, Harry (MdS)	305	284	273
Haeseler, William (Ea)	258	233	209
Hoffmeyer, John (Tx)	128		
*Jenkins, Marvin (MnS)	497	472	443
*Kaufmann, David (FG)	469	475	447
*Kuhlmann, Fred L. (Mo)	676		
Langholz, Gilbert C. (Tx)	261	228	182
Larsen, Rolf E. (Tx)	229	168	134
Wilson, Raymond (In)	189	133	

Board of Parish Education

Valid ballots cast, 1,051

PASTORS

*Brandt, Maynard (Mo)	616
Giessler, Phillip (On)	262
Lobien, George F. (SE)	264
Koeppen, Robert D. (NI)	333
*Mueller, Raymond A. (Mo) ..	569

TEACHER

Bergt, Harold M. (Neb)	423
*Richert, Fay R. (In)	604

LAYPERSONS

Valid ballots cast, 1,051			
Devane, Lenchen C. (En)	330	312	294
*Guess, Roy (Wy)	423	429	461
Krohn, Glen (Neb)	203	225	
McCants, John (In)	122		
*Price, James E. (Mo)	488	489	477
Williams, Judy (Mt)	471	479	451

Board of Stewardship

Valid ballots cast, 1,053

PASTOR

Kavasch, Robert W. (Mc)	355	449
*Keturakat, Charles W. (CN) .	471	554
Meyer, William F. (Tx)	243	

TEACHER

Baden, Thomas W. (In)	440
*Demske, Robert M. (In)	579

LAYPERSONS

Drews, Hilbert (SW)	458
*Meyer, Vincent L. (SW)	536
*Saxton, John W. (IW)	564
Schroeder, F. G. (CN)	469

Board of Youth Ministry

Valid ballots cast, 977

SYNODICAL SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Grove, Richard (Mo)	385
*Marxhausen, Benjamin (MnS)	593

TEACHER

Brill, Paul G. (Ks)	477
*Karpenko, William O. (Neb) .	509

LAYPERSON

Peterson, Lawrence (Mc)	409
*Schoepp, Mark (AB)	602

YOUNG PEOPLE		Vote						
Valid ballots cast, 1,026								
*Bond, Deanna (IE)	411	334	304	398	423	422	†	
*Darkow, Jennifer (Tx)	681							
*Fuchs, Steven (Mo)	536							
*Krueger, Rickie (Co)	411	366	369	418	445	550		
Lange, Steven (Mo)	344	224	201	263	286			
*Marcis, Timothy (Oh)	581							
McRae, Karen K. (Ks)	335	205	246	306	299	339		
Muehlfelt, Jill A. (Ks)	298	142						
Rosenbusch, Teckla (Mc)	244							
Schurb, Ken (So)	416	301	303	354	337	380		
Thomack, David A. (MdS)	296	151	134					
Weismantel, Dennis L. (SD)	362	201	198	222				

Commission of Adjudication

Valid ballots cast, 1,058

PASTORS		Vote	
Hess, Robert M. (NI)	424		
*Sauls, Ottis L. (En)	629		
*Klages, Cecil A. (Mc)	582		
Smith, Harry D. (MdS)	412		

LAYPERSONS		Vote	
Bartley, Richard E. (Tx)	391		
*Blessing, Alfred (Neb)	531		
*Tesch, Walter F. (SW)	638		
Urbom, Ward C. (Neb)	487		

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

PARISH PASTOR				
Valid ballots cast, 1,030				
Beck, Hubert (Tx)	48			
Bornmann, Carl L. (Mc)	204	250		
Bretscher, Paul G. (In)	167	262	332	
Fritz, John (Tx)	72			
Haner, Jim (Tx)	10			
*Moellering, H. Armin (En)	454	481	549	
Secker, Philip J. (NE)	34			
Steinke, Peter (Tx)	42			

TEACHER		Vote	
*Erdman, Marvin (MnS)	677		
Reinker, Kenneth (Neb)	353		

LAYPERSON		Vote	
Hoegemeyer, Gilbert (Neb)	345		
*Tanger, Philip J. (In)	672		

Committee for Convention Nominations

Valid ballots cast, 1,062

PASTORS		#					
Bachert, Alan (MdS)	186	143					
*Beachboard, A. Kenneth (SE)	503	496	443	483	491		
*Bek, Edwin C. (SW)	498	483	421	458	468	424	‡
Bruning, Alton (NE)	280	252	183	205	218	180	
*Caspersen, David A. (Neb)	509	474	429	462	451	421	‡
Fink, Ronald (At)	292	304	231	322	305	260	
Froehlich, Ronald (NE)	206	176	115				
Geidel, Arthur (At)	135	131					
Joechel, David (Tx)	212	205	175	230	225	184	
*Krentz, Eugene L. (Mc)	565	556					
Krueger, Harold O. (NI)	280	254	174	230	213	185	
*Laesch, Norman T. (En)	554	555					
Lutze, John E. (Wy)	275	229	180	239	218	166	
Nelsen, Louis E., Jr. (So)	167	150					
*Nieting, Ellis (IW)	570	562					
Nitz, Carl F. (Nw)	291	296	166	208	203		
Pabor, Louis (Tx)	154	116					

#Since the name of Bert Streufert had been omitted by mistake on the ballot, the first ballot was ruled invalid.

† See Minutes of Session 16.

PASTORS (cont.)		Vote						
Valid ballots cast, 1,008								
Prange, Rudolph (Mo)	267	240	139	180				
*Pullmann, Albert G. (Mt)	519	474	402	431	427	417	‡	
Ramming, Albert G. (Tx)	239	168	115					
Robinson, Dewitt (MdS)	385	270	197	260	243	216		
Streufert, Bert (MnS)	—	263	179	222	213	184		

TEACHERS	
Valid ballots cast, 1,008	
Fuchs, Arthur H. (MnS)	377
*Heine, Gilbert R. (Neb)	650
*Herbst, H. Allen (CI)	552
Royuk, Ronald J. (MdS)	272
Sohn, Lawrence E. (SW)	413
*Zilz, Melvin L. (In)	623

LAYPERSONS	
Valid ballots cast, 1,022	
*Daniels, John (On)	650
*Egger, Carl T. (IE)	630
Evans, Paul G. (Tx)	354
Farley, Hilton A. (Oh)	338
*Fickenscher, Ralph M. (CN) ..	565
Freudenstein, John W. (NE) ..	334
*Haluska, Lud (CI)	552
Lampton, Edward E. (Nw) ..	300
Sauerteig, Ruth (En)	398
*Shepherd, Frederick W. (Co) ..	639

Board of Control—Ann Arbor

Valid ballots cast, 991

PASTOR		Vote	
*Bernthal, Richard H. (Mc)	684		
Halboth, Victor F., Jr. (En)	306		

LAYPERSONS		Vote	
*Benz, Edwin A. (In)	605		
Braun, Vincent C. (Oh)	322		
Rickus, Richard H. (Mc)	332		
*Staubit, Edward P. (Oh)	637		

Board of Control—Austin

Valid ballots cast, 979

PASTOR		Vote	
Dube, Walter A. (Tx)	211		
Ellwanger, John (Tx)	203		
*Graf, Herbert (Tx)	560		

LAYPERSON		Vote	
Crofford, William L. (Tx)	305		
*Malzahn, Ray A. (Tx)	641		

Board of Control—Bronxville

Valid ballots cast, 987

PASTORS				
*Bahr, Albert W. (Ea)	645			
Crook, Norris C. (En)	246	221	197	
*Pflug, Ernest R. (At)	445	437	455	
Roth, Delbert R. (SE)	265	205	223	
Skov, Richard (NE)	140			
White, Laurence L. (Ea)	175	112		

LAYPERSON				
Koch, William B. (Ea)	206	248		
Kollmann, Herbert (At)	105			
*Olsen, Thomas (NJ)	369	402	465	
Poch, Donald R. (SE)	215	300	406	
Yurksaitis, Vincent J. (NE)	77			

Board of Control—Ft. Wayne

Valid ballots cast, 1,008

PASTOR		Vote	
Gilstad, Kenneth (NE)	181		
*Maas, Walter C. (In)	631		
Skibbe, Cecil H. (In)	197		

	Vote
TEACHER	
Gemmer, David L. (In)	324
*Kaiser, Roy (Mc)	671

LAYPERSONS	
*Ebeling, David G. (In)	585
Heikowsky, Edgar (In)	284
Meints, Clifford (IW)	422
*Reinking, Ronald L. (In)	633

Board of Control—Concordia, Mo.

Valid ballots cast, 979

PASTOR	
*Heilman, Carl (Mo)	619
Mueller, Walter F. (IW)	325

LAYPERSON	
*Alewel, Roger (Mo)	551
Hellwig, George (Mo)	391

Board of Control—Edmonton

Valid ballots cast, 956

PASTOR	
Schoepp, Walter F. (AB)	416
*Unterschultz, Don E. (AB) ..	538

LAYPERSON	
*Otker, Paul G. (AB)	562
Schmidt, Sylvia R. (AB)	382

Board of Control—Milwaukee

Valid ballots cast, 979

PASTOR	
Koch, David V. (SW)	193
Musser, Richard P. (SW)	224
*Wallschlaeger, David P. (SW) ..	551

LAYPERSONS	
Beilke, Richard W. (SW)	381
*Bordeleau, Leo A. (SW)	572
*Fairbert, Gordon R. (SW)	613
Kalnes, Rasmus (SW)	284

Board of Control—Oakland

Valid ballots cast, 951

PASTOR	
Werfelmann, Martin H. (CN) ..	352
*Wolkenhauer, Richard H. (CN) ..	599

TEACHER	
Adams, Forrest E. (CN)	253
*Hafner, Carl W. (CN)	686

LAYPERSON	
Brohm, Adeline B. (CN)	398
*Kemmerle, Arnold F. (CN) ..	549

Board of Control—Portland

Valid ballots cast, 956

PASTOR	
*Anderson, Walter A. (NW) ..	628
Leder, Ronald L. (NW)	309

LAYPERSONS	
Bosch, Burton O. (Mt)	372
Misterek, Leon (NW)	355
*Rummel, George (Mt)	546
*Schwartz, Edward H. (NW) ..	553

Board of Control—River Forest

Valid ballots cast, 1,001

PASTOR	
Beiderwieden, George (CI) ...	359
*Krueger, Harold (NI)	641

	Vote
TEACHER	
Jording, David (SW)	327
*Stoppenhagen, Arnold C. (Mc) ..	665

LAYPERSONS	
*Brauer, Ralph (NI)	631
Engel, Leroy (NI)	324
*Haar, James R. (SD)	624
Luders, Clifford F. (Ea)	341
*Mathews, Henry J. (NI)	502
Meinke, Darrell M. (MnN) ...	459

Board of Control—St. Louis

Valid ballots cast, 1,032

PASTOR	
Burgdorf, Lawrence A. (Mo) .	461
*Otto, Ewald J. (CI)	571

TEACHER	
Dobberfuhr, Walter (SW)	429
*Schroeder, Leland P. (Neb) ..	586

LAYPERSONS	
*Burmeister, Charles H. (Mo) .	669
Koschmann, Arnold H. (Co) .	401
McKay, B.P. (MdS)	340
*Narjes, Alvin (Wy)	564
*Rauscher, Ray C. (Mo)	588
Rinderknecht, Norman K. (In)	384

Board of Control—

St. Paul, Minn.

Valid ballots cast, 979

PASTOR	
MacLachlan, Neal F. (MnN) .	309
*Pfotenhauer, Paul J. (MnS) .	670

LAYPERSONS	
Dunn, Wallace (NW)	260
*Harms, John S. (MnS)	701

Board of Control—Selma

Valid ballots cast, 991

PASTOR	
Davis, Warren H. (So)	366
*Dominick, Albert (So)	603

LAYPERSONS	
Floyd, Ulysses (FG)	327
Goerss, Katherine V. (So) ...	411
*Lehman, Paul D. (SC)	594
*Pellegrin, Jack E. (So)	555

Board of Control—Seward

Valid ballots cast, 980

PASTOR	
Schauland, Helmut H. (IW) .	337
*Stelzer, Harold T. (SW)	643

TEACHER	
*Herring, Louis (In)	609
Wuensch, Elmer L. (NI)	369

LAYPERSONS	
*Bauer, Donald (Neb)	541
Brashear II, Kermit A. (Neb) ..	177
Renzelman, Alfred W. (Co) ..	363
*Stauffer, Richard R. (Neb) ...	538
Toeppen, Del (Neb)	311

Board of Control—Winfield

Valid ballots cast, 956

PASTOR	
*Bredehoft, John (Co)	606
Goodsman, Ronald H. (IW) ..	350

	Vote
TEACHER	
*Kent, Thomas G. (Ks)	608
Pitsch, Leland (Ks)	335
LAYPERSON	
Brown, Kenneth L. (Ks)	379
*Knocke, Erwin (Ks)	564
<i>Board of Control—Argentina</i>	
Valid ballots cast, 840	
PASTORS	
Eisner, Arturo (Arg)	471
*Elseser, Oscar W. (Arg)	547
*Groh, Juan (Arg.)	500
LAYPERSONS	
Grams, Luis (Arg)	319
*Haller, Samuel (Arg)	433
*Kroh, Jose (Arg)	457
Mohr, Jacobo (Arg)	390
<i>Board of Control—</i>	
<i>Porto Alegre, Brazil</i>	
Valid ballots cast, 849	
PASTOR	
*Becker, Ruben E. (Braz)	599
Horsch, Hans (Braz)	250
LAYPERSONS	
*DeOliveira, Antonio (Braz) ..	536
*Engel, Johannes (Braz)	580
Grams, Sigbert (Braz)	392
*Kaminski, Emilio (Braz)	552
Klein, Mario (Braz)	427
<i>Board of Control—</i>	
<i>Sao Leopoldo, Brazil</i>	
Valid ballots cast, 869	
PASTOR	
*Flor, David J. (Braz)	518
Heine, Norberto E. (Braz) ...	345
TEACHER	
*Raschke, Paulo (Braz)	549
Weber, Arlindo Arno (Braz) .	328
LAYPERSONS	
Jost, Geraldo (Braz)	393 411
*Klein, Werner (Braz)	510
Reith, Ari (Braz)	339
*Warth, Walter (Braz)	415 483

Special Standing Rules

(These rules were adopted in the first session.)

1. The President shall present in *Today's Business* the agenda of business to come before the convention in the sessions of that day, and the approximate time slots. The chair shall see that this agenda is followed as closely as possible.
2. Resolutions of each floor committee shall be prioritized by number and shall normally be presented in the numerical sequence published in *Today's Business*.
3. Each member of the convention, when recognized

- by the chair, shall state his name. He shall also state the name of his District or of the administrative unit (board, faculty) he represents.
4. The 2-minute rule shall apply for all who speak from the floor.
5. While any voting delegate may call the question at any time, after every 30 minutes of debate on any one motion there shall be an automatic call of the question by the chair.*
6. Instead of only a voice vote on motions before the convention, the chair shall ordinarily also call for the raising of the right hand.
7. If a substitute motion is offered, the convention shall first decide by majority vote whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is adopted, the original motion falls; if the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again before the house. (This is the so-called "Behnken rule" for dealing with substitute motions.)
8. Questions of privilege shall be addressed in writing to the chair, or its appointee, instead of consuming convention time.
9. In the sessions of the last 2 days the President shall have the privilege of calling up for action resolutions which in his judgment must be acted upon by the convention before adjournment.
10. Resolutions prepared by the floor committee which are not acted upon by the convention before adjournment die. The subject matter may be reintroduced at the next convention by means of an overture.
11. Minutes shall be distributed every morning in *Today's Business*. The first item of business in the afternoon session shall be the formal approval of these minutes. However, at that time only corrections involving convention action shall be offered from the floor for consideration. Simple editorial corrections involving, for example, misspelling of names and faulty titles and references shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary for incorporation in the minutes after verification. (This standing rule was introduced during the Milwaukee convention and has been in use since.)
12. The preface, preambles, and whereas sections shall be considered an integral part of the resolution, overture, and/or memorial, and as such subject to the same serious consideration and adoption in all its parts as the main motion itself.
13. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by *Roberts Rules of Order*, newly revised (1970 edition).

* In Session 11 this rule was amended "to limit debate on each resolution to 30 minutes rather than to grant 30 minutes of debate for each amendment which is proposed as well as for the main resolution."

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dearly Beloved in Christ:

Our theme is "That We May Grow" from Peter's first epistle. We shall be considering this letter in our essay. For our devotion this evening let us consider the opening verses of this great letter to the church.

Text: 1 Peter 1:1-2 (NASB)

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.

In a single sentence, the apostle reminds his hearers of what kind of people they are and why they are such people. On the one hand, they are God's elect; on the other, aliens or foreigners, scattered throughout five provinces in Asia Minor. They are chosen by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit. They did not choose God; He chose them. The purpose for this is to set them apart that they may obey His will as revealed in Jesus Christ. Also, that they may be restored to obedience when they fail, through the election of the Father, the atoning sacrifice of the Son, whose blood cleanses from all sin, and the sanctification of the Holy Spirit.

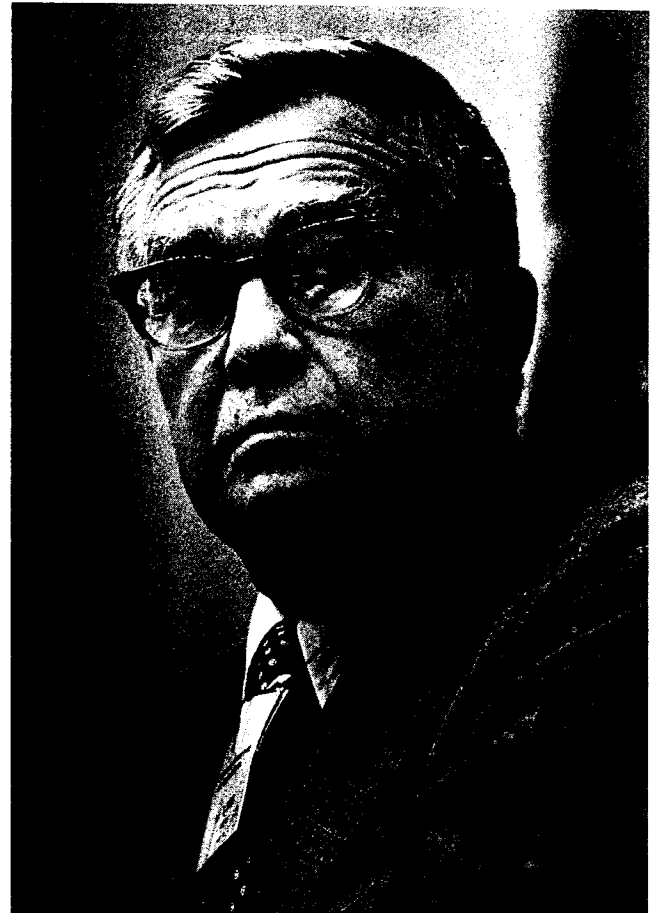
Certainly this also applies to all of God's people everywhere and throughout the ages. And it has special meaning for us who are gathered here to assist the almost three million members of congregations in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to rejoice in our election and salvation, to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ into all the world (Mark 16:15).

I. Strangers, Not Natives

One of the questions we had to answer when registering at our hotels was: "How long will you be staying?" While we can give a reasonably correct answer to the clerk, the question of how much time each of us has left on earth only God can answer. It is because of our limited time in this earthly pilgrimage that we want to set our priorities in order. Some things in life are very important, and many more things are not. Jesus directs us to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all lesser necessities will be given to us as well (Matthew 6:33). Heaven, the communion of saints, and the righteousness of Christ, which is ours by faith in Him, come first. Jesus reminds Martha, who is busy with many projects, that one thing is needful (Luke 10:41-44).

Paul counsels us that since we have been raised up with Christ, we should keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God, and set our minds on things above, not on things that are on earth (Col. 3:1-2), for our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20).

This does not call for an irresponsible otherworldliness which ignores the daily needs of ourselves and those around us. Instead it moves us to put our faith into action and strengthen our concern for



President J. A. O. Preus

those who know not Christ and for those who suffer from hunger, sickness, imprisonment, and a lack of knowledge which prevents them from coping with the problems of day-to-day existence.

Also here at Dallas we will want to take care of necessary matters first. Quite obviously certain issues call for immediate attention and action. While all of the proposed resolutions are in some way related to the kingdom of Christ, we do not have the time to spend debating everything. After a fair amount of discussion of the crucial issues, let us pray that our decisions will be made in accord with God's Word, that they will edify the church and therefore be God-pleasing.

II. Chosen to Obey

Peter directs his readers to holiness of living. They have been chosen and destined, actually *fore*-chosen and *pre*-destined to come to faith and to obey God's commandments. In this connection there is the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. These two related matters bring to mind another chosen people who were called to be different. The 24th chapter of Exodus tells of the people hearing the Word and promises of God and

promising to obey Him. Then Moses takes the blood of the sacrificial peace offerings and sprinkles it on the people (24:7-8). This depicts the ongoing life of the chosen. Having received Christ as Savior, they desire to do His will. Failing this at times, they find comfort in their election of grace and in forgiveness of sin merited by Jesus Christ on the cross. Here is the struggle of the chosen. With Paul they admit failure: "For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind. . . . Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! . . . There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 7:22-25; 8:1).

Even though we know we can never arrive at a state of perfection here below, either in purity of life or in carrying out the Great Commission and all that is implied, yet we need not despair, for our feeblest efforts, begun, continued, and completed in the name of Jesus Christ and to the glory of God the Father, will result in spiritual victories. Our Lord has promised us that His Word will not return to Him void but will accomplish His purposes and prosper in that for which it was sent (Is. 55:11). Simply stated, regardless of the enormity of the task, despite the obstacles which Satan, the world, and our sinful flesh daily set before us, we shall succeed. God does not ask for results. This is His responsibility and not ours. He only asks for faithfulness and willing obedience.

III. Too Little, Too Few

Consider for a moment the miraculous catch of fish recorded in the fifth chapter of Luke's gospel. First comes the challenge from Christ: "Put out into the deep water, and let down your nets for a catch." Next the picture as it appeared to men: "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing." Then the pledge of obedience: "Nevertheless, at Your bidding we will let down the nets." Jesus would take it from there. He always does. Or consider the feeding of the 5,000. They knew that five barley loaves and two small fishes could not feed 5,000. But they acted in faith, and our Lord did the rest.

But now as we consider the work to be done during the coming seven days, let us also be sensitive to the reasons why the work of the Kingdom in our beloved Synod has not been more effective.

By this time it is a known fact that all too many in our church body have very little knowledge about the work which 6,200 congregations have banded together to

carry out. Because of this, support has gradually waned, and our Synod faces a serious financial problem. What a tragedy it would be if at a time when the challenge and opportunities are greater than ever before we would be forced to make drastic reductions in missions and in preparing church workers! I hope that every delegate would regard himself or herself as chosen in a very special sense. You can do so much, not only during the convention but after we adjourn, if you go home with the story. Hold a circuit meeting, or better yet, arrange to meet with every congregation in the circuit you represent, so that you may share the challenge and the need. The Lord will do the rest.

Frequently we wonder what can be done when we come from a corner of the Kingdom where we are definitely in a minority. The sprawling cities, the collapsed downtown areas, the vast miles of emptiness in the West, not to mention the startling growth of sects and cults everywhere in our country, can frustrate even the most optimistic. But it has always been so. These difficulties are not new; in every age God's people are confronted with similar challenges and problems.

Even so the Holy Spirit, who leads us to truth (John 16:13) and who adds to the church daily those who are being saved (Acts 2:47), will not let us down. It is significant that in these few verses we have selected for our meditation the three Persons of the Godhead are mentioned in active roles. Someone has said that the Holy Trinity is here presented as "God in His working clothes."

It is because God is at work within us and able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think (Eph. 3:20) that we can take up the tasks with confidence. Peter closes his brief introduction with the assurance that grace and peace will be ours in a multitude of ways.

Peter in his second epistle exhorts the chosen with a reminder that "according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13). Until that is a reality, He commends us His chosen ones to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). Let us, the chosen, therefore now rededicate ourselves to growing and sharing and to giving God the glory, both during these convention days and throughout the rest of our earthly journey. Let us show our faith, our hope, and our love in all our words, our decisions, and our actions. Let us show patience, understanding, compassion in our dealings with our brothers and sisters here gathered. Let us learn that by patient continuance in well-doing "we shall do His will, hallow His name, and cause His kingdom to come."

J.A.O. Preus, D.D.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Part I)

(This year Part I was read to the joint meeting of the floor committees. Part II was read to the convention.)

I. Introduction

In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, I greet you and welcome you, members of the floor committees of the 52nd regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. I'm grateful that you have accepted the invitation to sacrifice these days and have come together to assist your 2.8 million brothers and sisters in Christ in carrying out the Lord's work.

At this particular time in the history of our Synod we may well be reminded of the words of our Lord Jesus to the angel of the church in Philadelphia:

See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept My Word and have not denied My name (Rev. 3:8).

The open door mentioned here no doubt referred to the great mission opportunity especially among the Jews in the Philadelphia area. Needless to say, the same Lord ever calls His church to meet the challenge of open doors—opportunities to enter mission fields, to minister to the sick, the hungry, the imprisoned, to get God's people involved in a more intensive and extensive study of His Word. To accomplish this, as the text says, we have little strength. From a human point of view the tasks before us are too great. But our God, who gave us the challenge, will also supply our every need. By His grace we have kept His Word. Let us show the same eagerness also to *share* His Word, so that the church will move ahead confident that He will also bless all such efforts done and completed in the name of Jesus Christ.

Now to the business at hand.

II. Our Task

Doctor Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, will be speaking to you shortly relative to the precise duties of floor committees and the way in which they are to carry out their work. I would like to speak about the attitude with which we should approach our task, as well as make reference to what I regard to be very important issues.

The 300 delegates here gathered make up about 20 percent of the total number of delegates to the convention. In view of the fact that among these 300 there are members of the Board of Directors, members of the Praesidium, District Presidents, secretaries, members of various boards and commissions at both synodical and District levels, we have a high-level degree of leadership in attendance. All of the delegates here are in positions of leadership in that they have been elected by their circuit, District, or synodical board to give guidance to the convention in making wise and prudent decisions on a host of subjects covering every aspect of the work of our church.

Therefore we must approach our task as members of floor committees with a deep sense of humility before our

heavenly Father, who looks to us to render an accounting of our stewardship. We are gathered here as His children, redeemed in the blood of His Son and commissioned to go into all the world to bring the Gospel to every creature. We are churchmen. We are people to whom great responsibility has been entrusted on the part of the nearly three million Lutherans from every state in the Union and virtually all of the provinces of Canada.

Therefore we must approach this task with prayer, with a deep sense of gratitude to God for giving us the opportunity to serve Him in mission and ministry, with a sense of concern for all parts of the church and all aspects of the church's work and life. We are not here as partisans, as members of political factions, as people with individual axes to grind, or as people who are motivated by anything other than the highest ideals and goals which the Holy Spirit can implant in the hearts of the followers and brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I hope that in approaching your task you will always ask the question of yourselves individually and of your committee as to whether the resolution you are proposing is God-pleasing, gives glory to His name, is helpful to the whole church, is of benefit to the home congregation, the District, and the Synod at large.

A convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is unique in that we are not here representing only a District, a circuit, or even a congregation. Rather we are chosen as representatives of a particular part of the Synod and thus must be interested in all of the Synod and all of its work as we pursue our duties.

I would also like to call your attention to the recent research which was conducted by the Board of Directors. The results have been made known far and wide throughout the Synod and have been supplied to you. While every page of this report is of great interest, there are certain points that come from the so-called Charron Report which ought to give us some cause for concern and also to help us in our thinking.

1. The research indicates that our lay people generally lack knowledge of the programs of the Synod. There are many ways to interpret this. Some would simply say our people are indifferent and apathetic. Others might say that the synodical and District boards and commissions have done a poor job of communicating. Others would say that the pastors, who the report shows possess a great deal of information themselves, have not been sharing it with their people. It is also possible that the people have not been listening. Still others might say all this indicates a high level of trust on the part of our laity in that they are satisfied with the way the church is run. Therefore they do not bother to ask themselves all kinds of questions as to

precisely how the outreach of the Missouri Synod is taking place.

The fact remains, however, that there is a great deal of lack of information, and it seems axiomatic that the more information people have about the work of the church the more likely they are to take a deeper interest in it and support it. Therefore one aim of the convention, and something that ought to be a matter of continuous concern and commitment, must be that we do a better job of informing our people about all of the programs which the Synod is performing on their behalf. The Synod needs to be responsive to the desires of its people, and it is only through continuing two-way communication that the needs of our members can be met.

2. The research pertaining to the laity demonstrates the fact that the laity is interested in programs that deal with their immediate needs. For example, the lay people are interested in social ministry to a surprisingly high degree, and yet this should not really be a surprise because we ought to be interested in our old people, in the poor, and the sick. This is really more a compliment to our people than anything else, but it does demonstrate the fact that perhaps we also need to be alerting our people more to other aspects of the church's work. The great interest in youth programs bears out the assertion that people tend to be most concerned with what lies closest to them. This is good. But they also need to be encouraged to lift their eyes also to more distant horizons.

3. The survey certainly indicates that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is a strong and stable group. Our people are far less mobile than the average population. Our people are family and congregation centered. The divorce rate is far lower than among the rank and file of American people. There is a great willingness on their part to help the church and a firm belief that the church is important and relevant. The statements made by lay people when asked to express their own opinions indicated that in all cases they are actively interested in the church, and the critical statements are constructive rather than just negative.

Now to the *Workbook* itself. First of all, some comments on the reports of all the boards, commissions, and committees of the Synod. Undoubtedly you have already studied these carefully, but I hope that you will give them even more careful study as you prepare proper recommendations for the convention. These recommendations will guide the direction of the Synod in many areas in the biennium and in the years ahead. Note that many of the boards present recommendations, and certainly these should be given very careful and serious consideration as you deliberate.

It is not my desire to tell the floor committees how to react to these reports or to the overtures which have been submitted by various congregations and other groups. In discussing these matters I merely want to highlight a few points and call to your attention some areas where I might possibly be of some help to you. Obviously the decisions are in the hands of the Synod itself, and the work of both the officers of the Synod, as well as the floor committees, is merely to try to give guidance and help in working through the enormous mass of materials which

faces the convention.

I will not speak on the work of every committee but will simply try to highlight some of the challenges and problems facing us.

Under Committee 2, Missions and Evangelism, I want to stress the fact that the work of the Christian church is to carry out the Great Commission which our Lord Jesus Christ gave to us. It is our joy and privilege to bear witness to our Lord Jesus Christ in our families, our congregations, our communities, our Districts, our Synod, and throughout the world.

One of the most disturbing features of the Charron Report is that among our lay people only 38 percent indicated that they felt the worldwide outreach of the church should receive maximum financial support. There are four billion people in the world today, and it is anticipated that by the end of the century that number will be eight billion. Christ died for every one of them, and we, who constitute today one billion, or one fourth of the world's population, have the joyous privilege of bearing witness to our Lord Jesus to all of them. With the technical advances of radio, television, swift transportation, and enormous wealth, we are in a position to do some great things if we will but heed the admonition and commission of our Lord.

Therefore I hope that the floor committee on Missions and Evangelism will note that many of these overtures are supportive and positive and attempt in every way to give direction and guidance to the Synod, its Board of Missions, and its Board for Evangelism in a way which will make us truly a mission church, a church which is vitally concerned about sharing the Gospel with all people.

In the area of Theology and Church Relations we enter into areas which have many thorny and difficult problems. As a church we have been known and are still known as people who are vitally concerned that the Word of God be preached in its truth and purity, that the entire program be based upon God's holy, inspired, inerrant, and powerful Word. The Word brings the church into being, and the Word is truly our rule and norm for faith and life in all of the activities that we carry on. We cannot yield one jot or tittle of God's holy Word. And the Word is the means for carrying out our mission. It is all we have. It is all we need.

We have emerged from a serious doctrinal controversy, in which we are probably the only Christian church in America and probably the only Lutheran Church in the world which seriously and earnestly confronted the issues raised by modern historical-critical methods of Biblical interpretation and honestly and forthrightly dealt with them.

I believe I am safe in saying that this controversy at the synodical level, in our colleges and seminaries, and in general throughout the Synod is behind us. We need to be vigilant, but we do not need to become heresy hunters or carping critics. We need to learn not only how to preserve the doctrine but also how to present it in a winsome way and to utilize it for the edification of Christ's holy people.

The strength of our beloved Synod has always been a unique blend of concern for a pure doctrine which has

brought about our strong confessional stance, coupled with the overwhelming desire to carry out the Great Commission. This unique blend has naturally resulted in tensions and even major controversies during the 130 years of our existence as a church body. But we have always resisted extreme swings of the pendulum that has enabled us to work together. In recent years we have spent a great deal of time combating an attempt to swing our doctrinal stance away from our historic position. That issue, for the most part, is now past. Our present concern should be directed to preventing a swing too far in the other direction, which could easily happen as an overreaction to recent events but might be just as damaging to our mission and the overall work of Christ's church.

Therefore I would hope that the resolutions presented by Committee 3 will be positive and helpful and edifying rather than productive of more conflict and more controversy. I want to commend the Commission on Theology and Church Relations for the vast amount of work they have done and commend to the people of the Synod for their careful study the material which they have produced.

Perhaps the most important resolution passed at our 1975 convention was the one entitled "To Seek Unity," which called for the development of theological study materials. From this directive the theme "That We May Grow," based on 1 Peter 2:2, was selected. This resulted and is resulting in the preparation of eight Bible studies and four studies based upon the Lutheran Confessions, including the Formula of Concord, the Large Catechism, the Augsburg Confession, and selected doctrines. Beginning in September, this material will be made available during the next two years.

This effort has already involved many of the Synod's boards and commissions, which itself was an exercise in concord. There will be something for everyone. In addition to the congregation study materials, there will be a convocation for professional theologians, pastor and teacher conferences, special worship services, and a wide variety of events and activities in connection with this, the 400th-anniversary year of the Formula of Concord.

I heartily endorse the recommendation of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations "that the Synod in convention urgently request the congregations, pastors, and teachers of the Synod to support the studies and programs in 'That We May Grow' in the strongest possible way with their prayers and participation." I would hope that the committee regards this matter as a priority item.

Another important issue which needs a great deal of study by the committee has to do with decisions relative to the proposed *Lutheran Book of Worship*. The delegates will recall the production of this hymnbook was originally proposed by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at its convention in 1965. Work has moved forward for the past twelve years. The question facing us now is: Are we ready at this time to accept the proposed hymnbook?

More and more it appears that others who are involved in the production of the hymnal, including a

significant number of individuals in The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America, had some second thoughts concerning its content and the advisability of publishing the materials which have been presented. For example, while the Lutheran Church in America, in its 1976 convention, adopted in principle the *Lutheran Book of Worship*, its executive council will not be acting on the materials until its September meeting. I understand that if the Council cannot act on the worship materials at that time the matter will go to the 1978 LCA convention.

In commenting on the present *Service Book and Hymnal* used by the ALC and LCA, and the proposed *Liturgical Texts* of the new *Lutheran Book of Worship*, Doctor William Rusch of the Division of Theological Studies of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. and a member of the LCA, in a rather comprehensive study of the worship materials makes these statements:

The differences between the *Service Book and Hymnal* and *Liturgical Texts* are simply not that great, especially if a number of "may" rubrics is employed. In fact, if "may" rubrics are utilized at crucial points, virtually every area which some have viewed as a betrayal of the Lutheran position of justification by grace can be avoided. However, it is precisely at this point of elasticity that the greatest weakness of *Liturgical Texts* can appear. While some rubrics and texts can be used to get a rite close to *Service Book and Hymnal*, other rubrics can yield a rite that reveals a number of disparities from the tradition of the *common service* and *Service Book and Hymnal*. Do all the options allowed in the *Liturgical Texts* develop from a consistent theology, or are some of the alternatives in the material theologically incompatible? These are not easy questions to be answered, but they must be answered before the new book is published.

I am sure that a great many of our people are desirous of a new *Book of Worship*. But I have the feeling that the great majority of our people want the assurance that the worship material, both in the liturgical areas and in the hymns, is doctrinally sound. Therefore I have cautioned that perhaps the best course would be one of some delay. I am not advocating withdrawing from the project, nor am I in any way criticizing the work of our Commission on Worship, but on a matter as important as this I think we ought to be very certain that everything is doctrinally sound and that the greatest possible number of concerns have been dealt with. Our Commission on Worship and our doctrinal reviewers are continuing to monitor this matter, and there will be an update at the time of the convention.

Therefore, if this uncertainty exists even outside our church, would we of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod not be well advised also to delay acceptance until the final form has received widespread distribution and careful study?

Another knotty problem that faces us is the matter of continued fellowship with The American Lutheran Church. I will not rehearse the history of all of this, since it is in the *Workbook* for your study, but it does seem to me that, as our Commission on Fellowship with The American Lutheran Church and our Commission on Theology and Church Relations wrestled with the options facing us, the recommendation of the CTCR is probably the best positive proposal that can be adopted. Some favor the continuation of ALC fellowship. Some

have opposed it and continue to oppose it on the grounds of new developments which have taken place and have added to our doctrinal difficulty.

On the other hand, the vast majority of LCMS and ALC people are not really well informed on the issue. As a way of pointing out the dilemma which we face, I would like to read to you from a letter sent me by a pastor in a District which is considered perhaps to the left of center by many people:

I am sure you wish to hear from as many of the brethren as possible on the decisive issues that face us at Dallas. I wish to share one such concern with you—the question of fellowship with the ALC. Time and events have shown that we are not one in doctrine, and it seems we are drifting further apart. For my part, I originally supported, promoted, and voted for that fellowship. It is sad for me to see the theological gulf that widens between us.

However, I request you to urge our Synod in convention to continue this fellowship for a very practical reason—our laymen. The disruption of fellowship at this time, I fear, would have repercussions among our people, mostly in our new and mission churches. I have such a church, and our membership is a "mixed bag" of Lutherans. Many of them have family in the surrounding ALC congregations. They interworship with us on a regular basis on holidays and special occasions. Severance or suspension at this time will have serious effects in our church growth and life.

I am not unaware of the Scylla and Charybdis we face in Synod. It is frustrating, heartrending. In effect, we agree to overlook false doctrine; but our beloved Synod has always recognized the legitimacy of casuistry. We have always remembered the needs of individual cases. I, for one, feel we should go along with fellowship at this time for this practical reason mentioned above.

This does not imply an eternal commitment to go along—no matter what happens or what is taught in the ALC—as one in doctrine and practice with them. It does seem to put "the ball back in their court" by requesting a serious discussion of the issues troubling us. This will give us all time to work within our congregations.

We have been through a traumatic experience in our Synod, namely the AELC. It has taken its toll in our congregations. Many of our people are like the prizefighter in the 15th round, rubber-kneed and glassy-eyed, simply trying to hang on until the bell. I fear another body blow—like severing the fellowship with the ALC—will floor many of them.

I think the concerns of this brother in many ways express the concerns of all of us. We must not, at this point, after recovering from the tremendous doctrinal controversy which has distressed us so much, now enter into a new controversy which will only further divide and fracture us.

Therefore it seems to me that the CTCR in protesting, on one hand, against the doctrinal aberrations which we feel that the ALC, at least at the official level, is guilty of and, on the other hand, maintaining the fellowship for those who have found it to be a God-pleasing relationship, and in order to continue to minister to our brethren in the ALC, and in order to get our people better informed on the issues, has chosen the best of the several options.

Another problem which Committee 3 has to wrestle with is the matter of continued membership in the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. The CTCR has recommended continued participation in the Council. The Synod's Board of Directors has constantly monitored the financial aspects of the program and in some cases has withdrawn where we feel we have not received value for our money. In view of the entire

situation, both within American Lutheranism and within our own Synod, it seems to me that we could avoid needless conflict and opening old wounds if we would continue to remain in the Council.

I would also call the attention not only of Committee 3 but of all of you to the report on page 71 of the *Workbook*, namely, the report of the Special Committee on Doctrinal Statements. The matter of synodically adopted doctrinal statements has caused a great deal of conflict, much of it in my opinion unwarranted and more the result of misunderstanding than of any kind of centralization or ecclesiastical popery on the part of the Synod. However, in view of the fact that so many people feel strongly on the matter, a committee was created at Anaheim to study and report to the Dallas convention. I would commend to your careful study this report and, it seems to me as one who has been very closely related to the whole matter of the Synod's doctrine and the maintenance of the Synod's doctrinal position, that the proposed *Handbook* wording on page 73 is helpful and should be adopted.

On the same page I would refer to the various overtures dealing with the subject of peace and reconciliation. We need to take these overtures seriously and not only pass resolutions calling for unity and reconciliation but actually practice it in our walk together and in our conduct toward one another. The Eighth Commandment needs very special attention during times of conflict and even more during times when we hope to reestablish peace and concord in our midst. Therefore it would seem that Committee 3 could render a real service to the Synod if it could develop a resolution which would give us guidance and help in achieving peace and harmony in our midst.

Also under Committee 3 is material dealing with the subject of abortion. We are one of the few Protestant Churches which have spoken publicly on this great evil. It would seem wise, even though we have spoken in the past, that perhaps the committee give serious thought to some of the overtures dealing with this subject, so that possibly we could once more bring to bear the witness of our church to the society in which we live.

The President's office has received a letter from Doctor William Kohn asking that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches establish pulpit and altar fellowship. I would refer you in this connection also to the overtures submitted by the Board of Directors of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as set forth on page 117. While the nature and status of the AELC is still subject to a great deal of debate, and while it is quite evident that the people of the AELC need to determine exactly what their organization actually is, whether it is a church body or a movement, it is also part of the ongoing concern of the LCMS to attempt to relate in a fraternal way to all Lutherans in our country and in Canada. Therefore it would seem that the advisable thing to do with the request of Doctor Kohn is turn it over to our CTCR for study and possible meetings between AELC people and our CTCR to assess the situation and to give consideration to the whole matter of pulpit and altar fellowship. It



President Preus, Parliamentarian Stickel, Timekeeper Mark Steege

certainly does not appear that at this time the Synod would be prepared to act affirmatively on Doctor Kohn's request. However, it does afford us opportunities for discussion and dialog, and these we should not reject.

In this connection the CTCR also indicates that it is calling for a study of the entire matter of fellowship, as noted particularly on page 44. The whole subject of selective fellowship continues to be before us, and all of these matters do need careful study and consideration in view of the kind of church we are and in view of the situation under which we are attempting to work in carrying out the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. I would not propose at this time that we enter into fellowship with the LCA, but I do believe that we should continue to hold out to them the desire to discuss doctrine with them. We have had difficulty in achieving this desire because of the position which the LCA has taken on this subject. It seems to me that we would be well advised to continue and hold out the offer.

Looking at the work of Committee 4 on Synodical Administration, I will comment on two matters in this section.

First, it is an increasing conviction with many of us that our synodical conventions are too large, too frequent, and too costly. Perhaps we can call upon the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure to make proposals relative to solving this problem.

On page 165 there are overtures pertaining to the subject of granting auxiliary status to various agencies and organizations. This is a subject which needs some very careful study. Several years ago efforts were made to try to regularize this matter, but in the past several years very little discussion has taken place. Therefore it would seem well also to hand this difficult subject over to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure or a special group, in order that the matter might receive careful study and that all parties would be heard. We do not want to take precipitous action, but on the other hand we should not let the matter drag out forever. At the present time only the LLL, LWML, Walther League, and the Lutheran Medical Mission Association have auxiliary status, but some efforts need to be made to determine the relation of other organizations to the Synod, the matter of fund raising, and the relationship between the work these organizations are doing and

that of various boards and committees of the Synod.

Under the section on Constitutional Matters I want to refer only to a couple of points which are quite significant.

The 21-member Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure that the Anaheim Convention authorized and directed has during the 18 months since it was organized addressed itself diligently to a study of the organizational and structural weakness of the Synod. Their interim report on pages 172—174 of the *Workbook* demonstrates that they have properly addressed themselves to the functions of the Synod as the basic criteria for the recommendations they will provide in 1979 for an effective structure.

Since the Task Force assignment calls for it to report its recommendations in late 1978, the Dallas convention and its floor committees are presented with a bit of a dilemma. In the course of your work you should avoid the temptation to refer any and all organizational changes to the Task Force for their consideration. On the other hand you must be conscious of the desire of the Synod in bringing the Task Force into being to have an integrated, internally consistent and coordinated efficient organizational structure. We cannot defer everything of an organizational character, but neither can we ignore our striving through the Task Force for a better structure to aid us in the attainment of our noble goals. I ask that you exercise care and restraint in the suggestion of structural reorganizations.

On page 175 there is the overture "To Dismiss Congregations for Refusal to Abide by Constitution." This and other proposals of this kind remind us of the fact that there are indeed some congregations which are in violation of the Constitution in that they have called improperly certified candidates as pastors. However, this situation has gone on for some time, and I believe it is a part of a larger subject and should not be dealt with only on the basis of the Bylaws. We need, here as elsewhere, to apply pastoral concern both to the pastors concerned as well as to the congregations, and it would seem that a better solution to the problem would be to ask for District Presidents to work diligently on this matter toward a responsible solution.

This committee also has the very difficult task of formulating a proper resolution concerning the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches. I believe that this is one of the most difficult problems the church has ever faced from the constitutional and pastoral standpoint. In the first place we need to get the matter into perspective. I have gotten the impression, from talking to lay people from time to time, that they feel the whole Synod is falling apart over this matter. I am distributing to you statistics which will give the exact figures on the actual number of congregations which have left the Synod, those which claim dual membership, splits that have taken place in various congregations, and also full statistics on the pastors who are involved. When one looks at this in the light of some 6,200 congregations and over 7,700 pastors, one must recognize that the problem involves relatively few individuals and congregations. This despite the great amount of publicity that it has received. The facts are these:

Ninety-one congregations have left the LCMS and joined the AELC. The total baptized membership of this group is 50,600. However, twenty-four pastors of these congregations are still on the LCMS clergy roster. There are fifty-five additional congregations which claim dual membership in the LCMS and the AELC. Fifty-two of the pastors of these congregations are still on the LCMS clergy roster. Finally, there are thirty-eight splinter groups which have joined the AELC. Fourteen pastors of these small groups are still on the LCMS clergy roster.

Therefore a total of ninety-one pastors of the 186 congregations involved with the AELC are still on the LCMS clergy roster.

In view of the careless charges of "immorality," "unLutheran," and "unChristian" being leveled against synodical leaders, one cannot help but wonder about the integrity of men who have moved their congregations out of the Synod or have split congregations because of their disagreements with the Synod, yet they themselves have not resigned from the Synod and therefore remain on the clergy roster.

There has not been a single report of a congregation which has left where the members themselves initiated the action to leave the Synod. Once again, where is the integrity we rightly expect from men of God and brethren in Christ?

In connection with this matter it should be pointed out that almost all of the congregations which left the Synod and joined the AELC did not have the opportunity of meeting with a representative of the Synod. The same is true of those congregations claiming dual membership.

It is significant that President Bornemann of the English District reports that where he has met with congregations which were considering leaving the Synod virtually all decided to remain. This is also the report of Doctor Sauer, who has met with some English District and many other District congregations during the past twelve months. President Bornemann, whose District has been most affected, was invited to address only four of the sixty congregations which have either left the English District and joined the AELC or claim dual membership.

While an object of the Synod is the conservation and promotion of the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:10) and a united defense against schism and sectarianism (Rom. 16:17)—and it has to be said that the AELC leadership is schismatic—another object of the Synod is "the protection of pastors, teachers, and congregations in the performance of their duties and the maintenance of their rights." Does not this commitment of protection call for at least a minimum of communication with these congregations before writing them off?

In addition to this, the AELC leaders have stated publicly that this new organization is temporary in nature. It is very possible that the structure might be dismantled as quickly as it was assembled. Acting with undue haste with the congregations in question would serve no good purpose but would only alienate those who might want to reconsider their connection with the LCMS in a year or so. I hope the committee will consider these and other factors relating to the AELC situation as

they draft an appropriate resolution.

On page 189 there are overtures pertaining to voting rights for teachers. This is an issue which has confronted us for over a century, and it seems to me that we should do something to recognize the great contributions which our teachers render not only to individual congregations but to the church at large. I would urge that this matter be given positive affirmation and then ask the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure to work out the appropriate *Handbook* changes.

The section on Higher Education contains enough material to occupy all of the attention of the entire convention, but some decisions need to be made. Basically, if we are going to maintain our fine system of colleges and seminaries, we are going to have to financially support our schools much more generously than we have in the past. I hope that some resolutions can come from this committee which will really challenge our people throughout the whole Synod to give the kind of financial support to our schools which they have to have if they are to survive.

Under this section I would also call attention to the matter of the Saskatoon seminary. We need a revision in the pertinent Bylaws so that the graduates of Saskatoon can be certified for the ministry without going through the cumbersome process which has been forced upon our Canadian brethren by reason of our failure to pass certain Bylaws at the past two conventions. We must give this our attention, and I would ask the committee to grant it high priority.

The overtures pertaining to the deaconess program ought to be approached with great care. There are many, many serious questions regarding the whole matter of the deaconess program, and before undertaking to remove it from Valparaiso and make it a fully synodical program, we need to consider very seriously exactly what the whole deaconess program is seeking to accomplish. We need to know how much it will cost us in the situation where we don't have enough money even to support what we have. We need to decide whether it should continue to be a recognized church profession with Board of Assignment involvement and colloquy procedures. Therefore I believe that this whole matter ought to receive further study throughout the whole church before being acted upon by the convention.

Under the section on Parish Services, certainly every support needs to be given to the "Year of the Sunday School." This is one of the major concerns in the whole parish service area. We had a decline of 20,000 children in our Sunday schools last year, and I hope the convention will take action which will stimulate and encourage every congregation in the Synod to get behind this program and really try to regain the very serious losses which we have suffered.

In the same section, on the subject of the National Youth Organization, I would encourage the delegates to give this their full support. It already has the support of the Board for Youth Ministry, is the subject of many overtures, and, as the Charron Report clearly indicates, is something which our people earnestly desire. So let us give this effort our unqualified approval.

The American Bible Society also receives attention in this same section. I would hope that the Synod would take a responsible action in this matter, so that we could acquaint the people at all levels with the possibilities for ministry and evangelism which are available to us in the fine work which both the American Bible Society and other Bible societies are rendering. Here is an area where we really ought to make use of the very wonderful facilities available to us.

Concerning the matters under Social Ministry, I hope that the convention will pass strong and positive resolutions on the ongoing support for world relief and world hunger. In a year when our own nation in many areas has suffered severe drought, we need to remember how blessed and fortunate we are to have full stomachs and full cupboards. We ought to be willing to share our material benefits with those much, much less fortunate than we are throughout the world.

In connection with some of the overtures mentioned under Social Ministry, it perhaps would be very good for our church also to speak on such subjects as alcoholism, drug abuse, pornography, and some of the other social ills which are eroding our moral stamina and corrupting our youth. While we do not, by passing such resolutions, stop these practices, we do at least let the world and government agencies, and maybe even our own people, know where we as a church stand on such issues.

Under the report on Special and Sundry Matters, I would call the attention of this committee and of the convention to the promotion and support of the Growth in Ministry program which has been recommended by the Board of Directors of the Synod. This is a valuable and helpful program for assisting our pastors to grow in their perception of themselves and their ministries, and it is something which needs the ongoing support of the Synod. Moreover, it is not expensive, but it is very useful and helpful.

A special floor committee has been created for this convention to deal with the subject of Ethnic Concerns. We have always had these concerns, but this time largely because of the Black Centennial and because of the report of the Black Mission Model Task Force, we have created a special committee to deal with and to highlight these concerns. I would urge the delegates to study these matters carefully and to give serious consideration to supporting the recommendations of the Black Mission Model Task Force. We need to involve our ethnic brothers at the place where they live and where their ministry occurs and give them a real feeling of ownership and participation in the work of the church. Many of them, I think, believe that they have been deprived of this sense of ownership and participation. Let us not fail in this, and let us also in the same connection give a mighty impetus to the offering for the Black Centennial, so that some meaningful work can be done among Black people and the other minorities of our country. We need to speak on Hispanic and Indian concerns, on racism, and very definitively on support for our wonderful college at Selma and its fine faculty and administration.

Finally, we come to the Committee on Program Implementation. While this comes at the very end, it is

not something insignificant. In fact, some regard this to be the most important committee of this convention, because we can talk until we are out of breath and worn out, but if we do not have the money to support the programs, nothing gets done. I am not going to go into great detail on this, because ample opportunity will be given to all of you to hear the very serious concerns which we have. But I do want to say that if we want The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to remain a viable, spiritual, and confessional force in the world, some action must be taken in connection with the Synod's finances. According to the Charron Report, we are basically a home-congregation-oriented church body. And yet we have given to our Synod the task of running sixteen colleges and seminaries, of promoting world missions in twenty-three different countries in the world, of developing parish programs for all of the congregations of the Synod, and of carrying out all kinds of ministries in all kinds of areas. And they are all important.

We want the local congregation, the parochial school, the local high school, and the community service agencies to succeed. But we also want the Gospel to get out into all the world. We want to educate our professional church workers as adequately and as effectively as possible. We must not lose our vision in our concern only for that which immediately surrounds us. Our Lord has said, "*The fields are white unto harvest,*" not just the field around us or the fields in our own state or our own District. Jesus tells us, "*Preach the Gospel to every creature,*" not just to our children and to our next-door neighbors. We are to "*make disciples of all nations,*" not just a small segment of the United States. We need to lift up our eyes to the opportunities and the challenges which the church faces today in ministry to people, in serving them, in bringing the Gospel to them.

At the local level we are an extremely well financed church. Last year our people laid \$375,000,000 on the Lord's altar, but when all was said and done, the money which was available to the people of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to carry out mission work in twenty-three different countries amounted to about \$7,000,000. In know that we believe more strongly in missions than that. I would like to see us at least double the synodical contribution to foreign missions. I would like to see us guarantee to our professors at our colleges and seminaries an adequate salary. I would like to see us do the many things which could be done if we could raise our annual synodical budget even by \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000 and keep ahead of inflation. I believe that our people do not realize the need and the opportunities, and I pray God that this convention and that you as floor committees leading it can cause our people to lift up their eyes and see the fields white unto harvest and really hear the marvelous call of our heavenly Father, "*Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?*"

Let us be about our Lord's work with excitement and enthusiasm and proceed to carry out the assignments given us by the church, so that His name be glorified, that His Word may be proclaimed in its truth and purity, its beauty, its wisdom, and its power to all men throughout the world.

Part II

Thanks

At the beginning of this report permit me to express sincere thanks to the members of the Synod for their prayers and their dedication during the past biennium in furthering the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our lay people, pastors, and teachers continue to respond to the call of the Gospel in every way, and as Paul says to the Philippians, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you."

I also want to thank the Vice-Presidents of the Synod for their dedicated and faithful service. Doctor Edwin C. Weber, our First Vice-President, has continued to give constant and loyal support in every way, and I want to thank him publicly. All of the Vice-Presidents have been helpful and have carried out their assignments faithfully and with devotion to their duties.

A special word of thanks is due to our Secretary, Doctor Herbert Mueller, a tireless servant of our Lord Jesus Christ and a man of great integrity and dedication.

At this convention two of our officers are not up for reelection. Doctor Theodore F. Nickel, our Third Vice-President, has indicated his desire not to be a candidate, since he is retired from his work as a pastor and is anxious to enter into the retirement which he so well deserves. Doctor Nickel has served longer than any member of the present Praesidium. He also served as chairman of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations and previously as President of the Northern Illinois District. He is known to all as a man of great dedication to his Lord Jesus Christ and to the Scriptures and to the Lutheran Confessions. We will miss him.

Doctor Milton Carpenter, our synodical Treasurer, is not eligible for reelection at this convention. Doctor Carpenter has given freely of his time and talents. I want to say on this occasion how much I have treasured not only his personal friendship but also his splendid contributions to our church during these many years. When he took office, the indebtedness of the Synod was \$16,000,000. At the end of his last fiscal year it was under \$40,000.

A special word of commendation is due the Board of Directors of the Synod and its Administrative Officer, Mr. John P. Schuelke. No group in the Synod has given more generously and sacrificially of their time, and I believe that the Synod owes each of them, several of whom are not eligible for reelection, a very special vote of gratitude.

And to all members of all boards, commissions, and committees of the Synod, to our faithful and hard-working synodical staff, to all missionaries, professors in our schools, and again to all our pastors and teachers and members of our church a sincere word of thanks is very much in order. The Synod has been blessed with great talent and with loyal and dedicated Christian people.

I would like to make special mention of thanks to my own staff, Doctor Robert C. Sauer, Miss Jean Buettner, and Miss Elizabeth Kops, all of whom have given abundantly of their time and talents.

Certainly we want to thank also our District Presidents and all District officers and board members who have worked diligently for the unification of our church and the spreading of the Gospel.

A special word of thanks should be given to those men who took on a most impossible task as acting presidents of four of our Districts. I refer to the Reverend Albert W. Bahr in Eastern, the Reverend Henry L. Koepchen in Atlantic, the Reverend Paul G. Barth in English, and the Reverend Oscar E. Milke in New England. I wish to express a further word of thanks to the men who have succeeded them, namely, Pastor George W. Bornemann in English, Pastor Martin P. Dienst in New England, and Pastor Ronald F. Fink in Atlantic. All of these men have served with distinction and integrity, and the Synod owes them a great deal.

Likewise a word of thanks to the International Lutheran Laymen's League and its president, Mr. A. Walter Hamp, and its previous president, Mr. Gus S. Melde; to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and its president, Mrs. Helen Morris, and former president, Mrs. Florence Montz, who served during this present biennium of the Synod.

Appended to this report, as will be printed in *Today's Business*, are two reports on the activities of the President during the past biennium:

1. The first deals with assignments made to the President's office by the Anaheim convention. The action on these matters is presented in detail and need not be dealt with here except as indicated.

2. It was originally the custom of the President to append to his report a list of prominent leaders who have died during the past biennium. On the assumption that all servants of the church have some kind of prominence, it has been the practice in the past several conventions to list all servants, teachers or pastors, or other servants of the Synod whom the Lord has called home and whose works do follow them. This list has also been appended.

I am also adding to the first part of my report given over the Pentecost weekend the list of congregations which have left the Synod, congregations which claim dual membership, and the names of the pastors involved, some of whom have left the Synod and some of whom have not.

Finally, appended are the names of congregations which have joined the Synod during the past biennium and those I anticipate will join at this convention.

Floor Committees

Since all delegates have received a copy of the first issue of *Today's Business*, which includes Part I of the President's Report, I will not repeat the material given there. The floor committees worked diligently and with a great spirit of cooperation and desire for peace and progress. I believe that the counsel given by the floor committees, together with the Spirit-led thinking of the delegates, will give these matters the kind of careful attention which they deserve, without further comment or advice on the part of the synodical President. It seems

to me that the floor committees have done their work well and that their proposals will find acceptance with you, the delegates. To be sure, there may be spirited debate on many matters, but I am confident that our gracious Lord will guide us all in the issues which we prayerfully consider.

The Past Biennium

I would therefore prefer to use this time to give a report on certain other aspects in the life of the Synod and the direction which we should be taking. We are so accustomed to hearing bad news and coming to conventions prepared for battle that perhaps it would be good for us to consider some of the wonderful things which have occurred during the past biennium.

During both years of this past biennium the Synod has continued to show a record increase in the number of communicant members. At the end of the 1976 statistical year, we stood at the highest communicant membership in our history. We also showed the highest per-communicant giving in our history (\$375,000,000 for all purposes), and we continue to rank very high among the churches of over one million in membership in per-communicant giving. The Spirit indeed continues to be at work.

During the past biennium nearly 1,100 full-time church workers have been received into the various ministries of the church. The removal of the probation imposed by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools on Concordia Seminary at St. Louis was a cause for great rejoicing. Even a greater cause for rejoicing was the almost miraculous comeback which this institution has experienced since its difficulties in 1974. During the past year over 360 students were enrolled as full-time undergraduates and graduate students preparing themselves or improving their competence for the parish ministry in the Synod. Over 400 are expected this fall, together with over 400 at Fort Wayne and 70 in the colloquy program. God is supplying workers.

The record of continued growth in virtually all of the partner churches overseas gives marvelous testimony to the work which is going on, supported by the prayers, the workers, and the gifts of our people throughout the world.

In the area of evangelism we note with great pleasure the almost miraculous decline in backdoor losses indicated during the past years. While most mainline denominations continue to show great losses, today we can report that this terrible problem has apparently subsided and that our congregations and pastors are doing a better job of referral, of internal evangelism, and of holding our people for the church.

Some fine things have been going on in our Synod, such as the evangelism retreats held all over the country to strengthen our people and pastors and their outreach with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have had the program of Growth in Ministry, attempting to work with our pastors and helping them to deal with their problems and their goals and objectives as they do their work in the many and varied ministries in which some 7,700 clergymen are engaged. All over the Synod, self-studies

are being conducted by congregations as an attempt to upgrade their ministry to their community and to their people.

We also note with great joy another miracle of God, namely, that the adult accessions by baptism or confirmation, after reaching a twenty-year low in 1972, have increased each year since then, so that by 1976 we were at the figure of 27,207.

While I could detail at great length the number of meetings that I have personally attended, District conventions, visitations to colleges and seminaries, and over 100 preaching engagements in various congregations of the Synod, I would like to comment particularly on my meetings with leaders and representatives of our overseas partner churches.

In the fall of 1975 I had the privilege of attending the International Lutheran Theological Conference held at Porto Alegre, Brazil. Here were gathered the presidents of the partner churches of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. An excellent program dealt with the matter of our relationships with one another. This was followed by a trip, the first by any synodical President, into Nigeria, which was celebrating its 40th anniversary under our auspices. There was also a visit to Ghana. The enthusiasm and evangelistic zeal of our partner churches is a marvel to behold. As the delegates consider our mission outreach, I should like to call their special attention to other areas of Africa which also challenge us, such as West Africa and Togo. The *Convention Workbook* relates this report, and our floor committee on missions and evangelism has given it top priority among the resolutions which are before you.

In January of 1977 I had the privilege of attending our first full-scale jointly planned Mission Consultation, held in Hong Kong, where again both the presidents of the partner churches, as well as the directors of missions and evangelism for these churches, were gathered together. We sat down as a world conference, exchanging our varied experiences in many nations. We made plans for expansion, for sharing in our mission outreach, and for strengthening the work which we are doing together in partnership under the power of the Holy Spirit and with the blessings of almighty God. We noted that our partner churches themselves are sending out missionaries. It was a marvelous meeting, and I wish that every member of the Synod would have the opportunity to witness such a gathering.

Our World

Now let us take a brief look at the kind of world in which we are living and working. We have come together here largely to plan for the future, and it is important that as we look into the future we understand, as best we can, the condition of the world in which we live. This is a world which is very much troubled by war and distrust among nations. The tragedies which are taking place in Africa and in the Middle East and in other parts of the world are too horrible even to contemplate. I recently had opportunity to speak with a man who had toured widely in Africa. I also had as my guest a prominent leader of the Lutheran Churches in Africa. They estimated that there may be as many as ten

million casualties, caused not only by war but by the tremendous movement of civilian people who, for reasons of fear or force, are fleeing from one country to the other in an attempt to find escape from oppression and attack. The newspapers continue to tell us about Africa and of all the difficulties the people of that troubled continent are enduring, but they cannot describe the actual situation.

It will never be possible for us as Americans fully either to understand the issues or to make intelligent judgments on who is right and who is wrong, but we do need to be very alert to the fact that we must always be on the side of the victims. The Good Samaritan did not ask about the color, race, or creed of the man who had fallen among thieves. He did not even take out after the thieves. He did not walk off in indifference on the assumption that the man did not belong to his church or his race. Rather, he saw a fellow human being in need, and he dismounted and helped him and took of his own resources to nurse the man back to health.

It seems to me that as our church faces these problems, and in the light of the enormous work that we have been doing among refugees from Southeast Asia, we need to be continually aware of the needs of suffering humanity wherever these people may be and whoever they may be. So we must be ready to help the victims, whether black or white, whether Christian or non-Christian. They are a people who are in need of our aid. I hope and pray that the predictions of these men whom I mentioned are wrong. But in the event that they are right, I know that the people in our Missouri Synod in the future, as in the past, will rise to help them through our relief agencies, our medical-missions program, and in every possible way by which we can come to the aid of suffering people. Above all, let us pray for them, so that our gracious Lord would visit them in their affliction and distress and relieve them of agonies and the tragedies which have befallen them.

We also live in a world in which Americans, according to a recent Gallup poll, are the most religious people of all the industrial nations. While belief in the existence of God and the hereafter has declined drastically in many of the industrial nations, actually the belief in God, in immortality, and in the importance of religion in the lives of people has increased in America. We notice this also among our young people, who are not leaving the church in droves but are rather looking for ways in which they may be of service to their fellowmen, including service in the various ministries of the church.

And yet the same poll indicates that we are one of the most lawless nations on earth, with incredible problems of abortion, drug abuse, organized crime, pornography, and all of the other problems about which we read constantly. On the other hand, our people, especially our young people, show a great interest in religion, even in such matters as "being born again," in holding to an honest, forthright interpretation of Scripture, and in many other ideas that even a decade ago were thought to be passé. One can only marvel at the way in which, in this Sodom and Gomorrah of modern society, the Lord is raising up witnesses who are ready to dedicate

themselves to His service. How great He is!

We live in a world that is dominated by secularism, skepticism, lack of respect for human life and dignity, poverty, mistreatment of children, divorce, living out of wedlock, arrogant homosexuality—all of which have become accepted ways of living to many people. We live in a time of anti-institutionalism, and maybe one of the reasons for this is that the institutions are not addressing themselves to the questions which are bedeviling people. In one of our major cities statistics indicate that there are actually more worshipers of Satan and followers of the occult than there are followers of Jesus Christ. We have an enormous mission to accomplish, a great witness to perform, and I would like to see The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in this historic year not only speak loudly and clearly to minority groups like Blacks and Hispanics and others but also to initiate a ministry that would bring us into dialog with all who are so troubled and so much need Christ. A generation ago, General MacArthur, when he entered Japan, stated that the great problems of the world are basically theological. He spoke truly and prophetically. The same is true today.

Thus we as Americans with our wealth, with our interest in religion and in humanitarian concerns, are people who are in a peculiar position to answer the call that God has given us through the suffering, the wickedness, and the sins which surround us, so that we may be faithful witnesses to our Lord Jesus Christ, in order to help the suffering and to bring the Gospel to all people who need it so desperately. In many ways this is a day of opportunity unparalleled for the Christian people of America and particularly for those of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Seventy percent of the American people today claim membership in some religious body; forty percent claim to be active in their religious association. Another factor involving the future of our mission is the population shift. During the early 1970s the South and the West (sun belt) regions of our country grew at a rate seven times faster than the Northeast or North-central regions. Eleven of the thirteen fastest-growing metropolitan areas are in the so-called "sun belt" areas. What are we going to do about the challenges and opportunities facing us as a church and as a nation? This convention can go a long way in answering this question in a positive and helpful manner. Let us lift up our eyes and see the harvest and the needs.

Our Blessings

Now let us look at some of our blessings.

Our greatest blessing is the undeserved grace and mercy of God in Christ Jesus. God has sent His only-begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him (1 John 4:9). We live by faith in Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us (Gal. 2:20). He died for us while we were yet sinners, lost and condemned, absolutely without any power to do anything about our condition (Rom. 5:6, 8). We possess no greater blessing than the realization of the love the Father has lavished on us, whereby we are called the children of God, and that is what we are! (1 John 3:1)

Because we, by the working of the Holy Spirit, believe

this, we therefore speak (2 Cor. 4:13). We are a strongly Biblical, confessional, and evangelical church. While we have had conflict, division, and even suffered some losses, I believe that we can honestly say that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has reaffirmed its identity and that the overwhelming majority of our people are ready to say, without equivocation, that they subscribe to the Scriptures as the inerrant Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions as the correct exposition of that Word. We are a truly conservative, orthodox, Biblical, confessional, and evangelical Lutheran Church.

But to say that we are a confessional and evangelical church is perhaps not quite to say everything that we should. A church must be confessional, but it must be alert to the temptation of becoming legalistic. This we must avoid. Likewise, a church must be evangelical, but it must be alert to the temptation to become permissive. And this we must also avoid.

To call ourselves a confessional church is really to say three things. In the first place, we confess that we are sinners. This we must never forget. We always begin with this point, that we are sinners, in need of forgiveness, that we have failed both God and ourselves, and that we have no cause of pride in ourselves.

In the second place, to be confessional means that we confess our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. This not only means standing up in church on Sunday morning and confessing the faith, confessing the Creed, but it means confessing it in our hearts, and in our lives, and staking our entire existence for time and for eternity on Jesus Christ. Such genuine confession also affects the manner by which we conduct ourselves in day-to-day living. It demonstrates a deep concern for and active participation in the mission and evangelism efforts of the church. We are not ashamed of the Gospel nor of speaking the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to the world. Surely this must be a very real part of this convention. We are here to encourage one another and stimulate one another to *grow* in grace, to *grow* more articulate and zealous in our confession of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the third place, to be a confessional church means that we speak our faith clearly as we struggle to enunciate it in times of controversy and conflict. This year we are celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Formula of Concord. This is a very interesting document in that it grew out of conflict, and yet it was a document which was designed to and did achieve peace and concord and harmony among the Lutherans of Germany in that period. This document was gathered into our Book of Concord of 1580. A confessional church is one which *continues* to confess the faith. We do not regard the Confessions as ancient, irrelevant documents, interesting only to historians, but as living expressions of a living faith in a living church, and the reason for this is that our Confessions center on the gracious act of God in establishing a relationship with us as His children through the suffering and death and resurrection of His Son. The great central message of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions is that God no longer charges our sins to us, but He declares us righteous and forgives us our sins, not because of any

merit or worthiness in us but because of His grace for Christ's sake. We accept this marvelous act of God in faith. This is what we call justification by faith. Thus we come to the three great confessional principles of Lutheranism: faith alone, grace alone, Scripture alone. Our Confessions have not been and are now not only a marvelous witness of what we once believed, but they remind us constantly that we are sinners who have been redeemed and forgiven by His Son and that it is our greatest joy and privilege now to confess Christ before all men.

Another blessing which we have as a Lutheran synod is the fact that perhaps more than almost any Lutheran church body in history, we are rooted in the concept that the congregation is the basic unit. We are primarily an association of congregations, and we do not intend to give up this concept of our church government. The real action takes place at the congregational level. Here are the lay people, the men, women, young, and old, who make up the life of the Synod. Our voting pastors at this convention are here because they are pastors of *congregations*. Often people get the impression that in our Synod the church body has the final word. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is the most democratic of the Lutheran bodies, acting only by direction of the convention of representatives of the congregations. We are three million Missouri Synod Lutherans, worshiping the Lord Jesus Christ, glorifying His name, bearing witness to Him, and attempting in word and deed to serve Him and to extend His kingdom and rejoicing in the salvation which He has given us through the suffering and death of His Son. Let us never forget this. This is a marvelous blessing from which have grown some of the greatest achievements which our church has ever accomplished.

Recently a survey was conducted under the leadership of the Synod's Board of Directors. Some lessons were learned.

Among other things the survey indicated that our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod people enjoy an above-average income. There is also every indication that while our men, women, and young people are dedicated to their Lord and possess a rich supply of talent, all too many are either unaware of the work of the church body to which they belong, or they are not truly committed to the work the Synod is doing. With all of the challenges before us, and all of the blessings we enjoy by the grace of God, it seems that a great deal must be done in order to harness this energy, so that the programs we are carrying out as a church body will be more effective.

Therefore, if we really believe that the Holy Spirit works through the means of grace, if we really believe that the power of the Word is the all-sufficient power that we have in the church, then let us use that power and blessing to strengthen ourselves, our families, our congregations, our church, our communities, and the whole world in Jesus Christ.

The Future

Now having looked at the world in which we live and at the blessings which we as a church possess, let us look

toward the future and see where we want to go. We might look upon ourselves as workers building a cathedral, that place where the people of God gather and sing His praises, glorify His name, and are strengthened for service to Him and our neighbor, are filled with hope and joy for this world and for the world to come, because ultimately that is our reason for belonging to a church and for holding this convention of the representatives of 6,200 congregations. A cathedral does not exist for itself but for Christ and His church.

Christian Education

This year we are inaugurating the Year of the Sunday School as an effort not just to rake in children and improve statistics but to bring the Bread of Life to the children of our own parishes and the children of our own community. The New Life in Christ lessons have already given new interest and vigor in our churches. This year, over 78 percent of our Sunday school pupils are studying God's Word in the New Life in Christ series. Presently almost 95 percent of our congregations use all or part of Concordia Publishing House Sunday school materials. Our Parish Education Department is devoting itself zealously and eagerly to the work of congregational edification and the strengthening of the family and the strengthening of the witness in the community.

In connection with Christian education, may I give special and renewed stress to the "That We May Grow" program, which is the theme of our convention. The essays and related Bible studies that will be on the daily agenda are designed to emphasize the goal and purposes of this program. I hope that every delegate will take home with him or her the message that we urge every congregation to study with greater intensity the Holy Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, and what it means to be the church of Jesus Christ on earth. These studies of the Bible and the Confessions will be edifying at all levels, in Sunday school, youth work, church organizations, voters meetings, and through the congregations.

Fellowship

I should also call your attention to the resolutions by Committee 3 relative to the matter of fellowship and dialog with other Lutherans. To this particular convention, unlike all others, I as your President have invited all the Lutheran church bodies in the United States who I thought would even have a remote interest in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to send observers and if they desire to bring greetings. We are also sending observers to conventions of other Lutheran churches to a greater degree than ever before. Invited have been not only The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America but also the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, the Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

It seems to me that, while on the one hand we continue to stand very firmly on our doctrinal position and not deviate from it, on the other hand there needs to

be discussion and dialog not only with the two other large Lutheran Churches but also with all bodies that bear the Lutheran name. Missouri has never carried out any kind of dialog whatsoever with some of the Lutheran Church bodies in America. Perhaps the time has come for us not just to sit and wait for invitations but to initiate some dialog. We are still very mindful of those synods which once comprised the Synodical Conference and which were separated from us a number of years ago. That separation still brings us great pain. It seems to me wise to continue to keep the doors open for discussion with these synods of the former Synodical Conference. Inasmuch as we have been conducting dialogs with Reformed, Roman Catholics, Orthodox, and many others, we should certainly not neglect other Lutherans. I suggest that the Commission on Theology and Church Relations be given this additional assignment, namely, that we attempt to open the doors to carry on doctrinal discussions and create warmer and friendlier relationships with all those on our continent who bear the Lutheran name.

The Black Centennial

As this convention we are beginning the celebration of the Black Centennial. Work was begun in 1877 among the former Black slaves in the South, and today there are about 175 congregations which are considered Black, with about 45,000 members. Truly the Lord has blessed these efforts. There is tremendous need, however, for recruitment of Black pastors and for expansion of work among the large Black population of our nation. The proposals of the special committee on ethnic concerns deserve our careful and prayerful attention. I urge their passage, including a substantial collection to educate Black clergy. We thank God for the contribution which the Black people have made to our church, and we pray that He will continue to bless this work on the part of both Black and whites, so that in the years ahead even greater progress can be made. Is an offering of \$1,500,000 too much for 3,000,000 people to celebrate a centennial? I think not, and I know you feel the same.

This is not just a way of trying to show the world that we are interested in Black people but to show the Black people that from our hearts we love them and appreciate their contribution to the church. Therefore we celebrate with them, and we support them in their outreach among the huge minority in our population which have been so oppressed and so downtrodden, so poor, and so mistreated in a thousand different ways.

Concerns for the Suffering

Our Department of Social Ministry and World Relief is attempting constantly to sensitize our people to the needs for compassion and concern, not only about the spiritual welfare of individuals but also about their physical needs, their hunger, their housing problems, and all the other difficulties which beset so many millions and even billions of people in all the world. Also there is constant and increasing concern about the aging.

The Education of Workers

Our colleges and seminaries need greater support.

Our professors need higher salaries, and our plants need improvement. Please give careful and wise support for the prudent stewardship of our limited funds for this large element in our synodical program.

The Parish

On the practical level we need to stress the renewal of the parish, by the creation of Bible classes, prayer groups, and evangelism teams and evangelism committees, the development of active and vital youth organizations at the local, District, synodical level, care for the aging in the congregation, concern about church attendance and Communion attendance, through edifying sermons, parish calls, concern about being doers of the Word and not hearers only, and concern about every human being in the parish as redeemed in the blood of Christ and renewed by the Holy Spirit.

The Circuit

We need to stress the circuit. This is one area of our structure that has been long neglected. How wonderful it would be if in every one of the 550 circuits of the Synod we could have rallies and meetings in which people would talk about missions, evangelism, stewardship, concern for the young and old and the sick and the blind, and Christian education, all based on good, sound, Biblical teaching. I would suggest that the two delegates from each of our circuits go back home and urge their Circuit Counselor to arrange for special services of thanksgiving and praise in every congregation on the first Sunday in November, which, if the resolution passes, will be designated as Synodical Sunday. We could also bring together the congregations in each circuit on a particular day. Let them call for someone else to do the preaching if need be, but the delegates themselves could have a part in the divine service on that day. We also need to give our Circuit Counselors responsibilities and respect. Surely the concept of neighbor congregations meeting and sharing mutual challenges together is still workable and can also be used as an effective way to minister and witness in a particular geographical area. I pray that every congregation will take a special offering for the work and outreach of our Synod and raise and exceed the \$2,750,000 needed to balance our budget and raise even more to expand the Lord's work.

The District

On the District level we need to develop more and more the spirit of cooperation and brotherliness. Here too there is potential strength in unity, and much can be accomplished in various parts of our nation if local projects are carried out by shared responsibilities and team efforts.

All of these and many more are blocks in the building of a great and beautiful cathedral for the glory of God and for the welfare of our neighbor.

It Can Be Done

Our Stewardship Board is attempting to help our congregations in Districts and the Synod in the overall program of raising additional funds, so that the work of



Dr. and Mrs. J. A. O. Preus

the Synod and District may go forward with joy and success. Think for example of what it is like to be a pastor in the India Evangelical Lutheran Church, where a man is paid \$60 a month, or one in Ghana who receives \$100 a month, or a man in Brazil trying to work in an area and receiving a little over \$200 a month. In all of these countries inflation makes day-to-day living a struggle for survival. In Ghana, for example, a chicken costs \$10, eggs \$4.20 a dozen. We need to give very serious thought to ways in which we can vastly increase our stewardship program, so that the story of Jesus Christ may be told in every corner of the earth, in every hut, in every mansion, on every street corner.

Long ago the apostle Paul told the congregation in Ephesus, which was steeped in paganism, pornography, and superstition, that they were to *grow* in spirit, in faith, in hope, in love, in outreach. If Paul could speak with such optimism and such enthusiasm to those people of that day, surely we can encourage one another at a time when similar problems exist; for the Holy Spirit is ever with us. Let us urge every pastor in our church to excite and enthuse his people, also every official and leader in our church to reevaluate and prioritize the important area of service to which the Lord has called him or her and renew efforts to carry out their assignments to the best of his or her ability. Let the professors in all of our schools not only equip professionals, technicians, craftsmen, but give to the church and the world witnesses on fire for Jesus Christ and for the extension of His kingdom.

Our Attitude

If we are to accomplish these things, there are going to have to be some attitudinal changes. We will need to develop in the spirit of our fathers of 400 years ago a real desire for peace and concord. We will have to turn our swords into plowshares and get busy with the work of planting the seeds of God's Word in our own hearts and those of our families and our fellow church members. We have to dedicate ourselves, if we are going to make progress, to the firm assurance that we shall accomplish great things because it is Christ who strengthens us, not our own wisdom or cleverness. We need to remember

what the word Synod means, namely, a walking together. To use more common language, we need to develop team spirit. As someone put it long ago, "No man is an island." Neither is a congregation or a District or a church body. We are a team. Every one of us is necessary. In Scriptural language, we are part of the body of Christ, with every joint and every finger and every molecule having an important role to play.

The Spiritual Dimension

Above all, we need to develop the spiritual dimension in our lives. We need to get into our thinking the idea that we stand *for* something and not merely *against* something or somebody. We need to stand for one another and with one another, and all of us need to stand up for Jesus on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief Cornerstone.

It Can Be Done Indeed

You ask the question: Can it be done? The answer is an emphatic and eternal yes. The same Lord who told His dispirited, divided, doubting disciples to go into the world and be His witnesses has given to us the same promise: "I am with you always, even unto the end of the age." He has said that even where two or three are gathered together in His name there He is in the midst of them. God works through His Word, through His means of grace and His Holy Spirit, just as effectively today as He did in the days of the apostles or in the days of the Reformation or in the early history of our Synod. He has added to our equipment the miracles of rapid transportation, marvelous communication, wealth, and talents. He stands here with us, calling us to join Him and promising to empower and invigorate us. We are not slaves or aliens but members of the household of God and citizens of His kingdom. We are not the dispossessed but heirs of eternal life; we are the richest and most powerful people in the world because we are heirs of God's kingdom and are filled with and equipped by His Holy Spirit.

May God grant that this convention can move us forward, invigorate and inspire us, unite us and cause us to love one another more and more, and make us, above all, love Him and dedicate ourselves and all that we have to serving Him. This is what we mean by growing. And may the Lord Jesus Christ dwell in us today and always.

Appendix A

Assignments to the Administration by the 1975 Anaheim Convention

Actions of the President on the first three 1975 resolutions below (3-01, 3-04, 3-08) are reported in the 1977 *Convention Workbook* under Reports 3-01 and 3-06 of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, pp. 37-73.

- 3-01 *To Seek Unity*
- 3-04 *To Reaffirm the Right of the Synod to Adopt Doctrinal Statements and to Establish Procedures*
- 3-08 *To Commend Task Force on Women*
- 3-03A *To Respond to Concerns Regarding Former Faculty Members*

This resolution called for the appointment of a special interview committee by the President to deal with the "former faculty majority" of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The committee consisted of former Vice-President Dr. Roland P. Wiederaenders, chairman; Dr. Richard Bardolph, Dr. Herbert Berner, Dr. James G. Manz, and the Rev. Andrew D. Brondos, secretary. After a number of meetings and an exchange of correspondence with the former faculty members, the committee concluded by saying to them:

"We are persuaded that the interview process recommended by the Anaheim convention in Resolution 3-03A, despite possible shortcomings, by God's grace could have served as a ministry of healing in the church.

"In all kindness and candor, we cannot accept your implication that we have prejudged you, or that the interview process would have been an act 'contrary to the Word and will of God, and a clear disservice to His church,' as you have said.

"Since you have felt constrained to decline the invitation of our committee to participate in the interviews, we feel that any further efforts on our part would be officious and would exceed the assignment given to our committee by the Synod."

The committee stated in its report: "During the course of the meeting the faculty again stated that it was not willing to meet individually for personal interviews as called for by the Anaheim convention. Instead, it proposed to explore with the committee different ways of approaching the basic problems which have troubled the church in recent years. The faculty stated frankly that for this meeting it had no specific plan; it asked only that the committee explore with the faculty 'a more excellent way.'

"The committee prayerfully reviewed the proposals of the faculty and concluded that pursuing these proposals would take the committee beyond the assignment given it by the Synod. The committee feels that it has done all it can do within the confines of the authorization given it and respectfully asks to be discharged."

5-02A *To Deal with District Presidents Who Have Ordained or Who Have Authorized Ordination of Persons Who Are Not Properly Endorsed*

This resolution called for the removal of District Presidents who were unable to promise that they would carry out their duties in keeping with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod relative to the ordination and installation of improperly certified candidates for the ministry. On April 2, 1976, after a great deal of anguish and discussion both within the Council of Presidents and privately, it became necessary to implement the resolution and to remove from office the Rev. Rudolph Ressmeyer of the Atlantic District, Dr. Robert Riedel of the New England District, Dr. Herman Frincke of the Eastern District, and the Rev. Harold Hecht of the English District.

In the Atlantic District a special convention was held, and Vice-President Ronald Fink was elected President; in New England a special convention was held, and Vice-President Martin Dienst was elected; in the English District, the Rev. Hecht relinquished his claims to the presidency, and the Rev. George Bornemann was elected as his successor. Acting President Albert Bahr continues in the Eastern District.

Also as a result of the implementation of this resolution and the turmoil and tension in the Synod during 1976, Dr. Herman Neunaber of the Southern Illinois District, Dr. Paul Jacobs of the California and Nevada District, and Dr. Waldemar Meyer of the Colorado District resigned their office. Because of the resignations, Vice-President Alvin Kollmann succeeded to the presidency of the Southern Illinois District, Vice-President Orville Oswald succeeded in the California and Nevada District, and Vice-President Ralph Phipps became President of the Colorado District.

The removal of these District Presidents from office

was the most difficult action I have ever taken in my life. While I fully subscribe to the constitutional correctness of Resolution 5-02A, I found it very difficult and traumatic to carry it out. While originally there had been eight District Presidents involved, for various reasons only four were removed and three others resigned. I want to thank the men and women of the Synod for their prayers, both for me and for the men who were involved. Careers, families, loyalties, and emotions were among the factors in this entire sad chapter in our history.

Appendix B

Entered into Rest

Pastors

Aho, Daniel P.
 Albohm, Robert Carl
 Albrecht, Leo E.
 Albrecht, Philip R.
 Ave-Lallemant, Ludwig J.
 Bahr, William F. C.
 Beckmann, Roy
 Behrend, Alfred E.
 Beyer, John A.
 Boerger, Fred L. C.
 Borchardt, Norbert E.
 Borchers, Herbert H. A.
 Brauer, Fred
 Broders, Edmund
 Bruer, Samuel L.
 Bunkowske, Walter A.
 Busse, William A.
 Camin, Henry E. F.
 Cordes, Robert F.
 Decker, Fred J.
 Dickinson, Moses
 Donahue, William F.
 Drevlow, Adolph A.
 Ehlen, Reuben L.
 Ehlers, Karl H.
 Engelhard, August
 Essig, Raymond A.
 Fenner, Albert A.
 Fessler, Ralph C.
 Fischer, Theodore A.
 Flor, Martin W.
 Fox, Eduard B.
 Franzmann, Martin H.
 Freiburger, Emil A.
 Frenk, Martin L.
 Frenzel, Charles O.
 Freund, Alfred T. H.
 Gedrat, August
 Gerike, Marcus G.
 Graebner, Martin L.
 Gramlich, William A.
 Gruell, Adolph A.
 Gugel, Herman P.
 Haerther, Martin J.
 Hannusch, William K.
 Harthun, Herbert H. A.
 Hartner, Henry G.
 Heideman, Paul J.
 Heimsoth, Norman W.
 Hein, Klaudius Henry
 Heins, John G.
 Hensel, Otto K.
 Hering, Melvin R. W.
 Herzog, John L.
 Hillmer, Gerhardt H.
 Hilpert, Herman M.
 Hilst, William Frederick
 Hintz, Walter J.
 Hoelter, Edwin
 Hoffmann, Albert G.
 Hoyer, George J.
 Huwe, Donovan R.
 Jackson, John W.
 Jacob, Edwin A. H.
 Janke, Palmer L.
 Jarus, August
 Jesse, Albert F.
 Jobst, Eugene W.
 Juergensen, P. Arthur
 Keck, Arthur C.
 Keller, Edgar J.
 Kellerman, Alvin T.
 Keyl, Otto H.
 Killian, Emory H. Jr.
 Kirschenmann, Edgar M.
 Knobloch, Earl P.
 Koenig, Walter W.
 Koppelman, Herman H.
 Krause, Otto F.
 Kreidt, Emil Herman
 Kretzmann, Otto P.
 Krohn, Henry F.
 Krueger, Adolph F.
 Krueger, Carl J.
 Krueger, Ottomar
 Krueger, W. James
 Krueger, Walter R.
 Krueger, William A.
 Lehenbauer, George W.
 Lehmann, William H. Sr.
 Lemke, Roland K.
 Lucht, John H.
 Luessenhop, Elmer Otto
 Machinske, Arthur W.
 Mack, Martin L.
 Maida, Pasquale D.
 Malte, Reinhardt E.
 Manns, Edmund C.
 March, Carl R.
 Marschke, Otto A.
 Martin, Ruben
 Marting, Louis C.
 Mazak, Stephan G. Sr.
 Melahn, Walter Martin
 Melde, Robert H. Sr.
 Mensing, Willner D.
 Meyer, Lawrence B.
 Miller, Alfred F.
 Moehring, Robert R.
 Mueller, Elmer E.
 Mueller, George H.
 Mueller, Otto Edward
 Neeb, Martin J. Sr.
 Nitschke, Walter J.
 Nuernberg, Carl J.
 Ott, John W.
 Ott, Norberto C.
 Pittack, Otto F. W.
 Poellot, Orrville C. Jr.
 Praeuner, Otto H.
 Quandt, Erwin F.
 Rast, Alfred Otto
 Rathberger, Edward R.
 Robinson, Luther H.
 Sattelmeyer, Ferdinand J.
 Schalow, Frederick M.
 Schildt, Edmund F.

Schlecht, Willard E.
 Schlichting, Joseph
 Schoech, Oscar W.
 Schroeder, Walter C. O.
 Schuldheisz, Benjamin W.
 Schwertfeger, Fred A.
 Seebeck, William J.
 Seehase, August C.
 Sonntag, Eduardo C.
 Stack, William M.
 Stoskopf, Alfred Jacob
 Stratman, William W.
 Strothmann, Otto F. E.
 Symank, Walter H.
 Teske, Herbert J.
 Theimer, Ralph S.
 Theiss, George Edwin
 Toerne, Sylvester von

Tolch, Elwood C. E.
 Tomonko, Ladislao
 Traugott, Henry A.
 Trinklein, Oswald H.
 Vetter, Walter C.
 Vogel, Theodore J.
 Walther, Arthur W.
 Walther, Paul G.
 Walther, Richard L.
 Wenzel, Ewald C.
 Werth, Frank J.
 Wiegner, Paul E.
 Wiese, Herbert L.
 Wilhelms, Henry H.
 Wismar, Adolph L.
 Wolfram, Walter T.
 Zellmer, Nelmar Walter
 Zimmermann, Reinhardt H.

Teachers

Ansorge, Herman A.
 Armbricht, Louis H.
 Aufdemberge, Theodore H.
 Baden, John P.
 Bartels, John E.
 Block, Gordon C.
 Borcharding, Lowell
 Briel, Carla
 Brisky, Arthur C.
 Busse, Edwin H.
 Christian, Erich W.
 Dobberfuhl, Martin E.
 Elbert, Ernst W.
 Fischer, Leonard E.
 Gotsch, Oswald L.
 Griebel, Paul M.
 Grimm, Fred A.
 Grimsinger, Frank M.
 Groth, Elmer A.
 Gutz, Ewald C.
 Handrich, Eldor G.
 Harms, Louis O.
 Hinze, Rudolph W.
 Imme, Michael E.
 Jaeger, Edgar T.
 Kamprath, Oscar H.
 Kamprath, William M.
 Kirchhoff, Alfred B.
 Kraemer, Carl H.
 Krenzke, Edgar G.
 Kruse, Walter A.
 Lange, Theodore E.
 Lipske, Herold H.
 Mertz, Gustave F.
 Moeller, Walter H.
 Mueller, Paul R.
 Redeker, Walter
 Roedel, Louis P.
 Roehl, Herman C. F.
 Roschke, Oscar G.
 Rosel, Paul
 Rosenau, Erwin P.
 Sachtleben, Albert F.
 Schmidt, Theodore F.
 Schmiel, Gerhard A.
 Sieving, Eldor C.
 Sonntag, Folmar
 Stellhorn, August C.
 Suelflow, Denise W.
 Wachholz, Arnold W.
 Wittmer, Arthur E.
 Woltmann, Joao

Appendix C

Membership Report

(as of July 12, 1977)

I. Congregations That Have Left LCMS and Joined AELC

Ashburn, Chicago, IL (Neuberger)*
 Bethel, Evergreen Park, IL (Mau)*
 Bethlehem, Brooklyn, NY
 Bethlehem, Roslindale, MA (Seminex)
 Christ, Detroit, MI
 Christ Memorial, Plymouth, MN (Johnson-Stuehrenberg)
 Calvary, Ferguson, MO
 Capitol Drive, Milwaukee, WI
 Christ, Falmouth, MA
 Christ, Hartford, CT (Seminex)
 Christ, Minneapolis, MN (Kretzmann)*
 Christ, Yonkers, NY
 Christ the King, Holliston, MA
 Clifton, Marblehead, MA
 Covenant, Maple Heights, OH
 Cross, Milwaukee, WI (Timmerman)
 Cross, St. Paul, MN
 El Sereno, Los Angeles, CA (King)
 Epiphany, Ft. Wayne, IN (Ribar)*
 Faith, Livonia, MI
 Faith, Milwaukee, WI (Hagebusch)*
 Faith, Mundelein, IL

*Pastor has not resigned from LCMS

First, Omaha, NE
 Framingham, Framingham Centre, MA
 Gethsemane, Columbus, OH (Seminex)
 Gethsemane, St. Paul, MN
 Gethsemane, Ft. Wayne, IN (Hoerger)*
 Good Shepherd, Palos Hts., IL
 Good Shepherd, Westboro, MA
 Grace, Auburn, ME
 Grace, Cleveland Heights, OH
 Grace, Evanston, IL
 Grace, Pt. Townsend, WA (?)
 Grace, Glen Ellyn, IL
 Grace, Oklahoma City, OK
 Grace, West Springfield, MA
 Griffith, Griffith, IN
 Grace, Malvern, NY
 Grace, Pontiac, MI
 Hilltop, South Bend, IN
 Holy Spirit, St. Paul, MN
 Holy Trinity, Livonia, MI
 Immanuel, Alameda, CA
 Luther Memorial, Richmond Hts., MO
 Messiah, Fairview Park, OH
 Mt. Tabor, Manchester MO. (Otto)*
 Mt. Calvary, St. Louis, MO
 Our Blessed Savior, Alexandria, IN
 Our Master, St. Louis, MO
 Our Redeemer, Scotia, NY
 Our Redeemer, Foxboro, MA
 Our Redeemer, Indianapolis, IN
 Our Redeemer, Livingston, CA (Seminex)
 Our Redeemer, Temple Terrace, FL
 Our Savior, Bradley, IL*
 Our Savior, Manhasset, NY
 Our Savior, Mineola, NY
 Our Savior, Rochester, NY (Kitts)*
 Our Savior, Aurora, IL
 Our Savior, Brooklyn, NY
 Our Savior, Pt. Washington, NY (Seminex)
 Our Savior, Port Huron, MI (Schoof)
 Peace, Sparta, MI
 Pilgrim, Chicago, IL
 Pilgrim, Indianapolis, IN
 Pilgrim, Marysville, MI
 Prince of Peace, Claremont, NH (Seminex)
 Prince of Peace, Berlin, CT
 Pilgrim, St. Paul, MN
 Redeemer, Park Ridge, IL (Meyer)*
 Redeemer, Hinsdale, IL
 Redeemer, Philadelphia, PA
 Redeemer, Corning, NY (Jordan)*
 Redeemer, Plattsburgh, NY
 Redeemer, St. Paul, MN (Vacant)
 Resurrection, Roseville, MN
 Resurrection, Portland, OR (Seminex)
 Resurrection, Yardley, PA (Schreiber)
 St. Andrew-Redeemer, Detroit, MI (Seminex)
 St. Andrew, Smithtown, NY (Haupt)*
 St. Andrew, Pittsburgh, PA (Buerger)*
 St. John, Hammond, IN
 St. John, Wilmette, IL
 St. Luke, Chicago, IL
 St. Martin, Piper, KS (Seminex)
 St. Paul, Clarence Center, NY (Forrester)*
 St. Paul, Wellston, OK (Seminex)
 St. Paul, Washington, PA (Seminex)
 St. Paul, Wyoming, MN
 St. Peters, Huntington Station, NY
 St. Stephen, Pittsburgh, PA (Buntrock)*
 St. Timothy, Portland, OR (Maier)*
 Savior Divine, Palos Hills, IL
 St. Paul, E. Northport, NY
 St. Mark Detroit, MI (Seminex)

Trinity, Brooklyn, NY
 Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA
 Trinity, Rolling Meadows, IL
 Trinity, Great Bend, KS
 Windsor Park, Chicago IL (Rehrauer)*
 Zion, Comstock Park, MI
 Zion, Kingman, KS (?)
 Zion, Webster, MA

As of Sept. 1, 1977:

Zion, Ferguson, MO (Roth)*

II. Congregations Claiming Dual Membership in LCMS and AELC

All Saints, Livonia, MI (Paap)*
 All Saints, Brookville, NY (Thielo)*
 Ascension, Riverside, IL (Landahl)*
 Bethel, Middleburg Hts., OH (Landeck-Hasz)*
 Bethel, University City, MO (Buls, Seminex profs)*
 Bethany, Elmhurst, NY (Kummer)*
 Bethlehem, New Orleans, LA (Seminex)
 Bethlehem, Oakland, CA (Herzfeld)*
 Christ, Webster Groves, MO (Gritzke)*
 Christ the King, Sharonville, OH (Redder)*
 First Trinity, Washington D.C. (Preisinger)*
 Good Shepherd, Irving, TX (Behrmann)*
 Grace, Bronx, NY (Hempel)*
 Grace, Broomall, PA (Bruning)*
 Grace, Hastings, MI (Anton)*
 Grace, Boulder, CO (Hattendorf)
 Holy Trinity, West Hatfield, MA (?)
 Mt. Calvary, Cahokia, IL (Benbow)*
 Mt. Olive, Chicago, IL (Bumby)*
 Mt. Olive, Dallas, TX (Herbener)*
 Mt. Olive, Minneapolis, MN (Wedel)*
 New Life in Christ, Florissant, MO (Heckman-Peters)*
 Our Savior, Madison Hts., MI (Kissling-Runge)*
 Our Savior, St. Louis, MO (Gugel)*
 Prince of Peace, Tulsa, OK (Dallmann)*
 Redeemer, Oklahoma City, OK (Kabelitz)*
 Risen Christ, Florissant, MO (Schwartzkopf)*
 St. Gregory, Chicago, IL (Seminex)
 St. Matthew, Union City, NJ (Balint)*
 St. Michael, LaGrange Park, IL (Seminex)
 St. Paul, Fairview Heights, IL (Nathan)*
 St. Paul, Willow Springs, MO (Koenig)*
 St. Paul, West Plains, MO (Koenig)*
 St. Paulus, San Francisco, CA (Grumm)*
 St. Philip, St. Louis, MO (Hoffmann)*
 St. Jacobus, Woodside, NY (Seminex)
 St. James, Grosse Pointe, MI (Kurz-Seminex)*
 St. John, San Francisco, CA (Grumm)*
 St. Timothy, Golden, CO (Roehrs)*
 Trinity, Burlingame, CA (Miner)*
 Trinity, Carol City, FL (Volker-Vodica)*
 University, Berkeley, CA (Schultz)*
 University, Boulder, CO (Stephan)*
 Zion, Prairie Village, KS (Frey-Tremain)

Congregations

En	16	MnS	2
At	3	Ok	2
CN	5	Ks	1
Mo	4	NE	1
Tx	2	NJ	1
So	1	FG	1
Co	3	SE	1
SI	2	Total	45

*Pastor has not resigned from LCMS

*Pastor has not resigned from LCMS

III. "New" Congregations (splinter groups) That Have Joined AELC

Advent, Austin, TX (Schwanke)*
 Agape, Lakewood, CO (Walker)*
 Alleluia, Knoxville, TN
 All Saints, Carbondale, IL
 All Saints, Greenville, IL (Seminex)
 All Saints, Lincoln, NE (Seminex)
 Ascension, S. Bend, IN
 Christ Our Savior, Chichasha, OK (Seminex)
 Christ The Servant, Cleveland Hts. OH (Grabowski)*
 Evangelical, Midland, MI (Cress)*
 Faith, St. John, KS
 Freedom, Novi, MI
 Gloria Christi, Allen Pk., MI
 Good News, Berthaud, CO*
 Hope, Bristol, CT (Jackson)*
 Hope, Farmington Hills, MI
 Hope, Fergus Falls, MN (Seminex)
 Jubilee, Longview, WA
 Living Word, St. Louis, MO
 New Life, Scottsdale, AZ (formerly a "community" church)
 Our Savior, LaVerne, CA
 Peace, Burns, OR
 Peace, Cedar Rapids, IA (Seminex)
 Peace, Cyril, OK (Padgett)*
 Peace in Christ, Eggertsville, NY
 Peace With Joy, Denver, CO (Reetz-Newhouse)*
 Reformation, Duluth, MN
 Resurrection, Alton, IL (Giraud)*
 St. John, Palatka, FL
 St. Paul, Au Gres, MI
 St. Peter, Holyoke, MA (Villani)*
 St. Martin of Tours, Mascoutah, IL (Clark)*
 St. Matthews, Evansville, IN
 St. Thomas, St. Thomas, Ont. (Schweyer)*
 Savior, Kalamazoo, MI
 Shepherd of the Hills, Montpelier, VT
 Spirit of Christ, Manteca, CA (Saffen-?)*
 University, Toronto, Ont., Can.

IV. Congregations That Have Left LCMS but Have Not Joined Another Group

Atonement, Atlanta, GA (Seminex)
 Community, Enfield, NH
 Community, W. Sacramento, CA (Wyneken)
 Grand Lake, Oakland, CA (Pieper)*
 Good Shepherd, Plainview, NY (Hinsch)
 Immanuel, Kingston, NY (Mehl)*
 Memorial, Toledo, OH
 Peace, Belleville, IL (Brendel)*
 St. Martin, Piper, KS (Seminex)
 St. Paul, Hamburg, WI (Vacant)
 St. Paul, Niagara Falls, Ont., Can. (Schaus)*
 The Savior, Paramus, NJ (Starenko)*
 Trinity, Alton, IL (Lochhaas)*
 Trinity, London, Ont.

V. Congregations That Have Transferred (Are Transferring) to ALC or LCA

Davis, Davis, CA (ALC)
 Immanuel, Amherst, MA (LCA)
 Faith, O'Fallon, IL (ALC)
 Our Savior, Delano, CA (ALC, pending)
 Our Savior, S. Hadley, MA (ALC, pending)

St. Andrew, S. Lake Tahoe, CA (ALC)
 St. John, Sudbury, Ont., Can. (LCA)
 Zion, Plymouth, MA (ALC)

VI. AELC Summary

107 congregations have left LCMS and joined AELC (63,000 baptized members)
 2 congregations have scheduled this action for Sept. 1, 1977
 (28 pastors of these congregations are on the LCMS clergy roster)
 45 congregations claim membership in LCMS and AELC (18,000 baptized members)
 (43 of the pastors of these congregations are on the LCMS clergy roster)
 38 splinter groups from LCMS congregations have joined AELC
 (13 of the pastors of these groups are on the LCMS clergy roster)
 84 pastors of the above 190 congregations are still on the LCMS clergy roster

VII. Pastors Who Are Officers of AELC but Whose Names Remain on LCMS Clergy Roster

Behrmann, N., Bishop of Texas, Southwest Synod, AELC
 Benbow, J., Board of Directors, AELC
 Dallmann, D., Bishop of Oklahoma, Southwest Synod, AELC
 Frey, J., Bishop of Kansas, Southwest Synod, AELC
 Grumm, R., Secretary, Pacific Coast Synod, AELC
 Grumm, W., Board of Directors, Pacific Coast Synod, AELC
 Hattendorf, N., Bishop of Colorado, Pacific Coast Synod, AELC
 Herbener, M., Council Member, Southwest Synod, AELC
 Herzfeld, W., V.-Pres., AELC
 Jacobs, P., Bishop, Pacific Coast Synod, AELC
 Kabelitz, N., Treasurer, Southwest Synod, AELC
 Neunaber, H., Bishop, Great Rivers Synod, AELC
 (Elwyn Ewald, Executive Secretary, AELC, is on teacher roster of LCMS)

VIII. Withdrawals and Transfers (Summary)

14 congregations have left LCMS, now independent
 (8 pastors of these congregations are on the LCMS clergy roster)
 4 congregations have transferred to ALC
 2 congregations' transfers to ALC pending
 2 congregations have joined LCA

IX. Congregations Received into Synodical Membership in 1976

St. James, Bakersfield, CA (CN)
 Hephatha, Anaheim, CA (SC)
 Shepherd of the Valley, Oceanside (San Luis Rey), CA (SC)
 Gethsemane, Tempe, AZ (SC)
 Hope, Bayonet Point, FL (FG)
 Trinity, Lake Placid, FL (FG)
 Marco, Marco Island, FL (FG)
 Trinity, Toccoa, GA (FG)
 Ascension, WayCross, GA (FG)
 Our Redeemer, Jacksonville, IL (CI)
 Hope, Sigourney, IA (IE)
 Christ the King, Altoona, IA (IW)
 St. Thomas, Panora, IA (IW)
 Shepherd of Peace, Sergeant Bluff, IA (IW)
 Hope, Bellaire, MI (Mc)
 First, Charlotte, MI (Mc)
 Redeemer, Interlochen, MI (Mc)
 St. Johannes, Kingsley, MI (Mc)
 Hope, Linden, MI (Mc)
 Good Shepherd, Lowell, MI (Mc)
 Hope, St. Helen, MI (Mc)
 Hope, Batesville, AR (Mds)
 Faith, Fairfield Bay, AR (Mds)

*Pastor has not resigned from LCMS

*Pastor has not resigned from LCMS

Shepherd of the Hills, Horseshoe Bend, AR (MdS)
 Faith, Atikokan, Ont. (MnN)
 Eternal Hope, Brooklyn Park, MN (MnS)
 Shepherd of the Fields, Hugo, MN (MnS)
 St. Luke, Lansing, MN (MnS)
 Hope, Bethany, MO (Mo)
 Zion, Bolivar, MO (Mo)
 Trinity, Bridgeton, MO (Mo)
 Prince of Peace, Cameron, MO (Mo)
 Trinity, Doniphan, MO (Mo)
 Holy Cross, Houston, MO (Mo)
 Faith, Isabella (Theodosia), MO (Mo)
 Shepherd of the Hills, Kimberling City, MO (Mo)
 Shepherd of the Valley, Oak Grove, MO (Mo)
 Immanuel, Princeton, MO (Mo)
 Redeemer, Rolla, MO (Mo)
 Faith, Springfield, MO (Mo)
 Our Savior, Valentine, NE (Ne)
 Village, Forked River, NJ (NJ)
 Hope, Soda Springs, ID (Nw)
 St. John, Benton City, WA (Nw)
 All Saints, Redmond, WA (Nw)
 First Korean, Seattle, WA (Nw)
 First Korean, Tacoma, WA (Nw)
 Hosanna, Columbia Station, OH (Oh)
 Gethsemane, North Jackson, OH (Oh)
 Zion, Hamill, SD (SD)
 Zion, Stickney, SD (SD)
 Concordia, Upper Marlboro, MD (SE)
 The Lutheran Church of the Risen Christ, N. Myrtle Beach, SC (SE)
 Holy Shepherd, W. Columbia, SC (SE)

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Richmond, VA (SE)
 Trinity, Cantonment, FL (So)
 Faith, Thibodaux, LA (So)
 St. Luke, Starkville, MS (So)
 Divine Savior, N. Fond du Lac, WI (SW)
 Good Shepherd by the Lake, Stoughton, WI (SW)
 Our Savior, Granbury, TX (Tx)
 Holy Three-In-One Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Houston, TX (Tx)
 St. Paul, Magnolia, TX (Tx)
 Our Savior, Rockwall, TX (Tx)
 Christ of the Bay, Green Bay, WI (NW)
 Prince of Peace, Sturgeon Bay, WI (NW)
 Saviour, Delta, BC (AB)
 Prince of Peace, London, Ont. (On)

X. Congregations Applying for Synodical Membership at This Convention

Shepherd of the Hills, McMinnville, TN (MdS)
 Messiah Lutheran Church, Salem, OR (Nw)
 Carmel Lutheran Church, Carmel, IN (In)
 Heritage Lutheran Church, Valparaiso, IN (In)
 Christ Lutheran Church, Brownsburg, IN (In)
 Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lawrence, KS (Ks)
 Concord Lutheran Church, Prairie Village, KS (Ks)
 Our Savior Lutheran Church, Great Bend, KS (Ks)
 Ascension Ev. Lutheran Church, Corunna, Ont. (On)
 Our Savior Lutheran Church, Centerville, TX (Tx)
 Christ Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, TX (Tx)
 Our Savior Lutheran Church, Whitney, TX (Tx)
 Concord Lutheran Church, Shawnee Mission, KS (Ks)

CONVENTION SERMON

INI

Text: 2 Peter 3:18

But keep on growing in grace and knowledge from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory both now and for eternity.

Reverend Clergy, Honored Delegates and Friends,
Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Welcome in the Savior's name to the 52nd regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod! It is good to be together in thriving, metropolitan Dallas and meet in national assembly for the assessment, planning, and promotion of the work of the Lord in our church body. We are encouraged by *Workbook* reports of the accomplishments of our faithful people and pastors, under the blessing of the Lord, in the past biennium. We rejoice that the challenge of our church's entering new overseas mission fields will be presented to the delegates of this convention. We thank God for the privilege that will be ours here in Dallas to inaugurate Synodwide celebration of a century of our church's ministry among the Blacks in the U.S.A. and to begin observance of the 75th anniversary of the Church Extension Fund. We praise our heavenly Father that our seminaries are flourishing and by God's grace will provide the church of the future with Christ-exalting, orthodox, able ministers of the New Testament. We are grateful that the Lord has helped us through many of the Synod's recent troubles and shown us countless additional undeserved mercies. Most delegates have come to this city with an enthusiastic, God-given determination to help make the 52nd regular convention one of the most positive, fruitful, and forward-looking in the Synod's recent history.

Yet it must also be admitted that our hearts are filled with a certain degree of concern and sadness over circumstances which have affected our life together in the Synod and over problems with which we must still grapple in the church and here at this synodical meeting. We regret that little progress can be made toward establishing God-pleasing fellowship relations with other Lutherans or other Christian groups. We grieve over the fact that some brethren who once walked and worked with us have left our fellowship to organize a new church body; that a minority of others who remain in the Synod continue to be dissatisfied with our church's 130-year-old position in doctrine and practice based on the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, and by divisive contrary teaching and churchly activity continue to confuse some of our congregations and prolong our internal strife and disunity. We are distressed over the Synod's perennial shortages in income—and this in a time of unparalleled prosperity for our people—so that missionary expansion at home and overseas has had to be seriously curtailed. We note our membership decline and an apparent lack of zeal for evangelism and local missionary outreach on the part of numerous congregations (one statistic revealing, for example, that one half of the churches in the Synod in a



Vice-President Walter A. Maier

normal year confirm one or less adults). Recruitment of students for full-time church service vocations is down. There are further disappointments. We consider all these factors and are led to ask the serious questions: Have many in the Synod lost their first love of the Lord, and are they becoming lukewarm in their devotion to Christ and His kingdom's cause? What can be done about this situation?

The crying need in our Synod today is for humble, heart-deep repentance before God over our failures; for earnest request of His strengthening help in our weakness; for application on the part of our entire membership to an intensive study of the sanctifying Word, through which the Holy Spirit fosters spiritual growth, through which He enlightens and fires God's people for full, eager obedience to the divine will and the joyous assumption of Kingdom responsibilities as assigned by Christ in the Great Commission. The wonderful news for us at Dallas is that our Synod has just such a necessary program of Bible study ready for our people; it is titled "That We May Grow." Yours will be the privilege of launching and supporting this Bible-study effort at this convention. As it takes hold in the church, multitudes by the Spirit's power will be built up in the faith and activated for more rigorous, God-glorifying service in His kingdom, and the way will be paved under God for mighty, divine benediction upon our Synod in all departments of its operation.

Grateful to God for his many blessings and with a desire to promote throughout the Synod an accelerated, Spirit-given solution to our difficulties, beginning with us who are assembled here in convention opening worship, we direct our attention to the edifying Word and to the vital subject of Christian growth. In the name of Jesus we bid you resolve with the Holy Spirit's help and with renewed dedication to

Grow in Christ!

In the words of St. Peter recorded in our text for this occasion we ask you to "keep on growing"—that is, keep increasing—"in grace and knowledge from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory both now and for eternity." God grant this blessing, this progress in sanctification to you and to our fellows in the faith throughout the Synod, as together we study, ponder, exalt, and adhere to the Word of truth!

I. Grow in Relation to Christ: Obtain the Full Measure of Knowledge from Christ

Growth is the normal concomitant of life. Where there is life, the expectancy is that there will be growth. This is true in the realm of nature, in the plant and animal kingdoms. Such is the case with human beings: when a physical life is begun, the anticipation is that physical and mental growth, steady development from babyhood through childhood to manhood and womanhood, to maturity of body and mental powers, will follow. Necessary to the growth of body and mind, of course, is a continuing intake of the nourishment appropriate to each.

So it is in the realm of the spirit. Where there is spiritual being and life, the normal thing is that spiritual growth occurs, steady development from spiritual infancy to maturity. What is spiritual growth? According to the teaching of Scripture this consists in the acquisition of the knowledge which our text says comes "from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," the Savior in whom ultimately are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. This is the knowledge which Jesus provides us, His people, through the nourishment of His inscripturated Word and the agency of His Spirit operative in that Word. The Bible tells us that God both continually prompts His people to grow spiritually, to increase in knowledge, and makes them responsible for their growth. We determine to a degree the rate of our growth, for the Lord has said: "With what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again" (Mark 4:24); that is to say, in direct proportion to the amount of sincere and earnest effort you put forth in studying the divine Word, you will receive instruction, knowledge, and accompanying blessings in return.

One of our problems is that, on account of the opposition of our sinful flesh, we do not always give attention to the intake of spiritual nourishment, do not study the Word as we should. The result is that we weaken ourselves, slow down the rate of our growth, stunt our spiritual development. Frequently, when this happens, the Lord intervenes and promotes our growth again through chastening, which causes us to return to the Word and its nurture. When Peter in our text asks us to keep on increasing in knowledge, he reminds us that it is our constant obligation to see to it that we go on growing spiritually.

Holy Writ reveals that much of the growth that takes place in the church is fostered by the members of our congregations who, under the training of their pastors, lovingly communicate the Word of truth to one another in the home, at church, and elsewhere, for each other's

upbuilding in knowledge, faith, and life. In the fourth chapter of Ephesians Paul specifically states: "He [the ascended Christ] gave . . . pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministration"—that is, ministration to one another—"for the upbuilding of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:11-12). The goal of this mutual ministration work, to go on with this apostle's explanation, is that "we all attain to the unity of the faith in and knowledge of the Son of God, to full-grown manhood, to a measure of age [marked by reception] of the fullness of Christ . . . with the result that we have gotten to be grown up in relation to Him in everything" (Eph. 4:13-15).

These words show that Christian maturity, or adulthood, consists in our possessing the full measure of knowledge that comes from Christ, our comprehension of all the fundamental saving and sanctifying truths which fill Him, so that "we have gotten to be grown up" in relation to the Lord Jesus in the proper way—we, Christ's body, corresponding to Christ the Head in terms of knowing and understanding essential spiritual realities. Thus, to know something of Jesus and His will is not enough; this is not to correspond to Him as we should and not to have full oneness with our fellow saints. We must receive into our hearts and minds all that our faith and knowledge are able to understand. Nothing less than this fully glorifies the Lord; nothing less than this must be the objective of our Bible study and our endeavor mutually to edify one another with the Word.

This means that where we have been remiss, sluggish, indifferent, halfhearted in searching the Scriptures; where we have not made it our deliberate goal, indeed our preoccupation in life, to keep on growing in the knowledge they afford, to keep striving for the mastery of as much of the Biblical teaching as is possible to us, we have sinned before God and have retarded our spiritual development. We have not shown supreme love to Him and not had proper love for ourselves and our fellow Christians. This means that if we as people, pastors, teachers, professors have not communicated the Word accurately to others in the church; if we have helped promulgate the notion that it is the normally-to-be-expected, even the God-pleasing thing to have conflicting or antithetical theologies presented to our people, to have differing practices stemming from differences in doctrine obtaining in the Synod, if through divisiveness of this kind we have contributed to the disunity in our midst, then we have transgressed the will of our holy God; we have interfered with our people's growth in Christ. If we are guilty of these iniquities, we have called down the judgment of God upon ourselves and upon our church body.

Let us confess all our sin before God and flee to His grace and mercy in Christ, the Son of God, who loved and loves us, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from our sins. Let us through faith in our sin-bearing, sin-atoning, sin-removing Savior receive full, free, and final cleansing from our transgressions. Let us in the power of His pardon determine in earnest to grow in Christ, to develop fully in relation to Him, to come by the total complement of knowledge He is ready to provide us

through our persevering study of and daily meditation on His Word.

II. Grow in Union with Christ to Obtain the Full Measure of Grace from Christ

Now, it is important further to note, as far as the Scripture's teaching is concerned, that the Spirit's bestowal of the knowledge from Christ is ever for the purpose of effecting a God-glorifying change in conduct. This knowledge rightly received and lodged in the Christian's heart and spirit is a powerful, moving force, compelling his trust in, love for, and obedience to the truth. Paul wrote to the Colossians: "We . . . do not cease . . . asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in connection with all wisdom and spiritual understanding, so that you walk worthily of the Lord in all respects, bearing fruit and increasing in every good work by means of the knowledge of God" (Col. 1:9-10). Peter speaks of this same thing in our text when he bids his readers, "Keep on growing"—or keep increasing—"in grace . . . from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." The grace to which he refers is, of course, God's own unmerited favor, His undeserved kindness toward us sinners, according to which He forgives us our sins and grants us the blessings of salvation despite our unworthiness. It is this *plus* the concrete gifts which proceed from this divine favor, the saving blessings He bestows upon us, including especially—and this is the particular point in context—the capacity to do, and the doing itself of, what we learn to be His holy will for our lives. Though knowledge is mentioned second in Peter's listing, it is by the increasing acquisition of knowledge that the steady increase in the grace of godliness and righteousness of life comes about.

In referring to Jesus Peter adds the words "to whom belongs the glory both now and for eternity." He in this way reminds us that the final purpose of all of the Lord's saving activity in our behalf is that we might be and live to His glory both now and forevermore. Christ is glorified when we praise Him with our lips for all His blessings and when we do in our lives those good works of heart and hand and voice that please Him. For such glorification of the Son of God (and, we may add, of the Father and the Holy Spirit) God has elected us in eternity, and we have been redeemed by Jesus in time, we have been born physically and reborn spiritually, we have had our faith and life preserved until this present afternoon.

All of this shows how vital it is for us once we have come to know the will of the Lord to act upon it. James writes: "Be *doers* of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (1:22). Jesus instructs the church to make disciples of all nations (in part) by "teaching them to *observe* all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:20). A persisting problem with us Christians is that, besides overtly sinning by way of commission, we so frequently hold out on the Lord, refuse in the face of better knowledge to carry out certain facets of the divine desire, and therefore experience troubles in life as God judges us according to our works. We have not prayed as we should, and so various difficulties still beset us. We have not trusted in

the Lord and His promises with all our hearts, and therefore we continue to be burdened with worry. We have not faithfully discharged our stewardship of time, toil, talent, and treasure, and God has not been able to bestow upon us certain blessings, material as well as spiritual, that otherwise would have been ours in rich abundance. We do not witness for Christ, engage in brotherly admonition, and promote the work of the Lord as we ought, and the result is that we miss a good deal of Christian joy that could be ours and at the same time contribute to our church's diminishing effectiveness, its weakening outreach for souls.

And who will calculate the cost to our Synod in terms of opportunities for the expansion of Kingdom work lost, members not built up in faith and life as they should be, potential professional church workers not serving in the Synod, and other serious consequences because in recent decades congregations, District and synodical officials have not exercised proper, divinely enjoined supervision of doctrine and practice and necessary evangelical discipline in the church? Who will measure the spiritually debilitating influence on many in the Synod the embrace of doctrinal error and participation in fellowship relationships and activities not sanctioned by the Scriptures has had? Oh, the marvel of the love of God, that He is still as merciful to us as He has been!

We have sinned against God! Let us penitently confess our transgressions and look to Him who was centrally crucified for us on Calvary for pardon, peace, and help. Never in one lifetime or a hundred could we make up or pay for our sins, on account of any and all of which God ought to direct His condemning wrath against us throughout our earthly days and for the whole of eternity. When, however, in the strength of the Spirit we embrace Jesus our Redeemer in faith, then He who was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities; then He on whom the Lord laid the guilt of us all will speak to us, each one in the church, and say, "Son . . . daughter . . . be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven you. They are sent away from you as far as the East is from the West. They are drowned in the depths of the bottomless sea, never again to rise and call forth the righteous retribution of a just and holy God."

More than this. Beautiful, wonderful Savior that He is, He also supplies us with the power to overcome all our recognized sins for which we obtain His pardon. He does so by way of our spiritual union with Him, the union effected already for us in Holy Baptism, when we died and rose again with Jesus spiritually and put on the new man, who after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. "Sin shall not have dominion over you" (Rom. 6:14), declares the Lord's apostle, and we therefore ought to realize and believe that our Savior, without whom we can do nothing, has placed at our disposal His own invincible, sin-defeating might, so that we, each one of us, can exult in full assurance of faith, "I can do all things in union with Christ, who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13). To grow in Christ means, then, also to grow in union with Christ, that is, to grow by virtue of our union with Him, drawing on the Savior's strength to defeat sin and produce the fruits of righteousness that glorify God. Now, in the Lord's power, we *can* increasingly occupy

our minds with the things of the Spirit; we can grow in relation to Christ, can give intensive study of God's Book of Truth the priority in our lives which the Lord requires; we can along with the development of our spiritual understanding translate our knowledge into action and obtain the full measure of grace from Christ. May our Lord and Savior everlastingly be praised for this!

If all of us and all our people at this critical period in the church's history *will* humbly come to Christ not only for pardon but also for power to do His total will; if with renewed, Spirit-fired resolution we, truly walking together, embark upon a program of growing in Christ in every respect, then the horizons of accomplishment are literally unlimited for us in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We will be able to pray for heretofore undreamed-of divine blessing upon our Christ-dedicated efforts and undertakings in the confident expectation of the answer to our petitions. St. John writes: "Whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight" (1 John 3:22). Like the church at Philadelphia, to whom the exalted Lord said: "I know your works: behold, I have set before you an open door, which no man can shut, because you . . . have kept My Word" (Rev. 3:8)—like that faithful church we will be able to enter open doors of missionary opportunity on a scale not before experienced.

Joyfully trusting the promises of the Lord that we cannot outgive God, that he who sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully, in a short time our people—challenged by opportunities of work on every hand—will present offerings to the Lord annually in support of a budget half again as high as that of this year 1977. In a world in which there are three billion men, women, and children still without Christ and passing into a Christless eternity of doom and damnation at the rate of more than 120,000 persons every 24 hours we live, our people will pray fervently for the unbelieving, will enthusiastically and tirelessly witness to the Lord Jesus and the life and salvation that are through faith in Him; they will strive to achieve or exceed the soul-winning goals synodical leaders have set for the next biennium. Our young people in increasing numbers will volunteer for full-time Kingdom service in pastoral, teaching, and other church-related ministries. We will seek to recruit 150 or more Black pastors for service in the Synod in the next ten years. We will eagerly participate in the synodical "That We May Grow" program and in "Year of the Sunday School" activities, supporting the recommended goal of enrolling all members of our congregations, young and old alike, in formal Christian educational experiences—and this especially as we

Lutheran Christians this year gratefully celebrate the 400th anniversary of the signing of the Formula of Concord and are reminded anew of the many blessings of our Reformation heritage, all of which stem from the open Bible and the 16th-century revival of its central doctrines.

We will promote and expand productive youth work in the church, doubtless approving at this very convention the founding of a new national youth organization. We will urge increasing numbers in the Synod to serve as Project Compassion volunteers and meet other challenges in social ministry. We will contend more earnestly for the faith, practice doctrinal supervision, exercise evangelical discipline when necessary, be forgiving and ever more loving in our dealings with one another. We will demonstrate our loyalty to the Synod, pledging it our complete support in word and deed, as we recognize this organization to be a most effective means for the corporate accomplishment of Bible-based objectives such as have brought us together as a church body—and get on with the work!

O God, help us manifestly to grow in Christ in this next biennium! This is Your holy will! Let it be done among us! We ask this in Your Son's name.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, will you now also raise heavenward with me, in summarizing prayer, the words of Martin Luther's magnificent hymn, first missionary hymn of Protestantism, the hymn sung by Gustavus Adolphus' army before the battle of Lutzen in 1632:

May God bestow on us His grace,
With blessings rich provide us,
And may the brightness of His face
To life eternal guide us
That we His saving health may know,
His gracious will and pleasure,
And also to the heathen show
Christ's riches without measure
And unto God convert them.

Thine over all shall be the praise
And thanks of every nation.
And all the world with joy shall raise
The voice of exultation;
For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,
Nor suffer sin to flourish;
Thy people's pasture is Thy Word
Their souls to feed and nourish,
In righteous paths to keep them.

Oh, let the people praise Thy worth,
In all good works increasing;
The land shall plenteous fruit bring forth,
Thy Word is rich in blessing.
May God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit bless us!
Let all the world praise Him alone,
Let solemn awe possess us.
Now let our hearts say, Amen. Amen.

Vice-President Walter A. Maier, Th. D

ESSAY AND BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Samuel H. Nafzger presented the essay on "That We May Grow." Bible studies relating especially to the essay were conducted from Sunday through Thursday. Discussion leaders were Dr. Guido Merckens, Rev. DeWitt P. Robinson, Rev. Dale E. Griffin, Dr. Richard J. Schultz. In addition to the Sunday morning Bible study four morning hours, from 10:00 to 11:00, were set aside for searching the Scriptures. The basis of the Bible study was the First Epistle of St. Peter.

"That We May Grow . . ."

Introduction

"As newborn infants, yearn for the pure milk of the Word that you may grow unto salvation by it" (1 Peter 2:2).

These words come from the pen of a man who knew what he was talking about. Peter was the apostle who must have thought more than once that he had moved beyond the basic ABCs of the Christian religion. Peter, you will recall, was the apostle who left his nets to follow Jesus (Matt. 4:20). So great was his faith that he could literally walk on water (Matt. 14:29); so keen was his insight that he could confess to Jesus, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16); so great was his love for his Savior that on the night of his betrayal he could boast "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away" (Matt. 26:33), and, "Even if I must die with You, I will not deny You" (Matt. 26:35); so fearless was he that on the day of Pentecost he could say to the face of his enemies: "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs . . . you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death" (Acts 2:22-23).

But of course we know that this tells only half of the story of Peter. For the author of these words was the same man who, when he saw the wind and the waves, began to sink into the sea (Matt. 14:30), who only moments after his glorious confession of Christ rejected the idea of a suffering Savior and had to be rebuked by Jesus with the words "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me" (Matt. 16:23), who denied his Lord three times before the cock crowed once (Matt. 26:74), and who even after Pentecost had to be opposed by the apostle Paul because of his willingness to compromise the freedom of the Gospel out of fear for "the party of the circumcision" (Gal. 2:12).

Constancy was not Peter's strong suit. His greatness lies not in his steadfastness of character but rather in the One to whom he turned. Peter's strength lay in the One who was always waiting to receive him and forgive him following his failures. As he was sinking into the waves, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" (Matt. 14:30). Following the denial of his Savior, we are told that he "went out and wept bitterly" in genuine repentance for his sin. And if tradition is to be trusted, it was only perhaps a few months after he wrote his epistles that he suffered a martyr's death, crucified upside down at his own request since he did not deem himself worthy to die in the same manner as his Lord.

It is from the words of this man—sinner and saint—that the theme for this convention comes. St. Peter writes in his first epistle: "As newborn infants, yearn for



Rev. Samuel Nafzger, Essayist

the pure milk of the Word that you may grow unto salvation by it" (1 Peter 2:2). So **THAT WE MAY GROW**, let us follow the apostle's inspired advice during these days of the 52nd regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Just as newborn babies are greedy for the sustenance of their mother's milk, the means of their physical growth and development, let also us with the same enthusiasm be hungry for the pure milk of the Word, the source of our growth in Christ Jesus.

- so **THAT WE** who are gathered here in Dallas **MAY GROW** in our personal faith in Christ Jesus;
- so **That We May Grow** in appreciation for God's rich blessings to us in our Lutheran heritage;
- so **That We May Grow** in zeal and enthusiasm for sharing the life-giving Word of the Gospel;
- so **That We May Grow** in the ability to identify, discuss, and resolve the theological issues that trouble us;
- so **That We May Grow** in peace and concord in our own midst.

We are going to take time out each morning from the deliberation of the resolutions before this convention in order to study the pure milk of God's Word. Under the direction of Bible study leaders we shall examine selected sections of St. Peter's First Epistle. You will be given an opportunity to discuss these portions of God's Word with those sitting around you on the basis of questions printed in your *Convention Guide*. In coordination with our Bible study we shall also devote a portion of our time each day to a doctrinal essay. In this essay we have chosen not to take up a technical discussion of some esoteric topic, nor do we propose to attempt to "break new ground" in constructive theology. Rather we have decided to devote our time to a review of one of the basics of our Christian faith, a basic which

No wonder the ancient Greeks could say in one of their tragic dramas that the best thing to have happen to a man is never to have been born and the next best thing is to have been born and to die right away (Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*).

Such a conclusion is the result of the Law. Were it not for the fact that the Law is *not* God's final word to us, were it not for the fact that "the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ that we may be justified by faith" (Gal. 3:24), then it would also have been better for us had we never been born.

The Gospel

If we had the Law only, then there would be no hope for us, and we would all without exception perish in hell. But thanks be to God for His unspeakable goodness to us. The Law is *not* God's final word. There is a second word, yes, a higher word—the Gospel word! Luther says it so well in the hymn stanza:

But God beheld my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And, mindful of His mercies great,
He planned my soul's salvation.
A father's heart He turned to me,
Sought my redemption fervently:
He gave His dearest Treasure. (TLH 387: 4)

With this Gospel word we enter into the realm of the greatest mystery in the world—the inexplicable mystery of God's love affair with His fallen creatures. There is at least a certain inexorable logic about God's law which demands our assent in spite of ourselves. The claim of the Law, the justice of God's wrath cannot be denied even when its verdict is directed against us personally. All the world is accountable to God, and we stand condemned in our own hearts.

But the good news of the Gospel—who is there who can fathom the meaning of the words: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son" (John 3:16)? Who can explain the love which led God from before the foundations of the earth to plan to give His dearest Treasure, His own dear Son, Jesus Christ, into death to be our Savior? When we turn to the Gospel revealed in the Holy Scriptures, the mind of natural man has no ability whatever to believe it. And even when the Holy Spirit makes known "the mystery of Christ" (Eph. 4:3), the believer's finite mind can only marvel in wonder that such a love "so amazing, so divine," could ever exist.

The Gospel is the startling good news that what man could never do for himself, already from eternity God had decided to do for him. "Foreknown before the foundation of the world" (1 Peter 1:20), prophesied by prophets (1 Peter 1:10), "when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons" (Gal. 4:4-5). In the form of God He did not "regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond servant, and being made in the likeness of men . . . He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Phil. 2:6-8). St. Paul expresses the mystery of the Gospel in these words: "God was in Christ

reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them" (2 Cor. 5:19).

Since "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23), and because the "wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23), God Himself "bore our sins in His body on the cross" (1 Peter 2:24). The cost for our redemption is *staggering* to the imagination. Perishable things like silver and gold did not suffice to pay the penalty the Law demands. The price of our redemption was "precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:19). Jesus Christ, true God and true man, fulfilled the Law perfectly in our behalf, and He was nailed to the cross and put to death (Acts 2:23).

But having paid the demands of the Law for our sins and having put "an end to the agony of death," God "raised Him up again" (Acts 2:24). Therefore St. Paul boasts: "Death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Cor. 15:54). St. Peter writes: "For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which He also went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison" (1 Peter 3:18-19). Is it any wonder that "therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:9-11)?

What is the Gospel? Luther has expressed it well in the familiar words of the explanation to the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

This is the Gospel. It is the unconditional promise of life and salvation now and forever. To the question prompted by the Law, "What must I do to be saved?" comes the answer of the Gospel: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved" (Acts 16:31). So glorious is this good news that it should come as no surprise when St. Peter reports that these are things into which the angels, who have never known the experience of having been "called out of darkness into His marvelous light," long to look (1 Peter 1:12). The praise to God offered by blood-bought souls includes a dimension the praise of angels does not possess. As Charles Wesley puts it in one of his hymns:

A song which even angels can never, never sing,
They know not Christ as Savior but worship him as King.

All eternity will not be too long a time to sing the praises of Him "who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). Let us right now join in singing the praises of our God and Savior in the words of the hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns."

II

The Law and the Gospel—according to our Lutheran Confessions “all Scripture should be divided into these two chief doctrines” (Ap IV, 5). To say this is to say that it is necessary that the Law and the Gospel be properly distinguished one from the other. It would seem that this should be a rather simple task. Nothing should be easier to do, it would seem, than to distinguish that portion of Scripture which reveals our sins by telling us how we are to be and what we are to do and not do from the glorious teaching of the Scriptures in which God tells us the good news of what He has already done for us and for our salvation through the merits of His Son’s suffering, death, and resurrection.

And yet, although apparently easy to do in the abstract, nothing is more difficult than to distinguish properly the Law from the Gospel in actual practice. As Luther writes:

Without the Holy Spirit it is impossible to rightly divide Law and Gospel. I experience it in my own case, also daily observe it in others, how difficult it is to separate the doctrine of the Law from that of the Gospel. The Holy Ghost must here be pedagogue and teacher, or no man on earth will ever have the knack of it or be able to teach it. . . . The theory is easy; quickly we can explain how the Law is another word and doctrine than the Gospel; but to divide them (in) practice and to apply the art to life, that is trouble and toil. (St. L. IX, 802, 806 f.)

It is not an overstatement to say that it is through the God-given ability to distinguish properly between the Law and the Gospel that an individual becomes and remains a Christian. Let us therefore pray for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit as we study the pure milk of the Word so THAT WE MAY GROW in the high and blessed art of distinguishing properly the Law and Gospel in our daily living.

In order to distinguish the Law from the Gospel properly, it is not only necessary to know what the Law is and what the Gospel is—it is also necessary to know when each is to be applied and how. This point is illustrated by a conversation between a dying man and his pastor in Bo Giertz’s novel *The Hammer of God*:

The sick man shook his head.

“Not for me! Not for me! Eternal damnation, punishment according to the measure of my sin, the judgment of wrath, and the everlasting flames—that is for me. To me He will say, ‘Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire!’”

“But God is good,” said Savonius quietly.

The sick man looked straight up at the ceiling.

“Yes, God is good, very good. It is just for that reason I am in such a bad way. Pastor, you do not know how good God has been to me. He has sought my soul and bidden me walk the way of life. But I have not done so. He has shown me heaven’s purity, but I shall never win it. I sat in . . . church and heard the angels sing. Then I saw my mother in the women’s pew, and I thought: Mother has aged, this winter she may die; then I shall inherit the farm. And my heart wept, for I saw that, more than I loved Mother, I loved the filthy dollars. Then the pastor came to the pulpit. Potbelly, I thought. You can play cards and fish for trout, but you cannot feed God’s poor little lambs with the Word. But I had not prayed for him. Was that love? . . .” Johannes had suddenly turned his fever-reddened eyes toward the pastor and looked penetratingly at him.

“That is how it is with me, Pastor. Day after day, moment upon moment, it is sin added to sin, and nothing but sin.” (Giertz, *The Hammer of God*, pp. 18-19)

So spoke the dying peasant Johannes of Borsebo.

This conversation illustrates the disastrous effect of applying the Law to a conscience already terrified by its sin.

There is only one word which can bring genuine comfort and hope to such a stricken conscience—and this is the word of God’s Gospel! Although Dr. Savonius, the young pastor in Giertz’s novel, did not know how to divide the Word of God properly, Johannes’ friend Katrina did. We pick up the story of Johannes a few moments later:

The sick man had become perfectly still. His sister fanned the flies from his face. Except for that, no one moved.

“Have you anything more to say, Katrina?”

“Yes, one thing more, Johannes, ‘Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.’”

He lay quiet for a moment.

“Do you mean . . . ? Do you really mean that He takes away also the sin that dwells in my unclean heart?”

“Yes, He atoned for all that sin, when He died in your place.”

“But I still have it in me, don’t I?”

“Yes, as surely as Paul still had it with him. Have you never read, ‘I know that in me (that is in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.’”

“Yes, that’s how it is,” whispered Johannes.

“That is the way it has always been for us, and for all others. ‘With his stripes we are healed.’ ‘He is the propitiation for our sins: and . . . also for the sins of the whole world.’”

The sick man lay breathlessly quiet. Then he whispered, “One word more, Katrina, a sure word, and I will believe it.”

The woman got up quietly, took the Bible that lay on the table, and sat down again. Opening the Bible, she read:

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

“Amen. I believe!” said Johannes, in a voice that could barely be heard.

Katrina rose and replaced the Bible on the table.

“Now God’s work has taken place. Now you must ask the pastor to give you the holy sacrament.”

Johannes nodded slowly. “Master, at thy word I will let down the net.” (Giertz, *The Hammer of God*, pp. 30-31)

The Gospel is God’s gracious promise of the forgiveness of all sins on account of the substitutionary suffering and death of Jesus Christ on the cross. After the Law had performed its work of clearly revealing Johannes’ guilt before God, thereby plunging him into deep despair over his inability to answer before his Creator rightly angry over his sin, Katrina applied the sweet Gospel promise of full and complete forgiveness for all of his sins through the blood of the Lamb of God. By the power of the Holy Spirit working through the word of the Gospel, Johannes believed the promise of the forgiveness of all of his sins. Healed by the stripes of Jesus Christ, his stricken conscience was quieted, and fortified by the sacrament of our Lord’s body and blood in the Holy Communion, he was ready to stand before His God and Judge, confident of complete forgiveness and eternal salvation.

Faith and Works

The proper distinction between the Law and the Gospel is indispensable for a right understanding of the relationship which exists between faith and good works.

“Your adversary, the devil,” warns St. Peter, “prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1

Peter 5:8). This warning is especially appropriate when discussing the subject of faith and works. It is so very easy to go astray in our thinking at this point. Like Law and Gospel, faith and good works are intimately related to one another. They must never be separated from each other, but great care must be taken that they are related to each other in such a way that both the Law and the Gospel retain their proper functions.

Before speaking of faith and works, therefore, it will be helpful to review the basic relationship which exists between the Law and the Gospel. In some ways the Law and the Gospel have much in common. For example, both Law and Gospel are God's word. Both are necessary for everyone, both are taught in the Old and New Testaments, and both have as their final goal man's eternal salvation.

But it is also true, as Luther once said, that in many ways Law and Gospel are "perfect opposites." The Law and the Gospel each have their own special purpose and function. The Law is the teaching of God's Word through which the Holy Spirit convinces sinners of their sin. It reveals our fallen condition before God and pronounces judgment. The Gospel is the teaching of God's Word that reveals and promises nothing but grace and forgiveness in Christ. The Law causes the sinner to cry out, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." Like a schoolmaster it leads the despairing sinner to Christ and the forgiveness which has already been won for him through His suffering and death on the cross.

This means that it is necessary that the preaching of the Law and the Gospel takes place in the proper sequence. The Lutheran Confessions state: "'The preaching of the law is not sufficient for salutary repentance: The Gospel must be added to it.' Thus both doctrines are always together, and both of these have to be urged side by side, but in order and with the proper distinction" (FC SD V, 15). Dr. Walther puts it this way:

The Word of God is not rightly divided when the Gospel is preached first and then the Law; sanctification first and then justification, faith first and then repentance; good works first and then grace." (Walther, *Law and Gospel*, p. 89)

The preaching of the Law must come first, otherwise no need will be felt for the Gospel, and its preaching will have no effect. First comes Moses, then Christ, first John the Baptist's preaching of repentance, then the preaching of forgiveness. "Repent and believe in the Gospel" (Mark 1:15)—this is always the sequence which must be followed.

But when this order is followed, there comes a time when Law and Gospel meet in the heart of a man. Luther describes vividly what takes place:

Now when both Law and Gospel meet, and the Law declares me a sinner, accuses and condemns me; the Gospel, however, says (Matt. 9:2): "Be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee," "thou shalt be saved;" and both are God's Word; which am I, then, to follow? St. Paul tells you. "But after faith is come," he says, "we are no longer under a schoolmaster," the Law has come to an end. For as the lesser word it should and must give way and place to the Gospel. Both are God's Word, the Law and the Gospel, but the two are not equal. One is lower, the other higher; one is weaker, the other stronger; one is lesser, the other greater. When now they wrestle with each other, I follow the Gospel and say, Good-bye, Law! (St. L. IX, 808)

This is not to say that the Law has no relevance for the Christian. Like the apostles Peter and Paul, also all Christians continue to sin. With St. Paul we must all confess: "For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish" (Rom. 7:19). So long as we live in this world, we continue to need the mirror of God's law to expose our sin.

Moreover, even after we have been born anew through the power of the Holy Spirit, we need God's law "to give instruction about good works," as the Lutheran Confessions put it (FC SD V, 18), lest under the pretext of the Holy Spirit's guidance we set up our own standards regarding what is right and God-pleasing and what is wrong (FC SD VI, 20). The Scriptures tell us, "You shall not do every man whatever is right in his own eyes.... Be careful to heed all these words which I command you.... You shall not add to it nor take from it" (Deut. 12:8, 28, 32).

The instruction of God's law is especially needed by Christians in such a time as today. We live in a world and in a society which thinks and acts as if it knows better than the Creator what is right and wrong. For example, in this day and age which calls a life-style "gay" which the Scriptures condemn as immoral and perverse, at a time when the union created by God between one man and one woman in holy matrimony with the express command that it not be put asunder is increasingly trivialized and disregarded, as evidenced by a spiraling divorce rate and all manner of extramarital relationships, in a country in which the highest court of the land has removed the protection of the law from the prenatal life with the result that over 1,000,000 unborn human beings are legally killed each year through abortions, surely the instruction of God's law as expressed in the commandments of God's law is needed as never before, lest even we Christians become confused as to what God's will is. Let no one misunderstand us at this point—we dare never say "good-bye" to the guidance of God's law in the area of sanctification.

But the fact that the Gospel is God's last and highest word *does mean* that we dare never let the Law, that is, good works, enter into our faith relationship to God. Just as the preaching of the Law must precede the preaching of the Gospel, so faith must come before good works.

Let's look at this critical point in this way. Two thousand years ago Jesus Christ, true God and true man, fulfilled the Law perfectly in our stead, and He died on the cross to pay the penalty our sins had earned. When Jesus from the cross said, "It is finished," forgiveness was won for the whole world. This is an objective fact attested to by Christ's resurrection from the dead. This means that every sin which has ever been committed was at that moment paid for in full. "Through one act of righteousness" says St. Paul, "there resulted justification of life to all men" (Rom. 5:18). There is no sinner for whom Christ did not die, and there is no sin for which he has not already atoned.

The Gospel is the Good News that "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself" (2 Cor. 5:19). The question at issue is: How does the forgiveness which has already been won for us now become ours? Scripture gives us the clear answer: "God so loved the world that

He gave His only-begotten Son that whoever *believes* in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). It is only through *faith* that we appropriate God's forgiveness in Christ Jesus. If we could perform good works sufficient to merit forgiveness, we would not need forgiveness. But the Law exposes how far short we all fall. "If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee, That thou mayest be feared" (Ps. 130:3-4).

The realization that full forgiveness has already been won for all sins for all time keeps us from developing any false notions about faith itself being a good work which merits forgiveness. Nothing could be farther from the truth. When the jailor at Philippi cried out in desperation to Paul and Silas, "What must I do to be saved?" the response: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved," did not mean that there was one work which he had to perform in order to be saved, namely, the good work of believing. If this were the case, then salvation would not be a free gift. But the Scriptures say: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). *Insofar as it justifies, faith is not a good work* (Ap IV, 56; FC SD III, 13). It is merely the receiving hand by which we appropriate the forgiveness which God offers us freely and without condition. Moreover, even our act of believing is a result of God's power working in us.

It is only after we have said all of the above that we are ready to talk about good works. But after we have said the above, it does become necessary to talk about good works. Although we dare never let good works enter into the picture so long as we talk about how we are made right with God, it is inevitable that good works follow after faith. If the key word of the first half of 1 Peter 1 is "hope" as a result of the proclamation of the Gospel, the key word of the second part of the chapter is "obedience" in response to the Gospel.

The relationship between faith and good works is signified by the first word in 1 Peter 1:13—"therefore." Because God has begotten you again to a living hope by the resurrection of Christ from the dead, because you have an incorruptible inheritance, a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time, *therefore*, says St. Peter, become what you are! This is the whole story of Christian ethics. Good trees produce good fruits. We receive God's forgiveness only through faith in the merits of Christ apart from all our works. But when the final judgment comes, faith will not be found without love and good works. On that day, says Christ, the Judge will say: "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me. And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" (Matt. 25:45-46).

I slept. I dreamed. I seemed to climb a hard
ascending track.
And just behind me labored one whose face was black.
I pitied him, but hour by hour he gained upon my
path.
He stood beside me, stood upright, and then I
turned in wrath.
"Go back," I cried, "What right have you to
stand beside me here?"

I paused, struck dumb with fear, for lo! the
black man was not there—
But Christ stood in his place! and oh! the
pain, the pain, the pain that looked from
that dear face.

The proper distinction between Law and Gospel in the area of faith and good works is emphasized in Dr. Francis Pieper's striking advice: "Learn to preach the Gospel, and you have learned the art of making your people zealous of good works" (*Christian Dogmatics*, Vol. I, p. 79). St. John put it best: "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (1 John 4:11).

III

On Monday we attempted to set forth clearly and succinctly the two chief doctrines of the Holy Scriptures—the Law and the Gospel. Yesterday we pointed out that the Lutheran Confessions state that "*all* Scripture should be *divided* into these two chief doctrines" (Ap, IV, 5, emphasis added). We proceeded to show that, although apparently an easy task to perform in the abstract, in practice it is impossible to make this distinction apart from the power of the Holy Spirit. The devil is especially effective in causing us to confuse Law and Gospel with respect to the relationship between faith and works. To those stricken by the knowledge of their sin, the old evil foe proposes good works as the solution to their predicament.

The notion that God's good favor can be gained through good works takes many forms. One of the most subtle is the suggestion that the promises of the Gospel are dependent upon at least one good work, namely, the good work of faith. That is why it was necessary for us to show that the faith by which we appropriate the Gospel promises is not itself a good work which merits forgiveness.

In order to illustrate this important point, we turn once again to Bo Giertz's *The Hammer of God*. A young pastor by the name of Fridfeldt, a member of a pietistic movement in 19th-century Sweden, had just arrived to serve as an assistant to the veteran rector of Odesjo. Somewhat troubled and apprehensive because the old pastor had taken a glass of brandy after dinner, the young pastor felt constrained to make a confession of his faith and to inform his superior exactly where he stood. Said Fridfeldt:

"I just want you to know from the beginning, sir, that I am a believer . . ." His voice was a bit harsh.

He saw a gleam in the old man's eyes which he could not quite interpret. Was approval indicated, or did he have something up his sleeve?

The rector put the lamp back on the table, puffed at his pipe, and looked at the young man a moment before he spoke.

"So you are a believer, I'm glad to hear that. What do you believe in?"

Fridfeldt stared dumfounded at his superior. Was he jesting with him?

"But, sir, I am simply saying that I am a believer."

"Yes, I hear that, my boy. But what is it that you believe in?"

Fridfeldt was almost speechless.

"But don't you know, sir, what it means to be a believer?"

"That is a word which can stand for things that differ greatly, my boy. I ask only what it is that *you* believe in."

"In Jesus, of course," announced Fridfeldt, raising his voice. "I mean—I mean that I have given Him my heart." The old man's face became suddenly as solemn as the grave.

"Do you consider *that* something to give Him?"

By this time, Fridfeldt was almost in tears.

"But sir, if you do not give your heart to Jesus, you cannot be saved."

"You are right, my boy. And it is just as true that, if you think you are saved *because* you give Jesus your heart, you will not be saved. You see, my boy," he continued reassuringly, as he continued to look at the young pastor's face, in which uncertainty and resentment were shown in a struggle for the upper hand, "it is *one thing to choose* Jesus as one's Lord and Savior, to give Him one's heart and commit oneself to Him, and that He *now* accepts one into His little flock; it is a *very different thing* to believe on Him as a Redeemer of sinners, of whom one is chief. One does not choose a Redeemer for oneself you understand, nor give one's heart to Him. The heart is a rusty old can on a junk heap. A fine birthday gift, indeed! But a wonderful Lord passes by, and has mercy on the wretched tin can, sticks His walking cane through it and rescues it from the junk pile and takes it home with Him. That is how it is."

Fridfeldt said nothing. Though it seemed sacrilegious to speak about the Savior in connection with such an ungodly thing as a walking stick, he saw that the old man's intention was certainly not sacrilegious. He felt this by the tone of his voice. When the old man continued, his voice was gentler still.

"And now you must understand that these two ways of believing are like two different religions, they have nothing whatever to do with each other."

"And yet," he added thoughtfully, "one might say that there is a path that leads from the lesser to the greater. First one believes in repentance, and then in grace. And I believe you are on that path." (Giertz, *The Hammer of God*, pp. 146-148)

There is nothing which we can do which can make us right with God. Not even our act of believing is a work which merits forgiveness. We are declared right with God and all our sins are washed away, not *because* we have given our hearts to Jesus, not *because* we have made a decision for Christ, not *because* we have committed our lives to His service, not *because* we have followed certain prescribed steps or laws, not *because* we have searched for and found God, not *because* we may have had certain special religious experiences—but solely because "the Son of God, Christ our Lord, Himself assumed and bore the curse of the Law and expiated and paid for all our sins" (FC SD V, 20). It is through Him alone that we reenter the good graces of God, obtain the forgiveness of sins, are freed from death and all the punishment of sin, and are saved eternally.

Even the very faith by which we lay hold of and appropriate the blessings of the Gospel is dependent on the power the Holy Spirit, as we confess in Luther's explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed: "I believe that by my own reason or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith" (LC, p. 345). Just as the Law can only prepare for but never produce faith, so good works only follow after but never precede faith. The Law is impotent to produce good works. The Law brings the knowledge of sin, and the Gospel produces faith.

But faith does manifest itself in good works. Let no one conclude, since our works play no role in saving us, that they are therefore altogether unnecessary or that

they are perhaps even detrimental to salvation. Just as good trees produce good fruits, so "faith does not ask if good works are to be done, but before one can ask, faith has already done them" (FC SD IV, 11). Forgiven sinners, insofar as they are born anew, willingly and gratefully follow the voice of their Savior as they hear it in the Scriptures.

In the first part of his epistle, Peter presents a classic model of the relationship which exists between faith and works, justification and sanctification. First he states what God has done for us. He has

—"chosen [us] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father (1:2);

—"redeemed [us] . . . with precious blood as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ" (1:18-19);

—"called us out of darkness into His marvelous light" (2:9);

—"caused [us] . . . to be born again to a living hope" (1:3);

—"protected [us] by the power of God through faith for (a) salvation" (1:5).

There can be no misunderstanding as to where responsibility lies for our salvation. There is nothing here of which we can boast and for which we can take credit. God has done it all, and He gives it to all freely.

But having so powerfully proclaimed the Gospel promises in all their unconditional beauty, Peter shows no hesitancy to proceed with exhortations to good works. He says, "Therefore . . .

—"gird your minds for action" (1:13);

—"keep sober in spirit" (1:13);

—"as obedient children, do not be conformed to former lusts" (1:14);

—"be holy yourselves also in all your behavior" (1:15)

—"conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay upon earth" (1:17);

—"fervently love one another from the heart" (1:22);

—"like newborn infants, yearn for the pure milk of the Word" (2:2)

Pure Doctrine and False Doctrine

It is in this context that we want to say a word about concern for pure doctrine and false doctrine. St. Peter urges us in 1 Peter 2:2 to yearn for the pure milk of the Word, just like newborn infants, so *That We May Grow* unto salvation. Luther's comments on this verse are instructive:

Here he (Peter) institutes a comparison, and would say,—ye are like those new-born babes who suck nothing but the milk, so be ye also eager for the word . . . It must be . . . sincere (or unfalsified), not as the custom is, to sell false wares; since there is truly strong obligation, and great necessity, that to the newborn and young Christian, the milk should be given pure, and not corrupted. But this is nothing but the Gospel . . . whatever is appended to it is human doctrine, whereby the word of God is falsified; therefore the Holy Spirit would have it so that every Christian shall see to it, what he sucks for milk, and shall himself learn to decide in regard to all doctrines (Luther, *The Epistles of St. Peter and St. Jude*, trans. E. H. Gillett, pp. 82-83).

In these words Luther alerts us to an important distinction which must be kept in mind while we are considering pure doctrine and false doctrine. It is the distinction about which we have been speaking the past

two days—the distinction between Law and Gospel. The milk of the Word, says Luther, is the Gospel. *The Gospel is the source of all spiritual growth.* It alone motivates growth in grace, in faith, in the sanctified life. It is the Gospel which alone enables us both to will and to do the good pleasure of our heavenly Father. However, when Peter exhorts us to *yearn* for the pure milk of the Word, he has moved into the realm of the Law. That we *are able* to and in fact *do yearn* for the pure milk of the Word is a result of the Gospel.

This distinction between the Law and the Gospel has great significance for determining the role which concern for pure doctrine should play in the church. On the one hand, rightly dividing the Word of God in this area keeps us from thinking that it is *concern* for the purity of the Word which makes us right with God. To think this way would be to replace the Gospel with Law. Our salvation is not based on anything which we do, not even the heeding of the apostolic admonition to long for the *pure* Word. The example of the Pharisees during Jesus' day should ever stand as a warning to us that it is possible to profess a profuse concern for the *purity* of doctrine and yet lose sight of the doctrine of the Gospel itself. It is not by means of our watchfulness that the Word of God not be corrupted by impurities that we are born anew to a living hope. This is accomplished solely by the power of the Spirit working through Word and sacrament.

At the same time the proper distinction between Law and Gospel keeps us from falling into the error of thinking that since the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, it is its own defense and we can therefore ignore the apostolic injunction to *yearn* for the *pure* Word. When Peter encourages us to long for the *pure* milk of the Word, he is indicating that care should be taken lest the slightest impurity be mixed up with it. The Greek word *adolos* means literally "unadulterated." This was the technical word used to describe corn that was entirely free from chaff or other potentially harmful materials. St. Peter, by inserting the word "pure" before "milk of the Word," was showing his awareness that ever since Satan tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden with the question, "Did God say, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?" (Gen. 3:1), the misrepresentation of the Word is a reality of which we must be aware and against which we must be on guard.

Peter's exhortation that his readers "yearn for the *pure* milk of the Word" is a familiar theme throughout the entire Scriptures. As Dr. Paul M. Bretscher stated in the doctrinal essay presented to the 1959 synodical convention in San Francisco: "God is concerned about His doctrine, His revelation, chiefly because of the competition His doctrine meets at the hands of those who teach false and pernicious doctrine" (1959 *Proceedings*, p. 16). Dr. Bretscher points out in this essay how the Holy Scriptures teach that all true doctrine comes from God and that God Himself is most jealous of His doctrine. Through His chosen prophets in the Old Testament God repeatedly speaks out against false prophets and their false teachings. In the New Testament we see Jesus showing concern for pure doctrine. He explicitly warned against false prophets who would come in sheep's clothing. He told His disciples not to be



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deceived by false Christs and false prophets who, appearing at the end of time, would deceive, if this were possible, even the very elect.

As we review developments in the early church, we see evidence that Jesus' warnings against false doctrine found almost immediate application. The apostles repeatedly found their preaching undermined by false teachers. Paul marvels that the Galatians have so quickly followed after those who "distort the gospel of Christ" (Gal. 1:7). He exhorts the Colossians not to let anyone take them "captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men (Col. 2:8), and he warns the Corinthians against "false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ" (2 Cor. 11:13). He solemnly charged Timothy to preach the Word in season and out of season, "for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will . . . turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths" (2 Tim. 4:1-4).

We can thank God that down through history there have been faithful servants of the Word who have heeded the warnings of Scripture and out of love for their Lord and His Gospel have "yearned for the *pure* milk of the Word."

An arch on the campus of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis is dedicated to Athanasius, the defender of the doctrine of the deity of Christ. We remember with thankfulness the blessings God has bestowed upon us in the Lutheran Church through Martin Luther, who spent his career contending for the Scriptural doctrine of justification by faith. We think of the Lutheran confessors. No fewer than nine times do they explicitly refer to "pure doctrine," "the pure Word," and "pure teaching" in the 11-page preface to the Book of Concord. The Scriptural command to guard against and to correct false doctrine was not an optional matter for them as they expressly attribute their diligence that false and misleading doctrines be checked to their awareness of "the office which God has committed to us and which we bear" (Tappert, p. 4). At the same time they recognize the deadly results of false doctrine in that it impedes "the course of the holy Gospel" (p. 4). Repeatedly they express the desire "that a pure declaration of the truth might be transmitted to our posterity" (p. 7). Their concern for

pure doctrine was not simply for its own sake but for the eternal salvation of sinners for whom Christ died.

The same spirit of concern is to be found in the writings of the Fathers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Dr. Walther writes:

It is . . . easy to lose the narrow way of the pure doctrine, which . . . is traveled by few people and leads through a dense forest of erroneous teachings. You may land either in the bog of fanaticism or the abyss of rationalism. This is no jest. False doctrine is poison to the soul." (Walther, *Law and Gospel*, p. 20)

Just as impurities in the milk given to infants can result in sickness and death, so false doctrine in the church results in spiritual illness and eternal damnation.

It is no secret that today the very term "doctrine" is in ill-repute, to say nothing of concern for "pure doctrine." The apostolic injunction to long for the pure milk of the Word has fallen upon hard times. The very notion of "pure doctrine" is denied by many, if not most theologians today. This state of affairs is directly related to the use of historical criticism, a methodology which has been called (correctly, I believe) the greatest challenge to authority in the church in 1900 years in the study of Holy Scripture. The very concept of pure doctrine is impossible apart from an understanding of Scripture as "the pure, infallible, and unalterable Word of God" (Preface to the Book of Concord, p. 8), a tenet which is absolutely incompatible with historical-critical methodology as it is generally understood and employed in Biblical studies today. Thank God that He has thus far preserved our church from succumbing to this subversion of the Gospel.

Professor Hermann Sasse responds to the suggestion which is sometimes heard that we should not be so concerned about false doctrine but simply get on with the simple preaching of the Gospel by reminding us:

If the orthodox leaders in the fourth century had been more concerned about evangelizing than about defining Scripturally the nature of Christ, they might have done more evangelizing, but they would have lost the Gospel, whose heart and center is Christ, who is both God and man in one person. (1959 *Proceedings*, p. 35)

We can say the same about concern for what the Scriptures teach about its authority, inspiration, and inerrancy. It is a delusion to think that the Gospel can long be preserved apart from the Holy Scriptures. Luther wrote already 450 years ago:

Holy Scripture is the book given by God the Holy Spirit to His church. From this book the church learns what the church is, what the church must do, what the church must suffer, where the church should abide. Where this book ceases, there the church ceases. (Erlangen ed., pp. 26, 100, 101)

We have noted that the apostolic injunction to *yearn* for the pure milk of the Word belongs to the Law and not to the Gospel. The Lutheran Confessions tell us that the Law always accuses, even as it instructs (FC SD VI, 21). Also in this area the Law indicts us. We must confess that also in this area of life, as our recent history in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod demonstrates, we have not measured up to God's expectations. We have not followed Peter's exhortation "to long for the pure

milk of the Word," to be greedy for it, to study it, to feed on it, and to guard it from all who would misrepresent it. But the good news of the Gospel is that God forgives also these sins for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God for the heroes in the faith who have spent their lives, so that you and I might continue to feed on the pure milk of the Word. In this year of the 400th anniversary of the Formula of Concord, let us give Thanks to God for the Gospel heritage we share in the Lutheran Church. May God the Holy Spirit work also in us through the power of the Gospel to be equally zealous for preserving the purity of the Word for those who come after us. In the words of the General Prayer in the Order of the Morning Service we pray:

We praise Thee especially that Thou hast preserved unto us in their purity Thy saving Word and the sacred ordinances of Thy house. And we beseech Thee, O Lord, to preserve and extend Thy Kingdom of Grace and to grant unto Thy holy Church throughout the world purity of doctrine and faithful pastors, who shall preach Thy Word with power; and help all who hear rightly to understand and truly to believe it. Amen.

IV

During this week we have been discussing together the two chief doctrines of the Holy Scriptures—Law and Gospel. We have seen how critical the proper distinction between Law and Gospel is in our lives as Christians. In fact, we have noted that although theoretically easy, the job of properly distinguishing the Law from the Gospel is in actuality impossible apart from the work of the Holy Spirit. As Dr. Walther has stated in his book *Law and Gospel*: "Rightly distinguishing the Law and the Gospel is the most difficult and the highest art of Christians in general and of theologians in particular. It is taught only by the Holy Spirit in the school of experience" (Walther, *Law and Gospel*, p. 1).

Knowing when to apply the Law and when to apply the Gospel belongs to the art of rightly dividing the Word of God. It is instructive to review our Lord's ministry. It is characterized by the application of the promises of grace and forgiveness, life and salvation to penitent sinners—to the woman "who was a sinner" who "wet His feet with her tears" (Luke 7:37 ff.), to Zacchaeus, who confessed the sins of a career of cheating and stealing (Luke 19:1 ff.), to the penitent thief on the cross (Luke 23:39 ff.). Not a word of rebuke (Law) does our Lord speak to these conscience-stricken sinners. The Law had already done its job, and it was time, as Luther put it, to say, "Goodbye, Law!"

When sinners despair of pardon, as Judas did, and reject the forgiveness which Christ's death on the cross has already won for them, then the Word of God is not rightly divided. The failure to accept God's forgiveness because one feels his sins are too great is a result of listening to the Law when the Gospel should be heard and believed. To a sinner sorely troubled by a great sin, Luther once wrote: "It is bad enough to know that you made a mistake in this matter. Now do not let sin stick in your mind, but get rid of it." Luther urges him "to join our company and associate with us who are real, great, and hard-boiled sinners," for Christ is "Savior and Redeemer from real, great and damnable transgressions

and iniquities, yea, from the very greatest and most shocking sins" (St. L. Ed. X, 1729 ff.). It is only the Gospel of forgiveness through the blood of the Lamb which can cure such terrified consciences—and the angels in heaven sing for joy when God's prodigal sons and daughters return home and say, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"

On the other hand, not a "drop of evangelical consolation" should be offered to those who are living securely in their sins. The Gospel is not intended for self-righteous sinners. Our Lord told His disciples: "Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine." Once a certain rich young man approached Jesus with the question: "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Mark 10:17 ff.) This young man was confident that he had kept the Law from his youth up. Because the Law had not yet brought him to an awareness of his sins, the Gospel had no relevance for him. He had no use for a Savior, because he thought he had no sins to be forgiven. The only hope for this young man lay in the power of the Holy Spirit working through the Law to bring him to a knowledge of his sins. Only then would the Gospel's sweet promises find a hearing with him. For this young man our Lord had only words of Law: "Go and sell all you possess, and give it to the poor" (Mark 10:21). The evangelist reports that at these words the young man's face fell and he went away grieved. As Walther once said, "We must preach them into hell before we can preach them into heaven" (Walther, *Law and Gospel*, p. 118).

We have already applied the Law-Gospel distinction to two troublesome areas—faith and works, and concern for pure doctrine and against false doctrine. We have noted how faith, far from being a good work which merits forgiveness, is the receiving hand which accepts the forgiveness which Christ has already won for us. Good works inevitably follow after faith. We have also seen that it is the Gospel which gives life in place of death as a free gift of grace, but that the exhortation to long for this pure Word belongs in the realm of the Law. It is from this perspective that we have noted that the doctrine of the Gospel and all its articles is not a man-made weapon with which orthodox fanatics fight one another, but it is the God-given medicine through which He saves tortured souls from their sins. This is why Jesus warns against false teachers and their leaven and why the apostle Paul can speak so harshly against those who had preached another "gospel," which was not a gospel, to the Galatian Christians.

Unity and Concord

On this final day of our study we want to apply the Law-Gospel distinction to yet another sensitive area—to the matter of the unity of the church and concord in the church. As in the other areas which we have discussed, also here it is critical that the proper distinction be maintained between Law and Gospel.

To get a proper perspective on this subject, it is necessary that we go back to the beginning of things. The first verse in the Bible tells us that "in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). The last verse of this first chapter tells us: "And God saw

everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good" (Gen. 1:31). There are two things we should note from these two passages. The first is that our God, the only God, is the Lord of the universe. We believe in God the Father, Maker of heaven and earth! Our God is not just some tribal deity. The triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, is not just the God of Christians or of the human race or of the planet earth or of our solar system, but He is the Lord of lords and the King of kings. The second thing we should note is that the Lord our God created everything, and everything He created was good! God's good creation was characterized by perfect peace and harmony.

The fall into sin, however, shattered the concordia of God's harmonious universe. In every sphere of God's creation the Fall manifests itself in division and separation. Because of sin the whole world is out of joint. Because man sinned against his Creator, he is at enmity with himself, he can't get along with his fellows, and even the very elements of the earth testify to the reality of the curse of sin. Sin plunged our world into division and darkness.

It is this darkness into which the marvelous light of God's Gospel has shined. By means of Word and sacrament the Holy Spirit "calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church or earth and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith" (Small Catechism, p. 345). In the Nicene Creed we confess our faith in the one holy Christian and apostolic church. The New Testament through a variety of metaphors pictures for us the unity of this one church. Jesus speaks of one shepherd and one fold (John 10:16), and He says: "I am the Vine, and you are the branches" (John 15:5). St. Paul refers to Christ as the "head of the body, the church" (Col. 1:17). St. Peter speaks of living stones with Christ as the chief cornerstone (1 Peter 2:5-6).

It should be clear from what has been said that the unity of the church is a God-wrought unity. By virtue of our baptism we are called into the one holy Christian church. Through faith we are incorporated into the body of Christ. As Article VII of the Augsburg Confession makes clear, the unity of the church is not something which results from human striving. The holy Christian church "is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel. For it is sufficient for the true unity of the Church that the Gospel be preached in conformity with a pure understanding of it and that the sacraments be administered in accordance with the divine Word. It is not necessary for the true unity of the Christian Church that ceremonies, instituted by men, should be observed uniformly in all places" (AL VII, 1-3).

This "true spiritual unity" of the church, as Melancthon calls it in the Apology (Ap VII & VIII, 31), transcends space and time. It describes the relationship which exists between all believers in Christ in the one holy Christian church which "will be and remain forever" (AC VII, 1). When Jesus prayed in His high-priestly prayer "that they may all be one," He was referring to this unity which those who believe in Him

"raise" on line 31 of Res. 6-07A (TB 287), since the convention had turned down several amendments which seemed to leave unanswered whether the \$500,000 to be "raised" by the local supporters could include also borrowed funds. The delegates resolved that borrowing should be permitted under the concept of "raising" by voting down a motion which would have stipulated that the \$500,000 should be raised from "its supporters and foundation and *not* from borrowed funds."

Closing Devotion

This session of the convention closed with a devotion led by Dr. August Bernthal, now acting chaplain of the convention.

Session 15 **July 21, Evening**

Opening

The fifteenth session of the 52nd regular convention of the Synod opened with a devotion led by youth representatives who are present at the convention. Dr. August Bernthal, acting chaplain, introduced the representatives to the delegates.

Orders of the Day

Before beginning discussion of any resolutions, President Preus presented the orders of the day for the Friday sessions. He indicated that Committees 4, 7, 8, 9, and 13 had finished their work.

Elections

Dr. Scherer, speaking for the Floor Committee on Elections, reported that in the last balloting no elections had occurred. New ballots were then distributed for the election of candidates for the unfilled positions of officers and boards of the Synod.

Point of Privilege

Having been granted a point of privilege, a delegate read a statement to the convention, giving her views with respect to Res. 7-26A.

Theology and Church Relations

Consideration was begun of the substitute motion for Res. 3-04A, which had been distributed to the delegates. The substitute resolution was to include all of the material in lines 7—51 (TB 318) and then was to continue with the following words: "Resolved, That this committee be responsible for conducting a thorough review of the final ILCW draft of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* as it has been reviewed by the doctrinal review process, utilizing the (published) study of the CTCR as well as other sources; and be it further Resolved, That the 'Blue Ribbon' committee be directed to complete its work as quickly as possible; and be it further Resolved, That CPH be authorized to proceed with the publication of the *LBW* (in cooperation with the ALC and LCA publishing houses) as soon as

the doctrinal and 'Blue Ribbon' committee review is completed according to normal review processes, such publication to be in sufficient numbers for distribution at congregational expense of at least two copies for each member congregation of the LCMS to complete a process of exposure; and be it finally Resolved, That the matter of official endorsement be taken up at the next regular synodical convention." After considerable discussion the delegates agreed to cease debate on the substitute motion and then declined it. After further discussion on the original resolution, the delegates agreed to cease debate and then adopted Res. 3-04A (TB 318) as presented by the floor committee. After the committee had added Overture 3-166 (CW 117) in line 45 (TB 64), they introduced Res. 3-16 (TB 64). The delegates adopted this resolution, agreeing that since the requirements for consideration by the Synod of altar and pulpit fellowship have not been met according to Bylaw 16.03 a, no action on fellowship with the AELC should be taken at this time. Since the case of Dr. Tietjen has not been completed and is still in the process of adjudication, the delegates also concurred with the committee (Res. 3-17) in declining Ovs. 3-21, 3-22A—B (CW 76). Overture 3-118 (CW 104) was also declined since the Synod had never interpreted N.O. Res. 3-09 to charge individual members of the so-called "faculty majority" with false doctrine (Res. 3-18, TB 65). After substituting the word "decadence" in lines 32 and 35 (TB 65) for the word "illness," the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations introduced Res. 3-19 (TB 65), calling for a study of the issues of human sexuality by the CTCR, asking that the results of this study be shared with the membership of the Synod as soon as possible. The resolution was adopted as presented.

Ethnic Concerns

Chairman Bryant Clancy of the Floor Committee on Ethnic Concerns brought Res. 10-19A (TB 239) before the convention, which adopted it. In doing so it resolved that the Synod adopt a goal of recruiting and educating 150 Black pastors in the next 10 years. It also established a goal of at least \$1,500,000 for the training of future Black pastors, with the principal amount of funds being retained and the interest used to aid Black students in preparing for pastoral ministry. The fund is to be administered by the Synod's Board of Directors in consultation with the Black Ministry Commission. The Board of Stewardship, in consultation with the Black Centennial Committee, which is to be continued until the next convention, was authorized and empowered to prepare and provide materials and counsel for this fund-raising effort. The delegates also adopted Res. 10-11 (TB 164), calling for a support of American Indian concerns and asking for participation in and support of all endeavors to effect reconciliation, understanding, and cooperation between Indians and non-Indians in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ. After striking the second whereas, line 62 (TB 166), and changing the word "renew" to "continue" in line 66 (TB 166), the committee introduced Res. 10-16 (TB 166), asking the

possess by virtue of their faith in Him (John 17:20-21). St. Paul describes this unity most beautifully in his letter to the Ephesians: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all" (Eph. 4:4-6).

But it is important to note that St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians in the very same context with this beautiful description of the unity of the church exhorts his readers: "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:1-3). In these verses Paul exhorts the Ephesians to strive to manifest the unity which was already theirs by virtue of their incorporation into the body of Christ in outward peace and harmony.

It is at just this point that the distinction between the Law and the Gospel is most helpful to us. The unity of the church is a Gospel concept. It is a given with faith in Jesus Christ. There is nothing *we* can do to achieve it or bring it about. Concord in the church, on the other hand, belongs in the area of sanctification. Because we are already one in Christ in the holy Christian church, we strive for peace and harmony in the church. The unity of the church is the presupposition and the basis for working for concordia in the church. St. Peter says it this way: "Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again, not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding Word of God" (1 Peter 1:22-23).

The Scriptural distinction between the "unity of the Spirit" and "the bond of peace" is preserved in the Lutheran Confessions. As Dr. Arthur Carl Piepkorn has pointed out, the Lutheran Confessions carefully distinguish the unity of the church (*unitas ecclesiae* in the Latin and the genitive *Einigkeit der Kirche* in the German) from harmony in the Church (*concordia*, *caritas*, *tranquillitas in ecclesia* in the Latin and the prepositional phrase *in der Kirche* in the German) (A. C. Piepkorn, "What the Symbols Have to Say About the Church," *CTM*, XXVI, p. 750). In this way the confessors sought to preserve a clear distinction between what God does and that which we do as a result of what has already been accomplished.

It is important that the distinction between these two concepts be maintained lest we, also in this area, confuse Law and Gospel, thereby misrepresenting the pure Word of God by introducing our work into the Gospel promises. As in the area of pure doctrine and false doctrine, also here two equally fatal errors threaten.

On the one hand there is the danger of confusing Law and Gospel by holding that the "true spiritual unity" of the church is something which we can and must strive for and achieve. When we look about us and see division and disharmony in the church, fallen reason can only conclude that since the church is not outwardly one, we must strive even harder to achieve the unity which the

Scriptures teach characterizes the church. But to hold that the unity of the church is dependent on what we do is to confuse the Gospel with the Law. The Gospel promise is that all believers in Christ are already one by virtue of what God has done for us in the merits of the Son and through the work of the Spirit in the miracle of faith. *We are one* in the body of Christ in a unity which transcends space, time, and outward appearance in the one, holy Christian, and apostolic church, and this unity in which we participate is not something which we ourselves have produced but something which is given to us.

On the other hand, Law and Gospel are also confused when the unity which we already share in Jesus Christ is taught in such a way that the apostolic injunctions to strive for concord in the church such as St. Peter makes when he says, "Be harmonious, symphathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit" (1 Peter 3:8), is excluded and ignored. To disregard this admonition is also ultimately destructive of faith in the Gospel. When the Gospel is preached to the exclusion of the Law, inevitably a self-righteous smugness sets in which makes the Gospel promises seem meaningless and of no worth. If we hold that the God-given unity of the church makes unnecessary the striving for concordia, we will soon become content with the *skandalon* of division which divided Christendom presents to the world. The full council of God must be preached, and this includes the injunction to "preserve the unity in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3).

As we in the church, motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, go about striving to keep the apostolic injunction that "there be no divisions among you" (1 Cor. 1:10), we need to remember that the Scriptures offer us clear guidance in our endeavors. What was said yesterday, for example, with respect to Christ's command to be on guard against "false prophets who come in sheep's clothing" must not be forgotten.

With the Lutheran confessors we cannot regard compromise as a God-pleasing way to solve doctrinal disagreements. Rather as our Lutheran Confessions put it, "in order to preserve the pure doctrine and to maintain a thorough, lasting, and God-pleasing concord within the church, it is essential not only to present the true and wholesome doctrine correctly, but also to accuse the adversaries who teach otherwise" (FC SD Rule and Norm, 14). The primary requirement for basic and permanent concord within the church, say the confessors, is "a summary formula and pattern, unanimously approved, in which the summarized doctrine commonly confessed by the churches of the pure Christian religion is drawn together out of the Word of God" (FC SD Rule and Norm, 1).

Because the Law of God always accuses even as it instructs, also these Scriptural injunctions accuse us even while they instruct. Our consciences are cut to the quick when we observe the divisions in the church and the lack of concern which we manifest for the purity of God's Word and for concordia in the church. How far short of God's expectations we come also in this area of our lives! We do not measure up. But smitten by the Law, in our despair we are led back to Christ and the rich

forgiveness which He offers us. It is in Him and His death on the cross where we receive the strength and the desire to strive to preserve the "unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3).

A Concluding Word

At about the same time that Dr. Preus asked me to be responsible for the Bible study-essay for this convention, my wife and I were blessed with the gift of a healthy baby boy whom we named Peter. Like all infants, he was pretty helpless. There was not a whole lot which he could do. He couldn't turn over, he could not coordinate the movements of his limbs, he could not even ask for the sustenance of his mother's milk. About all he could do was to let us know when he was hungry, when he was wet, and when he was hurting.

But you ought to see Peter now, some eight months later. No doubt some of you up there in the balcony have already heard him complain during his father's essay. Although he still has a long way to go, he has come a long way. He has more than doubled in size, he can crawl about the room, and, he has no trouble putting anything left within his reach in his mouth. There is no doubt about it—during these past eight months Peter has been growing.

We all know why Peter is growing. It is not because his mother and I commanded him to "grow up." It is not because we threatened him about what would happen to him if he didn't grow. It is not because we lectured him on the fine qualities of his mother's milk. Peter is growing because we feed him regularly and often with a balanced diet of the proper nourishment.

Spiritual growth in Christ bears certain similarities to the physical growth of an infant. Bo Giertz in his novel *The Hammer of God* has a veteran pastor give the following advice to a troubled and discouraged young colleague: "Read the Bible." When the young man responds, "I read the Bible every day. . . . I try to read devotionally and for edification, so that I take to heart that which I feel is meant for me," the older pastor responds:

"Feel, feel! That is just what is wrong. Don't you believe the Bible is God's Word just as truly, no matter how you may feel? Don't you see, brother, that this won't do? Because you make your feelings your barometer, you pass by the Gospel and are held fast in the law. . . . Read God's Word now as God's Word, without skipping anything. Underline heavily everything about what our Savior has done for us. And if you like, write 'for me' in the margin. You need this yourself, and it is your duty to preach it to your congregation, as well" (Giertz, pp. 296—297).

The old pastor's advice presented a fine program for growth in Christ Jesus: Study the Scriptures—read God's Word as God's Word. Do not skip anything. Underline heavily everything about what our Savior has done for us. He might have added: "Do not neglect the Sacrament of Holy Communion."

It is no secret to any of you attending this convention that we in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod need to grow. Our church's problems during the past few years are known around the world, and they are certainly well known by us. It is because of our difficulties that the synod in convention in 1975 assigned the CTCR the responsibility for coordinating "the preparation of a series of Bible class studies" which would have as their goal "true and lasting peace and concord" in our church.

Working together with the other boards and commissions of the Synod (and I would mention in particular the Board for Parish Education) the CTCR has developed the "That We May Grow" program. This theme was subsequently adopted as the theme of this convention. And as the theme for the planned parish program for the next two years.

During our days together here in Dallas we have attempted to whet your appetite. We have been turning directly to God's Word in 1 Peter. We have discussed the Law and the Gospel and the importance of distinguishing them properly. And now as we come to the end of our study of God's Word during this convention, it is our hope that you will be returning to your homes in the spirit of Resolution 3-01 adopted earlier in this convention; with the goal to encourage your congregation to participate in the Bible and confessional studies which form the heart of the "That We May Grow" program. During this convention each congregation in Synod has been sent a "That We May Grow" planning kit. Already earlier every congregation in Synod received a "That We May Grow" calendar which lists the eight Bible and four confessional studies which begin this coming September with a study of 1 Peter and the Formula of Concord. Seven additional Bible studies on Ephesians, John's Gospel, Genesis, Galatians, James, Jeremiah, and Colossians/Philemon will follow—every quarter until the summer of 1979. Additional studies on the Lutheran Confessions are scheduled to appear every six months on the Large Catechism, the Augsburg Confession, and on selected themes from the Confessions.

What great blessings of growth will result when we individually and collectively as a church study the pure milk of the Word, the powerful Word, the Word which is the source of growth into salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. May God use this program to bless The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, so that at its conclusion the celebration of the Book of Concord in 1980 may also be the occasion for the celebration of lasting peace and concord in our church.

Unite us, O Lord, give peace, remove division sinful,
And grant us, that strife may cease,
our mind to speak, one thing;
That we may grow in concord, and banish party discord;
Oh, lead us, Thy Word our light, Dispel error's night
That loud hallelujahs ring ("Unite us, O Lord," stanza 1).

Amen.

Samuel H. Nafzger

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Sunday Morning Sermon

Glory and Honor, Might and Majesty, Dominion and Power Be unto the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit!

Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. *Galatians 6:14-16*

In Christ Jesus, Our Precious Savior,
Beloved Delegates and Visitors
at the 52nd Regular Convention
of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod:

The thought that I hope you will take with you from this service for the entire week of the convention and for all your life is: *The Importance of the Cross of Jesus Christ and the Message It Carries*. For this I implore God's Holy Spirit's guidance upon my words and your hearts.

"That We May Grow" is a laudable motto to choose for a synodical convention. It is so because of what the nature of a synodical convention should be. No convention can be said to have been worthy of its name if it did not encourage the members of the convention to return home to stir up God's people there to greater activity in the work of the Kingdom. It seems to me that to accomplish this our thoughts must all be directed to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and to nothing else. This is what the Letter to the Galatians is all about. Delegates to the convention will keep this in mind. This particular service by its having been placed into the convention program carries a special importance and should help set the stage for the greater glorification of God and our Lord Jesus Christ today and all the remaining days of the convention.

As we set about the task of emphasizing our desire to grow, we must do so in the full realization that the church cannot truly grow if it does not place its whole confidence in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. We may be tempted to boast of a thousand things, but unless our boasting is in the cross of Christ, all else will fail.

The apostle emphasized greatly the salvation by grace. The keynote of the Letter to the Galatians was struck in chapter 2, verse 16: "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even when we have believed in Jesus Christ that we might be justified by the faith of Christ and not by the works of the Law; for by the works of the Law shall no man be justified."

Perhaps as a Synod we have not always given our total confidence to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. When things have not gone the way we believed they ought to go, or when we believed certain persons or things were not in the tradition of our Synod, our first reaction was not always evangelical. We looked to the Bylaws which we had accepted in earlier conventions in order to adjust what we thought was not right. If we

could not find a Bylaw which we had passed at previous conventions, we added a new one to suit the situation. In my experience of almost fifty-one years in the ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as a missionary, a pastor, a District official and synodical official, I have found that Bylaws do not always accomplish what we had hoped they would do. We have a Bylaw which indicates when elections must begin at a given regular convention. Would you believe that this Bylaw was placed into the *Handbook* in order to avoid electioneering and the control of delegates for the purpose of elections? In 1959 the Synod passed a resolution which some thought would add a certain statement of doctrinal position and faith to our constitutional paragraph on our position to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. It seems to me that we did the wise thing in 1962 when we rescinded that resolution and then said in our statement that we beseech the members of the Synod by the mercy of God to uphold the synodical resolutions. There is no greater imperative placed upon any member of the Synod than is placed upon him by the mercies of God.

Let us give our attention for a moment to the words of the text. The apostle Paul emphasizes so greatly that our total glory should be in the cross of Christ when he stated: "Far be it from me that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." Further he stated that nothing else really matters in this world. He stated that the cross of Jesus had crucified the world to him and that he was crucified to the world. He meant to say that the world really had no attraction for him anymore. At one time it was different; he had other ambitions. He was a Pharisee among Pharisees. He had ambitions to extinguish everything that did not agree with his position as a Jew. And he went on to say, "And I am crucified unto the world." The world held no attraction for the apostle, and he said, "Certainly I am not attractive to the world either." When the apostle wrote the Letter to the Galatians, he did so as one who had been in their midst and had preached to them the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They had received this Gospel happily and had lived under the freedom which the Lord Jesus Christ had provided for them and to which they had been called. However, the apostle Paul had not been away from the Galatian congregation very long until other teachers came in and persuaded the Galatians to add something to their newfound freedom. The Galatians were not asked to deny Jesus Christ, but they were asked to add certain ceremonial laws, specifically, the ceremonial observance of the rite of circumcision. But the apostle Paul said, "You have not been called to such a thing. I am amazed that you should so soon leave this new freedom to which you have been called." He said, "Circumcision means nothing anymore, neither does uncircumcision." The only thing that is important is "a new creation." The new creation is the Christian in his converted state. This is the important position in the

new freedom which we have when we accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The apostle then goes on to say that peace and mercy comes to them who live according to the rule which he had just expressed. The whole number of Christians receive this peace and mercy, which is God's grace, which is on them in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

"That We May Grow" depends on the seriousness with which we believe, teach, and confess the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord. This will be reflected in the spirit in which we present, discuss, and accept the resolutions before this convention. It depends on the seriousness with which we accept our role as the sent ones of God, the seriousness with which we accept the challenge of being God's mission to get the Word of reconciliation out to all the world—and in particular to one another in the deep humility of submission to the message of grace. "That We May Grow" depends on the seriousness with which we realize the fact that we are Christ's mission to all the world to proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord to our neighbors, kinsfolk, associates, and people beyond our land; it depends on the serious loving care with which we approach other Lutherans and other than Lutheran Christians with the message of our loving Savior; it depends on the seriousness with which we seek the salvation of all levels of society, rich and poor, healthy and sick, famous and little known, major and minority groups; it depends on our compassion for the total needs of our fellow human beings; it depends on our humble realization that all of this is the mission of every Christian.

"That We May Grow" calls for nothing but that we

glory in the cross of Christ, that we rejoice in the good news that Christ was given over for our sins and raised up again to get us right with God, that Jesus is enough for our sins and not for ours only but for the sins of the whole world, that God was in Jesus getting the world right with Himself, not charging the world with its sins and giving to us the Word that gets us right with God, that God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

There is no sweeter message on earth than the message that tells us that we have a freedom which Christ has prepared for us through His life, through His suffering, and through His death. There is no sweeter word in all the world than the word "Jesus." How often have we thought of the sweetness of that word and have expressed it in one way or another?

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the troubled breast.
'Tis manna to the hungry soul
And to the weary rest. Amen.

The good Lord bless you very much as you go about the task of laying the plans for growing in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Oliver R. Harms, D.D.

Black Centennial Sermon

Grace be unto you and peace from God, our heavenly Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The text chosen for our meditation on this festive occasion is recorded in 1 Cor. 16:5-9, and it reads as follows: "I shall come to Corinth after passing through Macedonia—for I am traveling by way of Macedonia—and I may stay with you, perhaps even for the whole winter, and then you can help me on my way where I go next. I do not want this to be a flying visit; I hope to spend some time with you if the Lord permits. But I shall remain at Ephesus until Whitsuntide, for a great opportunity has opened for effective work, and there is much opposition." Here endeth the text.

Fellow Worshipers of Our Lord:

The emblem of the Black Lutheran Centennial contains both a sentence and a phrase. Both appear to be slogans or mottoes and seem to evoke opposite responses. Underneath the shield is the sentence "We have come." And on a scroll across the center of the shield are the words from the Great Commission, "Into all the world."

The words "We have come" are from the Black National Anthem and invite us to reflection. The



Dr. Richard Dickinson

ability to reflect is a precious gift from our Lord. We cannot adequately evaluate nor fully appreciate our present state or condition until we can view it in historical perspective. Simply stated, we might ask the question: How can I appreciate where I am until I know where I have been? There is no better time to pause and to reflect than at a centennial celebration such as this.

man's plight in America with that of the enslaved Israelites, the preacher says with a flourish:

The Lord will send some Moses
For to set His children free.

And the land will hear His thunder,
Like the blast from Gabriel's horn.
For the Lord of Hosts is mighty
When He girds His armor on.
But for fear someone mistakes me,
I will pause right here to say
That I'm talking about our freedom
In a Biblicistic way.

But the Moses is a-coming,
And he's coming sure and fast.
I can hear his feet a-tromping.
I can feel his trumpet blast.

Yes, the Black people were a highly religious people. They were numerous, about one tenth of the population of the entire nation. They were concentrated, about ninety percent of them in the rural South at that time. They were restless and ready to migrate all over this nation to whatever place they could find employment. A wide door of opportunity was opened for the Synodical Conference to begin work with the Black people. So the Missouri Synod's first foreign mission program was launched on the home mission front.

In J. Frederick Doescher's first report to the Conference we find that the efforts were richly blessed by the Lord, especially when the Sunday school and day school were used. The Sunday school enrollment in Little Rock, the first mission station, climbed from two to forty in one month. The day school enrollment there climbed from the initial enrollment of 43 in September to ninety-three by November. These initial successes served to convince the Synodical Conference that they had found a wide door for effective mission opportunity opened unto them. They took the Lord's challenge and launched this mission endeavor with zeal and confidence.

It is truly interesting to observe how God's continuing challenge has remained the same through the years. In fact, the door of opportunity gets wider and wider all the time. In Paul's time those unsettling words "into all the world" covered only a few million people. One hundred years ago they referred to hundreds of millions. Today they refer to a great population which some project at six billion before the end of the century. This population explosion and its chain reaction is defying all attempts by man to bring it under control. The list of birth control methods and gadgets seems to be endless. A new method of birth control today hardly seems to be newsworthy. In 1976 there were more abortions recorded in the U.S. than ever before, but the population explosion and its chain reaction seem to continue unabated. Today those words "into all the world" include billions of people. God says to us today: "Behold, I set before you an open door which no man can shut."

The magnitude of God's continuing challenge for us today defies description, yes, it staggers the imagination. When I consider the Missouri Synod's program of worldwide missions, spanning the globe, in countless countries, in ever-increasing numbers of languages and

cultures, I am proud to say that, for this Synod, it all started with its outreach to Black people of the U.S.

I feel that we should change the name of the synod and call it "The International Lutheran Church." The name "Missouri Synod" has become much too narrow. I feel that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod above all other churches has a clear challenge and mandate from God to become such an international movement. We boast of having the "Word of God in its truth and purity." This boast does not impress me. Perhaps it was important in Luther's day, when Bibles were scarce and reliable translations were even more scarce. Today anyone who can read can have God's Word in its truth and purity. I feel that today the strength of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is the clarity of the cardinal doctrine of salvation. I make this conclusion out of my experience in Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, and United Church of Christ denominations. It is the LCMS that has this doctrine completely free of synergism: "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith, without the deeds of the Law." It is so clear, says Rev. P. R. Hunt, that a running man can read it and a fool can understand it. We are debtors to the world to bring them this clear word of salvation.

Today, after one hundred years, the age-old mission field, Black ministry, presents the widest door of opportunity to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. During the last twenty-five years, in spite of the racial unrest of the sixties and the pessimism of the early seventies, the number of Black congregations in the Synod has doubled. There were ninety black congregations in the Synod in 1950. Because of the death of the rurals, nineteen of these were consolidated into five, but today there are 175 Black congregations in the Synod. Of Black people in the Synod, there are more than fifty thousand baptized souls and approximately forty thousand communicant members. In 1975 approximately one thousand adults were received into membership in the Black congregations of the Synod. A similar figure would represent the juniors confirmed. In 1975 more than \$700,000 was contributed by Black congregations of the Synod for work at large. Almost \$6,000,000 was contributed for all purposes. Black ministry has become strong in the Synod and is becoming stronger with every passing year. It is not too optimistic to expect the above figures to double again in the next twenty-five years. After a hundred years the mission field of Black or ethnic ministry is not only God's continuing challenge to the Synod but is perhaps the most effective one. We must say in the words of the apostle Paul: "A wide door for effective ministry is opened to us."

But the most inspiring and heartwarming part of our text is the response of the apostle to God's continuing challenge. He says, "I will remain at Ephesus until Pentecost." He couldn't bring himself to a decision to go to Corinth at that time. He was doing a great work at Ephesus, and he couldn't leave. He could see signs of the ultimate triumph of the Gospel in that city, and he had to work the works of Him that sent him

while it was day. But if the signs of progress and "success" were his only reasons for staying and laboring at Ephesus, the text would lose much of its inspirational elements. Paul said, in other words: "I am going to stay because at this time I have some strong opposition."

The Book of Acts records the opposition from Demetrius the silversmith. Demetrius had concluded that success of the Christian religion would mean bankruptcy for his thriving business. He made silver statues of the goddess Diana. It was a common practice for the converted Christian to destroy his statues of Diana and to purchase no more of them. Demetrius made this fact perfectly clear to the others in his trade. He made a long speech calculated to incite a riot. The whole city of Ephesus was soon in an uproar. The Bible says that they were furiously angry. Gaius and Aristarchus, two traveling companions of St. Paul, were dragged into the theater. The crowd was ready to execute them without trial. They shouted for two full hours the chorus: "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" We are told that Paul was trying to go down to the theater but was forcibly restrained by other Christians. Fortunately for Gaius and Aristarchus the town clerk was able to restore order and to remind the people of how the city established justice.

It is understood that Christianity did actually triumph over Diana worship. But this came about at a great cost in the death of martyrs. Christian tombs and Christian churches have been discovered that date from the second to the fifth centuries. Crosses were discovered everywhere. A stele of white marble has been found with four sunken panels. One of these pictures a lion rushing upon a man, and the man is defending himself with a club. In the third panel the man is seen lying beaten beneath the lion. It is believed that this represents a Christian martyr. Christians were often thrown to the lions at the end of a gladiatorial show.

Paul said that he was going to stay at Ephesus because he was experiencing some significant success and that there was some strong opposition. Paul saw the Lord testing His followers in this opposition. He also saw that the severity of this testing would leave only the strong as survivors. He knew that the fervor of their commitment to Christ Jesus would stagger the imaginations of the people in Ephesus, or as the youth like to use the expression today, it would simply "blow their minds." Paul knew that the blood of the martyrs would become the seed of the church.

Paul had confidence in his message: "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved." He was bold and proud to say: "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." There were not many persons who had had the glorious experiences of the apostle. He had seen and talked with the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus. He had had numerous out-of-body experiences, having been taken up to the seventh heaven, there hearing things which were impossible for man to utter. In the face of such

withering persecutions and executions as were found in Ephesus, he felt that a veteran of the cross was needed to lead the mission in this place. He was going to stay because he could say from experience: "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to preserve that which I have committed unto Him against that day." "For I am persuaded that neither life nor death, nor angels, nor principalities . . . nor life, nor death . . . shall be able to separate me from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord." Yes, it was not just the joy of success which moved the apostle to stay at that post. It was also his faith that the power of Christ could triumph over all adversities. He felt that God had left him in the world for such a time as this. So he was going to stay right there. He had to be physically restrained from going into the arena at the height of the riot. He was a man who apparently learned his stubbornness from the Germans; or did the Germans copy their stubbornness from the apostle? Could this be one of the contributing causes that so many Lutheran churches carry the title in loving memory of St. Paul?

Paul possessed that unique quality of total commitment. "If I must die on the battlefield, I'll go on in His name!" The words of this hymn could have been a descriptive motto for the honorable apostle. Such commitment is contagious. Martin Luther King once said: "Until one has found something for which he is willing to die, he is not fit to live." Jesus Christ, our Savior, said: "He who saves his life shall lose it, but he who loses his life for My sake shall find it." In Christ Paul had found his life. Whether his commitment to the Master called for his life or his death, it didn't really matter. It is through such strong commitment that the Holy Spirit works, and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our God and of His Christ. Christ Jesus dethroned Diana of Ephesus, and the commitment of these men had much to do with that victory.

It is amazing to see how even today the Lord tries us and tests our faith. He sets before us wide doors of opportunity for expanding His kingdom, but as in days of old the work is beset with difficulties and outright opposition. As a Lutheran church, a white denomination working in the Black community, in a society which is divided along racial lines, it becomes most difficult sometimes to be effective. It is not difficult for a white suburban congregation to start a welcome wagon for new residents in the white suburban ghetto, but for the traditional white Lutheran congregation on the edge of the black ghetto to establish a welcome wagon to greet the first Black residents in the changing community, this could be very difficult and outright dangerous.

But then there comes a time that we must realize that God has passed the torch of freedom to us in our generation. Can we afford to avoid the dangers and also to get the work done? There comes a time that we must ask ourselves the serious questions embodied in the hymn by Isaac Watts:

Am I a soldier of the Cross,
A follower of the Lamb,

And shall I fear to own His cause
Or blush to speak His name?
Must I be carried to the skies
On flowery beds of ease
While others fought to win the prize
And sailed through bloody seas?
Are there no foes for me to face?
Must I not stem the flood?
Is this vile world a friend to grace
To help me on to God?

We thank God that there are countless legions of God's faithful who have said and are in their quiet way saying, "Sure, I must fight if I would reign; Increase my courage, Lord! I'll bear the toil, endure the pain, Supported by Thy Word."

The Rev. Lawrence Boseck once talked about how, when the Black residents of his racially changing parish attended his church, he would visit them at night for fear of what his white members might say. But the Lord so richly blessed his efforts that he could no longer visit them at night.

Max Schulz, an elder in the congregation of Pastor Boseck, proudly related this story on his deathbed. He was accosted by one of the white leaders in the church and asked, "Didn't I see you showing some of the Negro visitors around the church?" He answered, "You bet I did, and I registered two of their children for Sunday school. What were you doing?" That person never questioned him about such activity again.

When God gives us a job, Satan would not be doing his work if he did not make it difficult, and Satan is going to do his work.

I feel that one of God's continuing challenges to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod today is to shed the ethnic character of its image from an apparent German church for the German people to project the image of being God's church for all races and nationalities, all colors and conditions of God's people. At the next centennial I hope that it will not be strange to find such names as Dickinson or Marshall or Freeman or Brown (spelled B-r-o-w-n, not B-r-a-u-n) among the names in the *Lutheran Annual*. I feel that a wide door for

effective ministry is opened unto our church in its ministry to the nonwhite people of our nation and of the world; but labor under no delusions, there will be many adversaries to reaping the harvest.

I believe that God, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever, is not a partial God. He does not discriminate. He would not provide the spiritual strength and insight to an apostle Paul or the synodical fathers and deny it unto us, who are striving to do His will today. The challenge is the same. The opposition or difficulties are relatively the same. Our source of help is also the same. The will of God triumphed in and through His people in the days of our text. The will of God can and will triumph today.

If the church can once again get its priorities adjusted to work in harmony with the good and gracious will of God, who would have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth; if the church will see that the primary mission of the church is missions; if this church can recognize the great door of opportunity for unlimited mission expansion when it can, with the help of Almighty God, shake the whiteness and Germanness of its image and become one holy catholic church for all of God's redeemed people, recognizing that to accomplish this there will be much resistance and opposition from those without and from those within; if this church can muster the faith, courage, and commitment to say with resolve the words of the apostle Paul, paraphrased, "I am going to stay in this ministry until there is a great Pentecostal outpouring, for there is a wide door for effective ministry open unto me, and there are many adversaries"; then and only then can we assure ourselves that we are doing the good and gracious will of God.

After all, God's continuing challenge will continue to challenge His church until the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdom of our God and of His Christ, where Christ shall reign forever and ever. To this most precious task may God direct and redirect us, guard, guide, and protect us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Richard C. Dickinson, D.D.

Memorial Address

Hebrews 4:9

Jesu Juva

Unto our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light, be all glory and honor now and forevermore. Amen.

In the Epistle to the Hebrews, chapter 4, verse 9, God addresses us tonight with these simple, beautiful words: "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."

Esteemed and Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In one respect our service this evening is tempered with sadness.

Some of our fellow saints in Christ linked to us in the

Savior's service—pastors, teachers, and of the laity—have been summoned from this life by the angel of death since the convention of General Synod two years ago.

No one but God can estimate the blessings with which they enriched the lives of many by pointing them to words and promises of God such as these:

"Lo, I am with you alway unto the end of the world."

"Be still and know that I am God."

"Cast all your care upon Me, and I shall care for you."

"All things work together for good to them that love God."

"Be of good cheer. Your sins are forgiven."

"I have loved you with an everlasting love, and with loving kindness have I drawn you."

We miss these our fellow workers in Christ. As members of God's holy family each one, in his or her respective calling, touched our lives. Death in each instance brought sorrow to many. We are here to share their grief. By our presence, in solemn assembly this evening, we want all the bereaved to know that their loss is our loss also. Their sorrow is our sorrow.

But in another respect this memorial service is truly an occasion for joy, an occasion for praise and thanksgiving to God.

The reason is obvious. We sang the reason in the very first line of the opening hymn: "For all the saints who from their labors rest." And we sang it again in the last stanza: "To faithful warriors cometh rest." That is why we offer with "allelulias" our praise and thanksgiving to God.

By grace, through faith in God's Son, our Lord and Savior, "who was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification," our departed fellow workers have become heirs to the promise given by God Himself in His blessed word which lies before us for consideration: "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."

Rest is a soothing, rich, and full-blooded word. It has so many connotations and implications that the holy writers of both the Old and the New Testament Scripture employ something like 40 different expressions in approximately 500 references to rest.

The rest promised the people of God is foreshadowed in early Genesis when God Himself rested on the seventh day "from all His work which He had made."

The same promised rest is hailed as an accomplished fact late in the Book of Revelation when a voice from heaven is heard saying: "Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth. Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors."

This rest embraces the Savior's promise: "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself that where I am, you may be also." Simply stated, it means heavenly rest, rest in God, rest in eternal bliss and glory.

1.

Rest presupposes activity, toil, conflict, tension, frustration, heartache, pain.

Our deceased fellow members of God's holy family experienced their quota of all of these, as do all of us who are still on our earthly pilgrimage. In this context we need to remember that most of our toil and struggle and heartache issues from within us, caused by the battle between the flesh and the spirit. We all must confess with the apostle Paul: "The good that I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do." It's a wretched state, an unhappiness that haunts us. Often we cry out with the apostle: "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

Then there is the conflict, tension, and frustration which comes to us from our relationship with people among whom we live and move. We sin against them. They sin against us. We are slow to forgive. They are slow to forgive. Consequently there is friction, a

clashing of wills, and discord. This wears on us until we are well nigh exhausted.

In addition there is heartache and physical pain. Some of our fellow pilgrims we remember this evening died suddenly. Others closed their eyes in death after extended illness marked by intense suffering. Often their greatest anguish was a feeling that they were a burden to those who cared for them. For people who are dedicated to helping others, it is often a calamity to be helpless themselves.

2.

But now, all praise and glory to God, our fellow pilgrims, by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ their Savior, have entered into the rest which awaits the people of God.

They no longer hunger or thirst, for their every want is satisfied.

There is no more sorrow or crying, for God wipes away all tears.

There is no more pain or suffering or stress or heartache or death—thanks be to God, who gave them the victory over all these through faith in Jesus Christ, their Savior.

Though once their heads were bowed low with thorny problems, they now wear a crown of stars.

Though their hands were once filled with care, now they hold a harp of God filled with the sweet music of heaven.

Though their garments were once soiled with sin and torn ragged with the tragic consequences of sin, they are now eternally clothed with a righteousness that is whiter than snow and cleaner than wool.

They are now in the presence of Jesus, their Savior, who many times in life tenderly invited them, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

They now, eternally refreshed, cleansed, and renewed, serve and praise their Lord in His holy temple.

They no longer grow weary—only more blessed as they see Him as He is in all His breath-taking glory and beauty.

Oh, how blest are they whose toils are ended, who are at rest with their God and Savior in heaven.

How about us whose toils are not ended? Following our text in the fourth chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews there is a grim reminder that many of the covenant people of God did not enter into His promised rest because of their unbelief and disobedience. Hence this exhortation: "Let us therefore labor to enter that rest."

Labor we must—and get weary and heavy laden along the way. But our labor will not be nearly as fatiguing and far more fruitful if it is overarched by the one consuming labor to enter the heavenly rest God promised the redeemed.

And the way—"I am the Way," says Jesus; "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No man cometh to the Father but my Me."

That is why Isaiah, the prophet of old, wrote of Christ our Savior: "He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. . . ." He was "stricken, smitten of God, and

afflicted. . . . But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities," so that "with His stripes we are healed."

That is why the apostle Paul assured the jailer at Philippi, who cried out in anguish, "What must I do to be saved?" by saying, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved."

That is why Christ our Savior said to Nicodemus during the hush of night: "God so loved the world that

He gave His only-begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

May God in His grace keep us "steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord," as we press forward to the high prize of our calling through faith in Jesus Christ our Savior—always with a victorious sense of expectancy to be with Him. Eternally at peace! Eternally at rest! Eternally filled with the fullness of joy and bliss in His holy presence! Amen.

Roland Wiederaenders, D.D.

Greetings of the President of The American Lutheran Church

The American Lutheran Church extends warm greetings to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention assembled. You are ever in our prayers. We treasure deeply the confessional unity to which God has called us. We have rejoiced in the fellowship we have known with so many of you through the years and especially since our joint declaration of altar and pulpit fellowship in 1969. It has been inspiring to meet with ALC and LCMS missionaries in Papua New Guinea as they shared this mission outreach of Christ's church in that far-off place. It has been a profoundly moving experience to meet with our military chaplains as they carry on their ministry together. It has been a joyful experience to participate in evangelism rallies where members of our two churches prayed and worshiped together as they prepared to go out in evangelical strength. It has been our hope and expectation that our partnership in the Gospel and in the mission of the church would broaden and deepen in the months and years ahead. For that we continue to pray.

We in the ALC believe doctrinal unity exists between the LCMS and the ALC. We believe we have a God-given agreement on all chief articles of the Christian faith. We together confess our faith in the triune God; in Jesus Christ as true God and true man, the Redeemer of the world; and in the Holy Spirit-created Christian church. Together we affirm the Word and sacraments as God's chosen means of grace, vehicles by which the saving Christ is present among us. We confess together our human sinfulness, that we are lost and condemned creatures left to our own devices. We confess that it is by God's grace alone that we are brought to faith in Christ, to membership in His body, and to the lively resurrection hope of life in His kingdom. Together we hold to the inspiration and authority of the entire Scriptures, and together we declare them to be our norm for faith and life.

We believe that God-given unity should be expressed in mutual sharing of gifts of God, in mutual trust and love, and in active partnership in the mission of the church.

We are therefore hurt and saddened to hear of your convention's action regarding "fellowship in protest." We do not understand the spirit that motivates such a move. We find it incomprehensible that our churches, which share allegiance to Christ and His church, to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, should be



Dr. David Preus, President of the ALC

sidetracked from mutual fellowship and mission by picking away at matters which are not directly addressed in either the Scriptures or the Confessions.

Your Commission on Theology and Church Relations has indicated a list of concerns about the ALC. We must say that we also have a list of concerns about the LCMS. We expect to deal with these as sisters and brothers in the faith. Let me briefly spell out a few of our concerns. Most needing attention is the nature and basis of fellowship. We have consistently asked for a Scripture-based study of what is necessary for Christians to be in altar and pulpit fellowship. We are very pleased to see that your current action calls for such a study. It is highly unlikely that Christian groups will ever attain fellowship if any one group says there must

be total agreement, not only on matters dealt with by the Scriptures and Confessions but also on decisions made by church conventions and councils.

We do not understand, for instance, a view of fellowship that makes Missouri tell the ALC, in effect, that the ALC must by 1979 agree with the LCMS in all matters the LCMS declares important or we can no longer have fellowship. That was not the basis on which we entered fellowship in 1969. We believe churches ought to carefully search the Scriptures together and find where the Scriptures speak directly to a subject and where it leaves matters to the best judgment of the church. We see an ecclesiastical tyranny at work when your representatives tell us that we must see the same problems in the same way as you see them and come to the same answers in all matters—and by a certain date at that. The ALC and the LCMS do not have the same strength of opinion about various issues. That should be expected. Our histories are not totally similar. Our churches have not been agitated by the same matters. We do not expect you to appropriate our history, nor do we think you should expect that of us. Fellowship depends on holding together the basic doctrines of the faith, not on being able to agree on the secondary human judgments the churches must make from time to time.

Look, for instance, at the issues of ecumenical activities and the ordination of women. The ALC belongs to the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches, and we are ordaining women. Neither the Scriptures nor the Confessions directly address these subjects. A church body has to deliberate on these matters on the basis of deductions from the Scriptural Word and its own best wisdom. In other words there are issues to be faced that cannot be solved by a direct appeal to Scriptures or the Confessions. The churches must make judgments as to what is necessary for this day and is consistent with the overall message of the Scriptures.

That is what the ALC has prayerfully and carefully sought to do in these matters. We cannot be positive we are right. Neither can anyone else with a differing position. We say it is enough that we agree on those matters which the Scriptures and Confessions do address directly. Differences on other matters should not be divisive of fellowship. Furthermore, I would call attention to the fact that there have been no serious LCMS Biblical efforts to show us in the ALC why some other position than ours is preferable as regards ecumenical activities and the ordination of women. No, there has only been a handful of people telling us that this is the way the LCMS sees it, and unless we see it like you do, there will be an end to fellowship. We ask for something that takes our Scriptural reflections just as seriously as yours. We do not believe God has cast The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as the sole teacher of us all. We believe it is as possible that you might learn from us as that we might learn from you. We do not believe the unity of the church is to be expressed by any one church body saying, "We have the truth; now all the rest of you line up and agree with us."

The story is similar with regard to the doctrine of Scripture. We in the ALC take second place to no one in

confessing "Sola Scriptura." We believe the entire Scripture to be the inspired and authoritative Word of God. We declare allegiance to what the Scriptures themselves and the Lutheran Confessions say about the Scriptures. We find ourselves in agreement with LCMS Lutherans in understanding what the Scriptures teach us about all the chief articles of faith. We are even willing to affirm "the inerrancy of Scripture," a phrase that neither the Scriptures nor the Confessions use. But when we are told that we must believe that inerrancy means just exactly what some Missouri Synod theologians say it means, and that nobody else's thinking on the subject is to be allowed at pain of loss of fellowship, then that smacks to us of ecclesiastical pride and tyranny.

Let me put it frankly. It has been suggested in this convention that there are some ALC fleas causing the LCMS to scratch and howl. Please know that we also find some LCMS fleas afflicting us. That should not be a surprise to Lutherans, who confess that we are all sinful and unclean. We all have fleas, and if we are ever going to embrace each other as sisters and brothers in Christ, we will have to take each other—fleas and all.

Hear a few further worries that have grown out of our dealings with official LCMS persons and committees.

1. You in LCMS hear very clearly God's word that warns us to beware of false teachers. We see no corresponding concern for the powerful word of God calling us to manifest the unity of faith that is among us. We believe there should be great joy at the huge edifice of unity that exists between us even as we carefully inspect the small planks of disagreement. We believe the church is called by God to express the measure of the unity it has even as we continue to discuss areas of disagreement.

2. You in LCMS show commendable concern for God's word that calls us to constantly seek, proclaim, and defend the truth. We see no corresponding concern for the word of God that again and again warns us against self-righteousness. We think you need to hear just as much as we do God's word that "we should not think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think." LCMS is no less vulnerable to the sin of self-righteousness than any of the rest of us.

3. We in the ALC worry about what appears to us to be an LCMS flirtation with turning the Gospel into a new law. In your desire to protect the Gospel you add legalistic "protections" that the pious are required to affirm. A spirit arises which has God's people inspecting each other for total doctrinal rectitude before there can be openhearted sharing of the grace of God in Christ. The Gospel's strength is in its proclamation, in its free course, not in its being safely hedged in by protective rules and regulations. We have rejoiced in the many instances where LCMS and ALC Lutherans have together proclaimed and heard that Gospel. I know how much I have enjoyed sharing the pulpit with Oswald Hoffmann at various youth gatherings around the country. We have been proclaiming the great Gospel of God and not checking each other's fleas. That is the way we think it ought to be. There is something wrong when suspicion and isolation and accusations replace the

warmth and friendship and shared joy of life in Christ.

I hope this illustrates some of our concerns. We believe them important, and we want to talk with you about them. We do not, however, intend to tell you that these matters must be corrected by 1979 or we will close the door on you. We believe you are our sisters and brothers in Christ, that we are one in faith and doctrine, and that our practice varies only in nonessentials.

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ has called us to march together in Gospel proclamation, in evangelical outreach, in devoted service to God and man in areas that call for justice and mercy. We believe He calls us to

continue our discussions over the minor matters of difference even as we share the major fellowship of life in Christ. We hate the thought of watching you march off to separate yourself from us and almost all the rest of God's Lutheran Christians. We pray God it will not be so! God will bring us to ever deeper unity as we quit inspecting each other for fleas and pour our hearts and lives and prayers and labors into fulfilling His evangelical mission on earth. We believe that God means for His U.S. Lutherans to march into the future together. The ALC pledges its willingness to do just that. God help us! Amen.

David W. Preus, D.D.

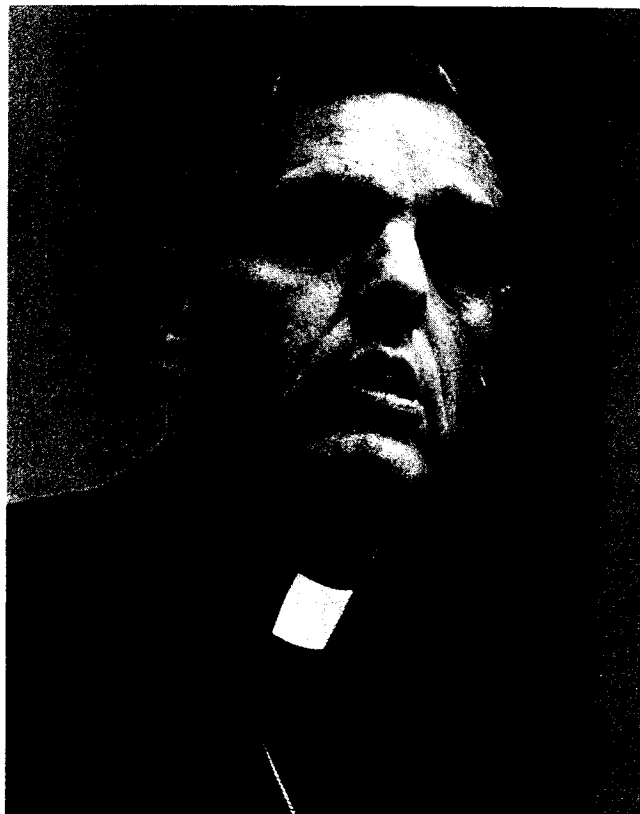
Greetings of the President of the Lutheran Church in America

The first word of greeting is to thank you for the privilege of being welcomed once again to a convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Even more, I am grateful for the continuing association with representatives of your church body in many inter-Lutheran organizations. Preeminently, I think of the Lutheran councils in the U.S.A. and in Canada. I always look forward to those occasions when I may meet with the three officers of your church, Dr. J. A. O. Preus, Dr. Herbert Mueller and Mr. Milton Carpenter. On the board of Lutheran World Relief I am always happy to see Dr. Melvin Witt, Dr. Leslie Webber, and Mrs. Marie Sump.

At the recent meeting of the Lutheran World Federation, it would have been gratifying to have the representatives of the Missouri Synod seated as delegates, but lacking that, it was rewarding to have Dr. Karl Barth and Dr. Samuel Nafzger present as fraternal observers.

There are organizations where I do not represent my church but others meet with representatives of the Missouri Synod as well as those from The American Lutheran Church. At the moment, attention is focused on the work that four church bodies have done over the last decade in the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship. It was the Missouri Synod which initiated the invitation that brought the rest of us together to develop a *Lutheran Book of Worship*. The committees charged with responsibility for reviewing these preparations have recommended approval in the ALC and LCA. There is every reason to believe that the Executive Council of the LCA will give that approval when it meets in September and the Church Council of the ALC will act similarly when it meets in August. In fact, President David Preus has said the enthusiasm in the ALC is so great that he would expect to go ahead even if it meant doing so alone. But the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada has already approved. So the Missouri Synod can be the second in line, and I devoutly hope that may be so.

In the Lutheran Church in America we have joined with the ALC in "Evangelical Outreach." This evangelistic emphasis together with the impetus for merging theological seminaries gives evidence of what can be done together once unity is established in a



Dr. Robert Marshall, President of the LCA

common witness to the Scriptures as stated in the Lutheran Confessions of faith. This unity in witness which we enjoy with the ALC we in the LCA hope may one day be true with you too. So my second word of greeting is a word on behalf of continued cooperation and growth in unity.

My third word is a word of commitment to proclaim the Gospel of Christ as clearly as possible. I am sure you have a similar commitment, and that is why I am pleased to be here.

In the Lutheran Church in America, during the current biennium, we have an emphasis on "Strength for Mission." It is important to make clear what our

strength really is. It is easy to slip into mistaken notions. There are forms of strength that are important to earthly existence but which ought not be allowed to override the distinctive strength of the church.

The mistake is illustrated in a debate over one of the hymns for the new hymnal. A very popular hymn, "Rise Up, O Men of God," was to be left out. The letters of protest I received assumed the reason appeared in the use of the word "men," which slighted women. That difficulty was easily remedied by using the word "saints," a good word from the New Testament. So the hymn will begin, "Rise Up, O Saints of God." But there was a more fundamental error to be corrected before the hymn could be accepted, as it eventually was. The care taken in this instance is a tribute to the theological seriousness of the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship. The commission took exception to two lines in the second stanza of the hymn that speak of the church.

Her strength unequal to the task;
Rise up and make her great.

Who can say the church is unequal to her task when the power of the Holy Spirit of God is working in and through the church? Who can say that people must rise up to make the church great? The church is already the body of Christ and can scarcely become greater than that. These things can be said only if greatness is conceived in limited human terms.

There is a more Christian concept of greatness in another familiar hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." In the second stanza of that hymn we sing:

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing.

Only because the right man is at our side can we win. That strength for mission is Jesus Christ Himself. Without Christ there can be no mission. Without Christ there can be no church. Without Christ there can be no strength.

Tom Paine said, "Government grows out of the sins of people; society grows out of their virtues." But let us make no mistake about it, the church grows out of the grace of God.

So the question is not whether the church will be great. The question is whether we will be faithful members of the church and whether we will be God's instruments to call others into membership. We may well remember Christ's reply on Palm Sunday when people criticized those who were praising Him. He said, "If these keep silent, God will raise up from the stones those to praise." God could get along without us, but by His inexplicable grace we are His people.

God relies on a human chain. In the ancient church, Ignatius in southern France looked back to his teacher Polycarp in Smyrna. Polycarp looked back to John of Ephesus, and John looked back to Jesus of Nazareth, the divine Christ. It is our privilege to be a part of that chain.

The leader of another denomination put it simply. He said, "There are only two kinds of people in the world—those who know God and those who do not." Those who know must tell those who do not.

The wife of a diplomat from an Asian country, during a stay in our country, became interested in the Bible and eventually became a confessing Christian. She would tell people that she had become a Christian, and as you might expect, many would reply, "Oh, I am Christian too." She had to say, "Why have you been keeping it a secret?"

I am pleased that the Missouri Synod has in this convention an emphasis upon telling the Good News. We Lutherans have a distinctive responsibility. Our evangelization is confessionally clear. The Lutheran Confessions present a true witness to the Scriptures that exalts their fundamental message. Our use of Luther's Small Catechism is of benefit to young and old.

Our evangelization is congregationally based. We do not move into a community for a few weeks and then leave the work to others. The ministry of Word and sacraments is continuous. As much as we value radio and television for proclaiming the Gospel—and you in the Missouri Synod do more than most other Lutherans—still we know our Lord wants us to enjoy a face-to-face, personal fellowship in gathered communities. Our congregations are organized so people can care for each other and care beyond each other. Our pastors are on the scene available to meet every kind of need.

Our evangelism is catholic in scope, meant to let the Gospel penetrate all of life. We work to overcome in our own personal makeup any dichotomy between worship and daily life, between church and society, or between witness and service. There may be several different social institutions in which we work, but for ourselves we know there must be an integrity dominated by the Lordship of the resurrected Christ.

So our evangelization is confessionally clear, congregationally based, and catholic in scope. It is gratifying to know that you in the Missouri Synod are dedicated to such evangelization. I pray God's blessings upon you and beseech your prayers for your Lutheran brothers and sisters in the Lutheran Church of America.

Robert J. Marshall, D.D.

Address of the General Secretary, Lutheran Council in the U.S.A.

It would be easy for me to compile an extensive list of reasons to speak words of gratitude to you for your cooperation with The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America in Christian ministry through the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. I know that your agenda is full and that a number of important issues remain to be discussed and decided. Consequently I intend to limit my remarks to just a short series of selected subjects for which many people would want me to say "thanks" to you on their behalf.

Before I begin with that series, I want to say that the fervent hope for a greater expression of Lutheran unity, on which the Council was founded almost eleven years ago, has not vanished, although we must confess if we are to be honest with each other—and we must be—that that hope now burns with less intensity than even five years ago. We can bemoan that fact, and some of us do. But I prefer to seek enlightened and constructive ways of reversing that unwelcome trend, and I shall have more to say about that later.

Now to the subjects for which I express hearty thanks.

1. First of all, as General Secretary of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., I can say thanks to you for the men and women from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who are serving so effectively in staff positions in our New York, Washington, and Chicago offices. They bring their expertise, their creativity, and their theological balance to the inter-Lutheran team that is doing your work in the cooperative sphere. And thanks for the numerous Missouri Synod persons, nominated by your church, who give much time and energy to their assignments on various standing committees and decision-making policy groups. There is no major decision made within the Lutheran Council that does not represent the thinking, point of view, and constructive voice of the one third of our partnership that is your church body. If you have questions about what the Lutheran Council is and what it does and what it stands for, I encourage you to address them to those who represent you. Many of them are right here at this convention. They are responsible people—when they criticize what we do or how we do it, they do so around the same table with their counterparts in The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America, and we work it out. When they affirm our work, they help us to know that the Missouri Synod is responsibly supportive of our programs.

2. One of the purposes of the Lutheran Council is to provide the participating bodies with the means to work together in whatever common tasks of responsible Christian service they desire and find to be feasible.

Since the Anaheim convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the three church bodies participating in the Lutheran Council have established or relocated approximately 150 congregations. Almost half of those congregations are members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Through its Division of Mission and Ministry, with



Dr. George Harkins is welcomed by President Preus and Secretary Mueller

the cooperation of its Office for Research, Planning, and Development, the Council has developed processes and procedures for assisting the three church bodies in their planning of mission and ministry.

Members of all these newly established or relocated congregations thank you for participating in these processes and procedures. Without them, it would have been possible, perhaps even likely, that there would have been three competing and struggling congregations established during these past two years in one community after another. But with those processes, undue duplication of effort and wasted resources were obviated.

3. As of the first of this month, the three participating bodies had assigned 282 chaplains on active duty in the military who minister to more than 45,000 Lutheran men and women in uniform, as well as to others. Of these 282 chaplains, 98 are members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; 87 of The American Lutheran Church; and 97 of the Lutheran Church in America. I have been told that between 50 and 60 chaplains are present at this convention. All of these chaplains say "thank you" for the support you give them through personal visits from staff members of the Division of Service to Military Personnel, for the annual retreats which that division conducts for them, for other in-service training opportunities to which they themselves give high priority, and for the printed materials which the division makes available for their use as they minister in your behalf to men and women in the armed forces and civilian occupations related to military installations overseas.

The Division of Service to Military Personnel also relates to and supports five independent Lutheran congregations overseas (Frankfurt, Germany; Guam; Seoul, Korea; Okinawa, Japan; and Tehran, Iran), each of which has been "recognized" by all three participating church bodies.

All in all, there must be at least 125,000—chaplains, military personnel and civilians in or near military establishments—each of whom says a reverent “thank you” for your ministry to them and their loved ones.

4. One of the most headlined activities of the Council since its formation relates to the resettlement of Indochinese refugees, most of them from Vietnam. Many of your congregations responded gladly, warmly, and openly to our request for sponsorships, as did congregations of The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America. In behalf of those congregations and in behalf of the 18,500 refugees who are now well on their way to becoming contributing members of our American society (some of them have also responded affirmatively to the claims of our Savior and have become members of our congregations), I bring you a brilliant and harmonious chorus of “thanks.”

And at this point I want to digress briefly but also speak directly to the current situation of refugees from Indo-China. As you must certainly have read, there are still from eighty to ninety thousand individuals scattered throughout Thailand and other areas of Asia, seeking some new place to call “home.” More than six thousand of these men, women, and children have been living on small boats in which they fled the Communist regime, unable to leave the boats because haven has been denied them by Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, and many other Asian nations.

The situation is severe; many “boat cases,” as they are called, have drowned at sea; many have seen ships pass them by, refusing to heed SOS signals. Our nation’s State Department has proposed that the United States approve the admission of fifteen thousand of these refugees, and as recently as last Friday President Carter is reported to have agreed to admit 15,000 additional refugees. The concern of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service for assistance to Indo-China refugees is a matter of documented record. I am confident that Lutheran congregations, as in the past, will step forward enthusiastically and sponsor some of these families and individuals.

5. The Division of Theological Studies is the one unit of the council in which each participating church body must cooperate; none has any option to decline to participate in that division. During the past ten years it has responded to eight requests from the churches to engage in theological studies. Three of these requests came from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod:

- a. Unchristian and Anti-Christian Organizations
- b. Translation of the Confessions
- c. War, Peace, and Conscience

One more, entitled “Function of Doctrine and Theology,” was requested by both the Missouri Synod and the Lutheran Church in America.

In addition to the eight studies requested by the churches, the Division of Theological Studies undertook seven other studies and engaged in dialog with Methodists, Episcopalians, Orthodox, and Reformed; and theological conversations with Conservative-Evangelicals and Jews.

For these studies and dialogs, thousands within all

three church bodies speak gratefully and glowingly.

6. The Division of Campus Ministry and Educational Services also makes studies—studies having to do with the campus ministry concerns of the cooperating churches. It assists the cooperating bodies in developing their campus ministries and as in establishing or relocating congregations, it enables the churches to undertake and maintain campus ministries without undue duplication of effort or waste of resources.

Thousands of students, faculty members, and their families rejoice and give thanks for the processes and procedures that make it possible to reduce the number of competing Lutheran ministries on non-Lutheran campuses and to avoid adding more.

I also hear many expressions of gratitude for the annual campus ministry staff conferences conducted by this division for the three church bodies. At such staff conferences, campus pastors and counselors compare experiences and engage in mutual edification and discussion of ways to improve the ministry of the churches among those who are to be our civil, commercial, and ecclesiastical leaders of tomorrow. They too say “thank you.”

During the past two years I appeared three times before congressional committees in Washington to present testimony concerning legislation or regulations which were under development by the United States government. Unfortunately, I had to say in two of those three instances that I was speaking only for The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America. Following each of the two presentations, and after my comments became generally known by way of church and secular newspapers and magazines, I received many expressions of thanks from members of those two church bodies. But since The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod does not cooperate in the council’s Office for Governmental Affairs, I received from Missouri Synod members only inquiries as to why I should speak for only two church bodies.

I said earlier that I want to seek enlightened and constructive ways of reversing the trend away from a greater expression of Lutheran unity. Here is one: it would help the cause of Lutheran identity and the cause of Lutheran unity if The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod were able to cooperate again in the council’s Office for Governmental Affairs as it did for several years.

I believe that another enlightened and constructive way of reclaiming the hope for a greater expression of Lutheran unity is for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to cooperate fully again in the council’s Office of Communication and Interpretation. The news bureau of that office supplies information concerning the Christian faith and life as reflected in the Lutheran Church. The content of this information is the work that Lutherans are doing, either separately or in partnership, and inter-Lutheran events that are newsworthy, plus an articulation of the often confusing and complex doctrinal concerns and policy decisions. The news bureau gathers news from a variety of sources and, applying the highest journalistic standards, supplies both secular and religious editors with bona-fide news.

This aspect of the Council's work is now being supported by only The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America. I hope that when I greet you two years hence I will be able to thank you for your support of this activity too.

All of us who hold responsibility for administering the work of the churches through the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. cherish the hope that the Synod's continued evaluation of the council and its activities will result in an expansion of cooperation through the council by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Such additional support will surely assist in furthering Lutheran unity, in expressing the Lutheran unity that has been achieved, in facilitating inter-Lutheran planning, in providing staff services for programs maintained by the church bodies, and in augmenting church-body program efforts.

The Lutheran Council has completed a decade of service as the cooperative extension of your church body in partnership with The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America. In many ways it has been a difficult decade. But it has also been a

rewarding period of growth and development in what I believe has been God-pleasing service.

As I look ahead to the next ten years, I predict that the Lutheran Council will become more important than ever to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. From a very practical point of view, if the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches is accepted by the partners as a part of the Lutheran Council, the conciliar process with which you are familiar can play a role in the ultimate healing process and the preservation of continuity of service and mission-sharing. You will need the facilities, the forum, and the functioning framework of the Lutheran Council to help you make your witness to the people of our nation and to enhance and extend your own efforts among the millions who know not and care not about the fractions within the so-called Lutheran family. You will continue to need the Lutheran Council, and it will continue to need you.

With Carl Sandburg, "I see great days ahead, great days possible to men and women of will and vision." I shall only add: "to men and women committed to partnership in the Gospel."

George F. Harkins, D.D.

RESOLUTIONS

1. REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS

To Seat Delegates

RESOLUTION 1-01

Overture 1-01; 5-31A—5-33 (CW, pp. 1, 180—181)

WHEREAS, The registered delegates and representatives as listed in the *Convention Workbook* were, with one exception, chosen according to prescribed procedure (Bylaw 1.53); and

WHEREAS, The Registration and Credentials Committee has reviewed all challenges and, with one exception, has found no cause for denying the seating of the delegates in question; and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Constitutional Matters (Floor Committee 5) has presented a resolution to concur with the Commission on Constitutional Matters' "Opinion re Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches"; and

WHEREAS, The time for implementation of the CCM opinion on AELC has been extended to provide evangelical and pastoral care in dealing with those associated with the AELC; therefore be it

Resolved, That the delegates, with the one exception, and representatives listed in the *Convention Workbook* (pp. iv—xii) or registered with the Secretary's office since publication be seated according to their designated assignments.

(The "exception" refers to the lay delegate from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Charleston, Ill. [cf. 4-12, CW, p. 148].)

Committee 5 concurs with this resolution.

Action: *Adopted (1).*

2. MISSIONS

To Authorize New Mission Work in West Africa

RESOLUTION 2-01A

Report 2-01, App. A, Rec. 3 (CW, p. 10)

WHEREAS, Christ has commissioned and equipped His people to proclaim the Gospel to all nations (Matt. 28:19 ff.; Luke 24:47; John 20:21) and sets before them an open door (Rev. 3:8); and

WHEREAS, The Board for Missions reports promising opportunities for new work in West Africa among the Mende people of Liberia and Sierra Leone and the Bimoba people in Togo; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod authorize the Board for Missions to begin new mission work among the Mende and other contiguous unevangelized peoples in West Africa; and be it further



Chairman Lloyd Behnken and Secretary Ed Weise of Committee 2

Resolved, That the Board for Missions give assistance to our sister churches in Ghana and Nigeria in efforts to bring the Gospel to the Bimoba and other unevangelized people; and be it further

Resolved, That such endeavors be conducted in amicable agreement with other Lutheran churches in the areas involved; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention ask our congregations to take prayerful note of the commitment of manpower and funds which will be required to undertake such new work; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Missions, the Board of Stewardship, and the Board for Public Relations make a concerted effort to keep the Synod fully informed so that these new fields may be entered with the prayers and intercessions of all our congregations.

Action: *Adopted (3).*

To Recognize the Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod as a Sister Church

RESOLUTION 2-02

Report 2-01, App. A, Rec. 1 (CW, p. 10)

WHEREAS, God has blessed the mission efforts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Hong Kong and has created Christian congregations that have been organized into a church known as the Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod has requested recognition as a sister church; and

WHEREAS, A common confessional basis and commitment to God's mission constitute a precious bond between The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Missions and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations have examined the constitution of the Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod as required in Bylaw 16.03 b; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention joyfully recognize the Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod as a sister church.

Action: *Adopted (3).*

To Thank God for New Testament in Three New Languages

RESOLUTION 2-03

Report 2-01, App. A, Rec. 5 (CW, p. 11)

WHEREAS, Our missionaries in the Ogoja Province, Nigeria, have devoted many years to the task of analyzing and learning the Yala, Bokyi, and Kukele languages; and

WHEREAS, This task was undertaken for the purpose of bringing the written Word of God to these people; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the completion of the translation of the entire New Testament into the Yala, Bokyi, and Kukele languages; therefore be it



Rev. John Fajen, Missionary to Nigeria and Translator

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod join the Lutheran Church of Nigeria in praising God for blessing the work of those missionaries and their helpers who labored to make these translations possible.

Action: *Adopted (3).*

To Continue Renewal Retreats

RESOLUTION 2-04

Report 2-02, V, Rec. 1 (CW, 25)

WHEREAS, Out of love for our Lord and our fellowman Retreats at all synodical levels; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-two Districts have conducted such retreats with positive and encouraging results; and

WHEREAS, Renewal Retreats are designed to help the Christian grow in desire and ability to evangelize; therefore be it

Resolved, That we adopt a 2-year goal of completing the program of Renewal Retreats as outlined in Anaheim Res. 1-03; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge Districts and circuits to continue to conduct Renewal Retreats for professional workers of the church and their spouses; and be it finally

Resolved, That we urge the congregations of the Synod to conduct Renewal Retreats for the officers, boards, and committees of the congregations and other lay leaders and implement this program throughout the congregation.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

To Implement Church Growth Principles

RESOLUTION 2-05A

Overtures 2-13, 2-14 (CW, pp. 32–33); Report 2-02, VI, 2 (CW, p. 28)

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that without Christ

men will suffer eternal punishment (Rom. 6:23; Acts 4:12; John 3:16); and

WHEREAS, We recognize Christ's command to evangelize (Matt. 28:20; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8); and

WHEREAS, Many retreat from a task which is demanding and difficult; and

WHEREAS, The congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod should receive the benefit of the Church Growth Seminars attended by the majority of the evangelism and mission executives of the Synod and the Districts; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod and each District of the Synod be encouraged to make a thorough study of Church Growth materials and to organize and put into action the Church Growth principles needed to evangelize the nation and the world.

Action: Adopted (6).

To Support Inner City Ministry

RESOLUTION 2-06

Overture 2-19 (CW, p. 34)

WHEREAS, The inner city in many metropolitan areas of our country and the world presents massive and complex human problems and confronts the church with an opportunity to make disciples for Jesus Christ through His Gospel of grace; and

WHEREAS, The work requires the special support of Christ's people in nearby congregations and through the Districts and the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Missions establish an inner city mission task force to evaluate past studies and ministries and make realistic and practical recommendations to the 1979 convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions instruct the task force to give special consideration to a recruitment and training program for lay and professional church workers in the inner city ministry; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod encourage support for this ministry by Christ's people.

Action: Withdrawn by Committee 2 in favor of Res. 10-06A.

To Clarify Role of Council for Christian Medical Work in the Synod

RESOLUTION 2-07

Reports 2-01, App. E; 2-04 (CW, pp. 16—19, 30)

WHEREAS, The Council for Christian Medical Work is charged with carrying out the objectives as outlined in Bylaw 8.73 in an advisory capacity to the Synod in matters pertaining to the ministry of health and healing; and

WHEREAS, The present Bylaws do not clearly define the structural relationships between the Council for Christian Medical Work and the other boards and commissions of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following *Handbook* changes be made:

PRESENT WORDING

2.83 Duties with Respect to Synodical Personnel

a. The Board of Directors shall appoint, subject to the approval of the President of the Synod:
An Administrative Officer of the Board of Directors

A Controller

Assistant Treasurer(s), and

An Executive Secretary for Medical Missions

Such other personnel as the Board of Directors feels it requires to perform its responsibilities.

8.71 Council for Christian Medical Work

c. The council shall meet regularly to consult with and advise the Secretary for Medical Work of the Board for Missions, who shall serve in a staff relationship to the council.

8.75 Secretary for Medical Work

The Secretary for Medical Work of the Board for Missions shall be appointed by the Board for Missions upon recommendation of the Council for Christian Medical Work. He shall serve in a staff relationship to the council but shall be administratively responsible to the Executive Secretary of the Board for Missions.

PROPOSED WORDING

2.83 Duties with Respect to Synodical Personnel

a. The Board of Directors shall appoint, subject to the approval of the President of the Synod:
An Administrative Officer of the Board of Directors

A Controller

Assistant Treasurer(s), and

Such other personnel as the Board of Directors feels it requires to perform its responsibilities.

8.71 Council for Christian Medical Work

c. The council shall meet regularly to consult with and advise the staff person for Medical Work of the Board for Missions.

8.75 Secretary for Medical Work

(delete)

Action: Adopted (5).

(The convention agreed that the wording of Res. 4-02A-2 with respect to the wording of Bylaw 2.83 should take precedence over the wording adopted above.)

To Appoint Staff Person for Medical Work

RESOLUTION 2-08

Report 2-01, App. E (CW, pp. 16-17)

WHEREAS, God has blessed the medical missions of our Synod in the past; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Missions must be enabled more effectively and efficiently to carry out its programmatic goals relative to health and healing concerns in those areas where partner churches and missions are involved; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Missions proceed with the appointment of a staff person who will implement the work in this area.

Action: Adopted (5).

To Secure Staff for Council for Christian Medical Work

RESOLUTION 2-09

Reports 2-01, App. E; 2-04 (CW, pp. 16-19, 30)

WHEREAS, The Council for Christian Medical Work is without staff services as it serves in an advisory and consulting capacity to the Synod's ministry of health and healing; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Council for Christian Medical Work be authorized to secure necessary staff services to carry out its objectives.

Action: Adopted (6).

To Observe 75th Anniversary of Church Extension Fund

RESOLUTION 2-10

Report 2-03, I, II (CW, p. 29)

WHEREAS, The Church Extension Fund, under God, has been a source of blessing to our Synod, Districts, and congregations for 75 years; and

WHEREAS, This program has assisted the mission expansion and membership growth of our church by providing loan funds for sites and facilities; and

WHEREAS, The theme of our convention, "That We May Grow," and the many new expansion opportunities in both home and foreign fields suggest the need for a growing and expanding Church Extension Fund; and

WHEREAS, Our present level of membership participation with regular investments suggests a large potential of investor possibilities in both synodical and District funds; and

WHEREAS, For 75 years the Church Extension Fund has served our church significantly in meeting the expansion opportunities for ministry and outreach; therefore be it

Resolved, That the total membership of our church be encouraged to participate in the celebration and

observance of this diamond anniversary; and be it further

Resolved, That this convention encourage all congregations to observe this anniversary by providing their members with information and opportunities for investment in the Church Extension Fund.

Action: Adopted (11).

To Comply with Securities Laws in Various States

RESOLUTION 2-11

Report 2-03, V (CW, p. 29)

WHEREAS, The Board for Church Extension, in keeping with Anaheim Res. 2-17, has continued its efforts to comply with the securities laws of the various states and to assist the synodical Districts in doing likewise; and

WHEREAS, The procedures in this regard, as well as practical and legal factors involved in the good stewardship of Church Extension Fund money, require that the way in which the Synod functions in the area of Church Extension be continually reviewed and evaluated; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Church Extension be directed to continue its efforts to comply with the securities laws in the various states in connection with the Church Extension Funds of the Synod, including its Districts, and to take such actions as it might determine to be necessary, convenient, or desirable to assure that such funds are managed effectively and efficiently.

Action: Adopted (11).

To Increase Outreach

RESOLUTION 2-12

**Report 2-02, V, Exh. 7, Rec. 2 (CW, p. 26);
Overture 2-09 (CW, pp. 31-32)**

WHEREAS, Christ in His love has redeemed all mankind from sin for everlasting life; and

WHEREAS, We wish to respond with obedience to our Lord's command in Matt. 28:18-20; and

WHEREAS, Out of love for our Lord and our fellowman we are concerned about increasing our outreach; and

WHEREAS, Many approaches and strategies are required to meet the opportunities facing the church; therefore be it

Resolved, That we adopt a 2-year goal of increasing the number of adults gained annually by baptism/confirmation from 27,000 to at least 35,000; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge the District evangelism boards/committees to exert positive leadership in setting goals and to promote such area efforts as open-house services, evangelism through Bible correspondence courses, and the establishing of new missions; and be it finally

Resolved, That we urge each congregation to develop an effective organization for outreach which includes:

- annual goals for winning the unchurched
- a resource file of evangelism materials
- a responsibility file
- a method of training pastors and lay people to make evangelism visits
- observance of an annual evangelism festival
- follow-up referrals from Lutheran Television and the Lutheran Hour
- a method to focus prayers of its members on specific unchurched people
- encouragement to pastoral leadership

Action: *Adopted as amended (5).*

(The final resolve was amended to add the final point and to insert "pastors and" in the fourth point. The convention declined to strike the first resolve.)

To Decrease "Back-Door Losses"

RESOLUTION 2-13

Report 2-02, Exh. 7, Rec. 3 (CW, p. 26)

WHEREAS, Out of love for our Lord and deep concern for our fellow members it becomes a matter of high priority for Christian congregations, through the means of grace, to cultivate a faithful relationship with our Lord and a sense of community with His people; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage congregations to approach delinquent members in an evangelical manner, seeking to "restore them" according to the words of our Lord in Matt. 18 and Gal. 6:1-2; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge congregations to give special attention to receiving new members and following up on those who have moved away, with such practical activities as:

- ceremonies to receive new members, receptions, sponsors, and personal visits
- formal farewell ceremonies for those leaving the parish
- assistance in finding a new church home
- follow-up on those who move away, with telephone calls, personal letters, visits, referrals, and transfers;

and be it finally

Resolved, That we adopt a 2-year goal to decrease the number of annual "back-door losses" from the Synod from 50,000 to 35,000.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

To Support TV Ministry

RESOLUTION 2-14

Overtures 2-25A—B (CW, pp. 35—36)

WHEREAS, Television is an effective means of reaching those who have not heard the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, The medium of television is growing both in influence and in coverage throughout the world each day; and

WHEREAS, Our church has used this magnificent gift of God for over 25 years to bring the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ to millions each week; and

WHEREAS, The opportunities for us to use this medium wisely and effectively continue to grow each day; and

WHEREAS, The International Lutheran Laymen's League accepted the Synod's offer and assumed the responsibility for the Lutheran Television Ministry in 1975; therefore be it

Resolved, That we praise and thank God for His marvelous gift of television; and be it further

Resolved, That we commend the League for its forward-looking and Gospel-centered plans and programs for the Lutheran Television Ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That every member of the Synod support this mission ministry through prayer and personal gifts; and be it finally

Resolved, That we ask God's continued blessings on this mission and evangelism ministry.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Decline Overture 2-29 (Dr. Thomas Coates)

RESOLUTION 2-15A

Overture 2-29 (CW, p. 36)

WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas Coates has requested that no action be taken on the overture; and

WHEREAS, The retirement and termination of services of Dr. Coates was not for doctrinal reasons; and

WHEREAS, Such action was in accord with the synodical Board for Missions policy for missionary retirement and termination; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 2-29 be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Acknowledge Concerns of Minority Report

RESOLUTION 2-16

Report 2-01Mn (CW, pp. 19—20)

WHEREAS, The minority report by a member of the Board for Missions expresses some concerns which can affect our church's mission program; and

WHEREAS, It is beneficial to the church to heed criticism and be sensitive to other views; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Missions consider these concerns when evaluating its work and relationships.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Thank God for Faithful Service of Dr. Koppelman

RESOLUTION 2-17

Report 2-01, V (CW, p. 9)

WHEREAS, Dr. Herman H. Koppelman served the Lord many years both in the parish ministry and at the synodical level; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Koppelman retired Dec. 31, 1975, after serving 27 years on the Missions staff in various capacities, including that of acting executive secretary; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Koppelman was called to be with his Lord in heaven on March 4, 1977; therefore be it

Resolved, That we thank God for the blessings our beloved church has received from the many years of faithful service rendered by Dr. Koppelman.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Thank God for Missionaries of the Synod

RESOLUTION 2-18

Report 2-01, App. A, Rec. 4 (CW, p. 11)

WHEREAS, God has richly blessed our church with the gift of dedicated and capable men and women to serve in the worldwide mission of The Lutheran—Church Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, These missionaries and their families as servants of Christ and His Gospel are a source of much blessing both to our church which sends them and to the partner churches and fields which receive them; and

WHEREAS, The report of the Board for Missions demonstrates the faithfulness and vision of these workers; therefore be it

Resolved, That we thank God for faithful expatriate missionaries who as God's epistles share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all people; and be it further

Resolved, That we ask God's continued blessing on their labors and pray that He uphold them with His grace and promised strength, so that all they do and say may be to His glory.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Commend Work of Partner Churches

RESOLUTION 2-19

Report 2-01, App. A (CW, p. 10)

WHEREAS, Numerous outreach opportunities to proclaim the Word of God exist around the world for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and affiliated partner churches; and

WHEREAS, God the Holy Spirit has blessed the mission efforts of these churches; and

WHEREAS, The involvement of these churches in the World Mission Planning Consultation held at Hong Kong, Jan. 15—26, 1977, demonstrates interest in planning together for mission effort; therefore be it

Resolved, That we commend the partner churches for their evangelistic zeal and planning for mission outreach; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod commit itself to reexamine, in conjunction with the partner churches, "the basis and nature of partnership, including the role of the expatriate missionary and church fellowship," in order that the most effective plan for mission outreach be implemented; and be it finally

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod reaffirm its own commitment to Christ's mission of outreach, to work with partner churches to that end, and to be supportive of them in an enlarged global evangelistic endeavor.

Action: *Adopted (3).*

To Complete Evangelism Staff

RESOLUTION 2-20

Report 2-02, IV, Exh. 6 (CW, p. 24); Overture 2-12 (CW, p. 32)

WHEREAS, When the Board for Evangelism was established as a separate board at the Milwaukee convention, the proposal was to develop a staff of three full-time persons; and

WHEREAS, The Evangelism Department has developed to the point where the present staff of two executives cannot meet the requests from Districts, groups, and congregations for services; and

WHEREAS, The need for new materials and programs continues to expand, as determined by orders, usage, and requests; and

WHEREAS, Evangelism staff assistance is needed to encourage the continued emphasis on sharing Christ with all people through church publications, use of mass media, and other activities in all departments of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Evangelism staff assistance is needed to support the continued emphasis on church growth which might result in gaining more people for Christ and His church and in fewer "back-door losses"; and

WHEREAS, The Anaheim convention (1975) requested "the Board of Directors to authorize the calling of an additional staff person to the Board for Evangelism within the next fiscal year" (Res. 1-07) but the additional staff person has not been authorized; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention urge the Board of Directors to consider this a high-priority need and to authorize and fund the calling of an Associate Secretary of Evangelism as soon as possible.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

To Accept Position and Directional Statement for Campus Ministry

RESOLUTION 2-21A

Report 2-01, App. B (CW, pp. 11-13); Overture 2-20 (CW, p. 35)

WHEREAS, Res. 2-07A of the 1975 convention requested the Board for Missions, "in consultation with District mission executives, campus coordinators, and campus pastors," to develop a position and directional statement on campus ministry, "to be presented to the 1977 convention of the Synod for action"; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Missions has prepared and adopted (May 1976) a "Position and Directional Statement for Campus Ministry" (App. B, CW, p. 11); therefore be it

Resolved, That we commend the Board for Missions for the work on the "Position and Directional Statement"; and be it further

Resolved, That we accept this "Position and Directional Statement"; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Missions continue its consultative work with District mission executives, campus coordinators, and campus pastors, constantly evaluating and changing this statement in keeping with the rapid changes and developments in campus ministry, and reflecting the current policies and practices of the Synod.

Action: Adopted (6).

To Strengthen Mission Interpretation and Promotion

RESOLUTION 2-22

Report 2-01 (CW, pp. 6-9)

WHEREAS, The recent Charron Report has pointed out the serious communication gap concerning the Synod's overseas mission program and uncertainty among many as to its priority; and

WHEREAS, The mission committed to us by Jesus Christ is a mission of the whole church; and

WHEREAS, The report of the Board for Missions witnesses to the board's consciousness of missions as "a story that needs to be told, God's success story that needs to be shared, a challenge that needs to be placed before the redeemed in Christ"; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Missions expand and strengthen its involvement in the task of mission interpretation and promotion through such means as:

a. More effective utilization of expatriate missionaries, former missionaries, and national church leaders in sharing with Districts, circuits, and congregations the mission work of the Missouri Synod and partner churches;

b. Production of informational and motivational materials on the mission of our church, using the best up-to-date communication media; and be it further

Resolved, That this synodical convention encourage

the President of the Synod to invite and host leaders of the partner churches for the 1979 convention and make adequate arrangements for these partner church leaders to visit and share their story with Districts, circuits, and congregations.

Action: This resolution was withdrawn by the committee and referred to Committee 13.

To Continue Support of Deaf and Blind Ministries

RESOLUTION 2-23A

Overtures 2-15-2-17 (CW, pp. 33-34)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is pledged to further ministry among the deaf and the blind; and

WHEREAS, The administration of the work among the deaf has been transferred to the Districts of the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, The role of the Board for Missions is to coordinate deaf ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline the overtures requesting the establishment of a separate Commission for the Deaf; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions seek to fill the position of Secretary of North America/Blind-Deaf Ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That the person filling this staff position be able to communicate in the sign language; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Missions be encouraged to intensify the work among the deaf and the blind.

Action: Adopted as amended (6).

(The third resolve was added by amendment. Delegates declined to consider a substitute resolution and also declined an amendment requiring 8 to 10 years' previous experience of the staff person.)

To Promote Child Evangelism

RESOLUTION 2-24

Report 2-02, V, Rec. 4 (CW, p. 27)

WHEREAS, Jesus said, "Let the children come to Me, do not hinder them" (Mark 10:14 RSV); and

WHEREAS, Declining Sunday school enrollments are of serious concern to the church (cf. Exh. 3, CW, p. 22); and

WHEREAS, There is a tendency to emphasize evangelization of adults, with less emphasis on the evangelization of children; and

WHEREAS, The years 1977-78 have been designated as "The Year of the Sunday School"; therefore be it

Resolved, That we adopt a 2-year goal of increasing Sunday school enrollment by at least 10 percent; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge congregations to develop

effective outreach ministries for children through both the evangelism and the education boards (or committees); and be it finally

Resolved, That we urge congregations to provide training in witnessing for the teaching staff and children of all educational agencies.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

To Serve Scattered Lutherans

RESOLUTION 2-25

Overture 2-07 (CW, p. 31)

WHEREAS, Throughout much of the United States and the provinces of Canada there are large areas where we have no Lutheran congregations; and

WHEREAS, The spiritual needs of the scattered Lutherans living in such areas are often not being adequately met; and

WHEREAS, Some Districts presently have circuit-rider ministries in operation and would be willing to share information concerning them with others; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Missions serve as a coordinator in exchanging information regarding these circuit-rider ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention direct the Board for Missions to work with concerned Districts in their efforts to meet the spiritual needs of scattered Lutherans.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Understand Cults and Witness to Their Adherents

RESOLUTION 2-26

Report 2-02, V, Rec. 7 (CW, p. 28)

WHEREAS, The apostle Paul warns us to be on the alert against false gospels, saying, "As we have said before, so now I say again, If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:9 RSV); and

WHEREAS, There are approximately 5,000 cults in America today; and

WHEREAS, Many of them are very aggressive and are gaining large numbers of adherents, especially among the young; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism has arranged for publication of excellent new materials to aid in understanding and witnessing to the cult adherents; therefore be it

Resolved, That we adopt a 2-year goal of at least 75 percent of our congregations offering courses with the new series of books on the cults, entitled "The Response Series."

Action: *Adopted (5).*

To Encourage Evangelism Among the Jews

RESOLUTION 2-27

Report 2-02, Rec. 6 (CW, p. 27); Overtures 2-08A—B, 10-18 (CW, pp. 31, 326)

WHEREAS, God has made from one man all people to live on the earth as a loving family in harmony and reverence before Him as the only true God (Gen. 1:26; Acts 17:26-27); and

WHEREAS, This relationship was broken by the fall of man into sin; and

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ is the Mediator between God and all mankind and the Savior of the world (1 Tim. 2:3-6); and

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ has broken down the wall of hostility between God and man, between man and his fellowman, and thus also between Jews and Gentiles (Eph. 2:14); and

WHEREAS, So many Christians have not been sensitive to opportunities the Lord has given for cultivating creative, positive relationships; and

WHEREAS, We of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have too often not included the Jews in our mission; therefore be it

Resolved, That we adopt a 2-year goal of persuading 50 percent of our congregations to prepare themselves for effective witness to Jewish people by working through the Bible study materials and witness resources prepared by the Committee on Witnessing to Jewish People; and be it further

Resolved, That we direct the Board for Evangelism to give priority to materials and programs for witness to Jewish people; and be it further

Resolved, That we adopt a 2-year goal of 10 District workshops to stimulate interest and equip our members in witnessing to Jewish people; and be it further

Resolved, That we direct the Board for Social Ministry to include among its concerns the problem of anti-Semitism; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge congregations to share with the committee their reactions to the study materials and witness resources prepared by the Committee on Witnessing to Jewish People to aid in further study; and be it finally

Resolved, That we encourage especially those congregations located in or near Jewish communities to reach out to the Jews and share our faith that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

To Recognize Contributions of All Agencies, Auxiliary Organizations, and Fraternal-Benevolent Agencies

RESOLUTION 2-28

Report 2-01, App. A, Rec. 6 (CW, p. 11)

WHEREAS, Valuable resources for carrying the

Gospel throughout the world come from the various agencies, auxiliary organizations, and fraternal-benevolent agencies; therefore be it

Resolved, That we express appreciation for the contributions made by these agencies, auxiliary organizations, and fraternal-benevolent agencies and urge them to continue their strong mission emphasis and concern for the proclamation of the Gospel at home and abroad.

Action: Adopted (6).

To Note Challenges and Opportunities in Overseas Missions

RESOLUTION 2-29

Report 2-01, II, App. C (CW, pp. 13—14)

WHEREAS, The Board for Missions in its report has outlined in detail the challenges, opportunities, and open doors in overseas missions and in partner churches; therefore be it

Resolved, That we commend these needs to the prayers and support of the Synod and all its members.

Action: Adopted (3).

To Clarify Promotion of Missions

RESOLUTION 2-30

Report 2-01, III, V (CW, pp. 6, 9—10)

WHEREAS, The *Handbook* of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, under duties of the Board for Missions, states in Bylaw 8.09 m, “publish and produce or cause to be produced and distributed the special materials and periodicals required to fulfill and interpret the mission effort of the Synod”; and

WHEREAS, The *Handbook* of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, under functions of the Board of Stewardship, states in Bylaw 15.07 c, “plan and make available to the congregations an ongoing program of mission education and thereby develop a missionary concern”; and

WHEREAS, These Bylaws overlap in the area of mission education and promotion; therefore be it

Resolved, That this matter be referred to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure for study and clarification; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions and the Board of Stewardship be encouraged to expand their mission promotion efforts.

Action: This resolution was withdrawn by the committee.

To Request Districts to Observe Synodical Resolutions in Campus Ministry

RESOLUTION 2-31A

Report 2-01, App. 3 (CW, p. 12); Overtures 2-21, 2-22 (CW, p. 35)

WHEREAS, Districts of the Synod have the respon-

sibility of administering campus ministry in their own District; and

WHEREAS, Various Districts of the Synod have established inter-Lutheran agencies for administering campus work within their Districts “in order to avoid duplication and overlap” in money, manpower, and facilities; therefore be it

Resolved, That we commend those Districts that have successfully avoided such duplication and overlap, while conscientiously observing synodical resolutions and policies for campus ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions continue to encourage Districts to “avoid duplication and overlap” wherever possible; and be it finally

Resolved, That all Districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod participating in such inter-Lutheran agencies continue to observe synodical resolutions and policies for campus ministry.

Action: Adopted (6).

To Take No Action with Respect to Overture 2-23 (To Continue CEF Loans to AELC Congregations)

RESOLUTION 2-32 A

Overture 2-23 (CW, p. 35)

WHEREAS, the following policy resolution has been adopted by the Church Extension Board:

WHEREAS, There are congregations that no longer choose to remain as members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, The synodical Church Extension Department has filed an Offering Circular with the State Security and Exchange Commissioner's Office stating our aims and purposes when becoming licensed or certified; and

WHEREAS, The synodical Church Extension Board does not wish to be placed in a position of possible non-compliance with the approved Offering Circular; therefore be it

Resolved, That the synodical Church Extension Board communicate to Districts and congregations that any action taken by a congregation or District, relative to a congregation's membership and its internal financing, contrary to statements approved in the Offering Circular, could potentially put us in a non-compliance with the stated regulatory agency; and be it finally

Resolved, That the necessary financial arrangements be made with the Church Extension Department, to make compliance with stated purposes possible.

WHEREAS, The concern of Overture 2-23 has been answered by this policy statement; therefore be it

Resolved, That no further action be taken.

Action: Adopted (11).

To Decline Overtures 2-24A—B (Funding Congregations)

RESOLUTION 2-33 A

Overtures 2-24A—B (CW, p. 35)

WHEREAS, The concern expressed in Overture 2-

24A—B is in the area of the Synod working at the District level, not at the national level; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 2-24A—B be respectfully declined.

Action: Adopted (6).

**To Decline Overture 2-28
(To Employ CB in Service of Gospel)**

RESOLUTION 2-34

Overture 2-28 (CW, p. 36)

Resolved, That Overture 2-28 be respectfully declined.

Action: Adopted (6).

**To Decline Overture 6-110
(To Grant \$10,000 for Ongoing
Ambassadors Building)**

RESOLUTION 2-35

Overture 6-110 (CW, p. 263)

Resolved, That Overture 6-110 be respectfully declined.

Action: Adopted (6).

**To Study Relationship of LAMP
and the Synod**

RESOLUTION 2-36

Overture 2-26 (CW, p. 36)

WHEREAS, The work being done by the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP) is bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to scattered people in the far north; and

WHEREAS, LAMP has not requested endorsement by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Missions has not determined what relationship might be established with LAMP; therefore be it

Resolved, That we commend LAMP for their

concern and love in the work which they are doing; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions seek to determine what relationship might be established between LAMP and the Synod.

Action: Adopted (6).

**To Continue Implementation
of Mission Study Commission
Recommendations**

RESOLUTION 2-37

Report 2-01, V (CW, p. 9)

WHEREAS, The Mission Study Commission reported to the Anaheim convention in 1975; and

WHEREAS, The Anaheim convention directed the Board for Missions to take the report of the Mission Study Commission under advisement and report to the Dallas convention on its response; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Missions has submitted to the convention a detailed statement on its response; therefore be it

Resolved, That this statement by the Board for Missions be referred to the Board of Directors and to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure for study and suitable action; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions be strongly encouraged to continue to take under advisement the recommendations of the Mission Study Commission; and be it finally

Resolved, That we hold our mission workers high on our prayer list, and that while these studies are under way during the next biennium, the Board for Missions strive for even greater effectiveness by placing special emphasis on the promotion of God-pleasing understanding and unity among our missionaries and between the Board for Missions and our workers in the field so that we may also grow in the love of Christ and the power of the Spirit in this vital work of the Lord.

Action: Adopted as amended (13).

(Amendment: The last resolve was added.)

3. THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS

To Promote Concord and Conciliation "That We May Grow"

RESOLUTION 3-01

Report 3-01, 1, B, 12; IV (CW, pp. 41, 47-48);
Overtures 3-11-3-20C, 3-23-3-27, 3-29A-3-31B, 3-33-3-47, 3-49A-3-51C (CW pp. 73-84)

WHEREAS, The Holy Scriptures teach that God-pleasing concord and harmony in the church are to be found in doctrinal unity and that doctrinal disagreement engenders strife (Rom. 16:17; 2 Tim. 2:23, Titus 1:9); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Confessions teach that preservation of pure doctrine and concord in the church require not only the maintenance of sound teaching but also defense against those who would teach otherwise (FC SD Summ. 1, 10); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was formed in order to promote the unit of the true faith and to enable each member to edify his fellow members and assist them to avoid doctrinal indifference, chaos, and schism, both through:

a) subscription by all members of the Synod to Article II of its Constitution, and

b) formulation of doctrinal statements dealing with contemporary issues at controversy, such as "A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles" (N. O. 2-21, 3-01) as repeatedly affirmed in synodical convention (Milw. 2-21, 5-24; Anah. 3-04) and by a decision of its Commission on Constitutional Matters (Anah. CW, p. 205, IV-D); and

WHEREAS, The Synod has been engaged in bitter controversy over theology and doctrine; therefore be it

Resolved, That all parts of the Synod now seek to lay this strife and its wrong causes aside and once more join together to the original purpose of our beloved church; and be it further

Resolved, That the whole church recognize that humility and concord require of us cooperation within the formal structures of the Synod and its constituted authorities, especially in its efforts to foster and to further pure and sound doctrine and study; and be it

Resolved, That the people of God in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod happily and earnestly seek to live in peace and concord under the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, full of power for Christ's mission as a result of the Holy Spirit's work within them through the means of grace; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention urgently request congregations, pastors, and teachers of the Synod to support the studies and programs in "That We May Grow" in the strongest possible way with their prayers and participation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod adopt the following goals of the "That We May Grow" program:

1. That the people of God in The Lutheran Church—

Missouri Synod intensify their study of the Holy Scriptures together, trusting the Holy Spirit to increase and enrich their personal faith;

2. That the people of God in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod intensify their efforts to identify, discuss, and resolve the theological issues that trouble us;

3. That the people of God in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod grow in their ability to translate what the Holy Scriptures teach about the mission of Christ's church into concrete ministries;

4. That the people of God in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod study the Lutheran Confessions, grow in understanding and appreciation for their continued relevance, and praise God for 400 years of Lutheran heritage;

5. That the people of God in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as fellow members of the body of Christ grow in the fulfilling of their loving responsibility for one another as they confront their problems and challenges; and be it finally

Resolved, That in this way, as well as in services of thanksgiving and praise, we express our gratitude to God for the precious heritage of the Sacred Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions in this 400th-anniversary year of the Formula of Concord.

Adopted as amended (4).

(This resolution was introduced in Session 2. An amendment to delete (b) from the third whereas was declined. However, the delegates did adopt an amendment to abbreviate the fourth whereas. Amendments were declined which would have substituted for the final words of the fifth resolve, point 2, or would have added to that point the words: "and preserve the unity that they have." After the discussion had been continued in Session 4, the resolution was adopted as given above.)

To Declare a State of "Fellowship in Protest" with the ALC

RESOLUTION 3-02A

Reports 3-01, II, C; 3-05; Overtures 3-81A-C, 3-116, 3-136A-3-161, 3-179A-B, 3-183A-3-186, 3-188A-B (CW, pp. 43-44, 69-71, 93, 103, 107-116, 120-122)

WHEREAS, The Lord Jesus desires that the members of His church express outwardly the fellowship they have with Him and with another as a part of the holy Christian church (John 17:11); and

WHEREAS, Christians are to be united in what they believe and teach as they work and worship together (Matt. 28:20; Acts 2:42); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod entered into pulpit and altar fellowship with The American Lutheran Church in 1969 with the earnest desire to "seek a unified evangelical position and practice on the basis of our commitment to the Gospel"

(Denver convention Res. 3-15, *Proceedings*, pp. 96—98); and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (1977 CW, p. 43) has reported that doctrinal agreement does not exist between these two church bodies in the following areas:

1. the inspiration, inerrancy, and authority of the Scriptures;
2. the ordination of women to the pastoral office;
3. the nature and basis of fellowship;
4. membership and participation in ecumenical organizations (unionism); and

WHEREAS, The Missouri Synod members of the ALC—LCMS Commission on Fellowship report that no substantial progress has been made in resolving these differences; and

WHEREAS,

1. there is some evidence of agreement in doctrine and practice between members of the ALC and LCMS on the local level;
2. not all members of the ALC share the objectionable positions and practices of the ALC and some of its officials and theologians;
3. many LCMS members are unaware of the serious differences that exist at the church body level;
4. there is considerable evidence of doctrinal disagreement and confusion in understanding the nature and implications of the concept of fellowship itself; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS declare itself to be in a state of "fellowship in protest" with the ALC on account of doctrinal disagreements as indicated above. Such a state of "fellowship in protest," as the CTCR stated in a 1970 document, "is not tantamount to the breaking of fellowship. If, however, the circumstances which called forth the protest are not corrected in due time, the implication is that the protest will lead to the severance of fellowship relations" (1971 CW, p. 39). This would mean that the LCMS officially recognizes that its relationship of altar and pulpit fellowship with the ALC has been disrupted by positions and practices of the ALC. It would allow pastors and congregations of the Synod to practice fellowship with the pastors and congregations of the ALC whom they have found to be in agreement in doctrine and practice with the position of the LCMS, wherever this can be done without giving offense; and be it further

Resolved,

1. That the Synod direct its President and CTCR to provide for continued discussions within the Commission on Fellowship and for multilevel discussions (seminary faculties, Districts, circuits, congregations) between the two church bodies on the doctrinal issues that now disturb the relationship between the church bodies, and request the president of The American Lutheran Church to do the same within the ALC;
2. That the Synod implore all involved, where doctrinal consensus has been discovered and

fellowship practiced by local congregations of the two church bodies, to exercise such loving and pastoral care as recognizes both the needs of God's people in the local congregation as well as the will of the Synod in declaring that it is now in a state of "fellowship in protest" with the ALC;

3. That the synod ask the CTCR to prepare a comprehensive study and report on the nature and implications of the concept of fellowship (cf. 1977 CW, p. 44) and to disseminate this report throughout the Synod for widespread study prior to the 1979 synodical convention;

4. That the Synod reconsider its relationship to the ALC in the 1979 synodical convention and to that end implore the blessings and guidance of the Holy Spirit on all efforts to resolve doctrinal differences and achieve a God-pleasing fellowship relationship with the ALC.

Action: Adopted (7).

(Resolution 3-02A was introduced by the committee in Session 4. A motion to delete the first resolve and the final words, "in declaring . . ." of point 2 of the second resolve was defeated. In Session 7 the delegates declined an amendment to remove the final whereas and the first resolve and to substitute a resolve "that the LCMS declare with regret that fellowship with the ALC at the synodical level does not exist on account of the doctrinal differences listed above" as well as to substitute "fellowship with the ALC at the synodical level does not exist" for the last words of the second resolve, point 2. Also declined was an amendment to substitute throughout "fellowship with reservation" for "fellowship in protest" and to substitute for the final paragraph of the resolution the words "That the Synod review the progress made with the ALC in the 1979 convention.")

To Continue Selective Participation in LCUSA

RESOLUTION 3-03A

Reports 3-01, II, J; 3-04 (CW, pp. 45—46, 63—69); Overtures 3-116 (CW, p. 103), 3-121A—3-133B (CW, pp. 104—107)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations concluded on the basis of the study and evaluation called for in 1971 Res. 3-18, "that the Missouri Synod participation in LCUSA is consistent with the Synod's Scriptural and confessional position"; and

WHEREAS, There continues to be careful evaluation by the Board of Directors in selective participation in LCUSA programs according to the needs of the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS has benefited through its participation in LCUSA; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS continue to work within LCUSA according to its needs and financial limitation; and be it further

Resolved, That reports on progress in doctrinal discussions within LCUSA which are to "strive for theological consensus" be given by Synod's members of the Division of Theological Studies to the Synod showing areas of agreement and areas of disagreement.

Action Adopted (7).

(The convention declined to consider Overture 3-121A as a substitute motion.)

To Deal with the Proposed Lutheran Book of Worship

RESOLUTION 3-04A

Report 3-02 (CW, pp. 58—62); Overtures 3-54, 3-116, 3-201A—3-228 (CW, pp. 85, 103, 125—132)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has stated in its Constitution that one condition of membership in the Synod is the “exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda, hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school” (Constitution VI, 4); and

WHEREAS, There has been a desire for an updated Lutheran hymnal by members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention at Detroit in 1965 instructed the President of the Synod to invite the other Lutheran church bodies in North America to work with the LCMS in the preparation of common worship materials, and the Synod at Milwaukee in 1971 urged the speedy completion of these materials; and

WHEREAS, The Synod’s Commission on Worship has been working diligently with the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship for the production of common worship materials; and

WHEREAS, Theological questions have been raised by agencies and members of the LCMS (e.g., CTCR, faculty members of the two seminaries, worship material reviewers) concerning the proposed *Lutheran Book of Worship* (e.g., commemorations, eucharistic prayer forms, adequacy of expressions, optional use of “he descended to the dead” in the Apostles’ Creed, theological implications of hymn text alterations, confirmation promise, fellowship implications); and

WHEREAS, Members of the Synod have not had the opportunity to review the *final* draft of the proposed *Lutheran Book of Worship*; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention assembled commend our Commission on Worship for all its work and effort expended on the proposed *Lutheran Book of Worship*; and be it further

Resolved, That in the light of many theological questions (raised in whereas 5) a “blue ribbon” committee of seven be appointed as follows:

- 1) a representative of the CTCR;
- 2) a representative of the Commission on Worship;
- 3 & 4) a representative from each synodical seminary, appointed by the respective seminary presidents;
- 5) a synodical Vice-President selected by the praesidium;



Dr. Paul E. Foelber, Commission on Worship.
and Dr. E. H. Happel, Chairman of Committee 3

6 & 7) two members appointed by the synodical President; and be it further

Resolved, That this committee be responsible for conducting a thorough review of the final ILCW draft of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* as it has been reviewed by the doctrinal review process, utilizing the (published) study of the CTCR as well as other sources for the purpose of formulating a recommendation to:

a) adopt the final draft of the *Lutheran Book of Worship*, or

b) adopt the final draft of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* with specified modifications, or

c) reject the *Lutheran Book of Worship* and propose that an alternative new hymnal for the LCMS be developed; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod’s congregations be given the opportunity to review and respond to the final ILCW draft of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* and the blue-ribbon committee’s evaluation of the same; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention appeal to the ALC, LCA, and ELCC to postpone publication of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* until the LCMS has implemented the above process and reached a final determination on the *Lutheran Book of Worship*; and be it further

Resolved, That if the other participating church bodies of the ILCW deem it necessary to proceed unilaterally in the publication of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* or if the blue-ribbon committee determines the *Lutheran Book of Worship* unsuited for use in the LCMS, the Commission on Worship is directed to gather materials for a new hymnal for the LCMS utilizing all available material; and be it further

Resolved, That if a separate hymnal is to be developed by the Commission on Worship, the blue-ribbon committee be directed to review the worship materials after the doctrinal review process; and be it finally

Resolved, That the blue-ribbon committee present its report and recommendations to the next regular synodical convention.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

(Committee 3 presented Res. 3-04 in Session 8, with the announcement that "theological review" in the third resolve had been changed to "review." The delegates adopted a fourth option for the third resolve: "continue using the present *The Lutheran Hymnal*." By a standing vote of 548 to 501 they declined to consider a substitute motion to receive the new publication "as one of the resources for worship available to the congregations, subject to successful completion of the doctrinal review process." The delegates also declined to provide that "three lay members" instead of "two members" be appointed to the blue-ribbon committee by the President. Although the convention agreed to terminate debate, it decided to reconsider and then resolved to continue discussion. Finally the convention resolved to recommit the entire matter to the floor committee.

In Session 13 the floor committee presented Res. 3-04A. This version differed from Res. 3-04 in the following:

1. The amendment regarding a fourth option was deleted.
2. "A synodical Vice-President" was substituted for "the synodical First Vice-President" in the second resolve.
3. The addition of the 5th, 6th, and 7th resolves given above.

The delegates declined to consider a lengthy substitute motion. When another substitute motion was offered, the committee stated that the proposed substitute had been declared unconstitutional. The substitute asked the convention to authorize CPH to proceed with the publication and that official endorsement be taken up at the next convention. Time for discussion ran out.

In Session 14, at the request of the chair, Secretary Mueller, speaking for the Commission on Constitutional Matters, explained that one of the functions of the commission was to assist the convention and its floor committees in making certain that proposed resolutions met in both language and substance the requirements of the Constitution and Bylaws. Within the committee a substitute resolution had been developed which the committee presented for evaluation to the CCM, which in turn had indicated that it would not be acceptable [e.g., the new Bylaw would not permit the convention to delegate power to authorize to any other group].

The commission pointed out that the other substitute motion which had been presented from the floor differed considerably from the previous substitute and could be made acceptable for consideration if the mover would consent to several changes. Such consent was granted. The convention then resolved to consider the substitute and instructed the floor committee to have it printed for distribution.

In Session 15, then, the convention had before it a substitute resolution which would substitute for the latter part of Res. 3-04A, following the word "sources" in the first paragraph of the third resolve, the following:

Resolved, That this committee be responsible for conducting a thorough review of the final ILCW draft of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* as it has been reviewed by the doctrinal review process, utilizing the (published) study of the CTCR as well as other sources; and be it further

Resolved, That the "Blue Ribbon" committee be directed to complete its work as quickly as possible; and be it further

Resolved, That CPH be authorized to proceed with the publication of the *LBW* (in cooperation with the ALC and LCA publishing houses) as soon as the doctrinal and blue-ribbon committee review is completed according to normal review processes: such publication to be in sufficient numbers for distribution at congregational expense of at least two copies for each member congregation of the LCMS to complete a process of exposure; and be it finally

Resolved, That the matter of official endorsement be taken up at the next regular synodical convention.

After considerable discussion the substitute resolution was declined. After still further discussion of Res. 3-04A debate was terminated and the resolution adopted as presented.)

To Amend Bylaws for Approval of Synodical Books of Worship

RESOLUTION 3-05A

Report 3-01, I, B, 9 (CW, pp. 39-40)

Resolved, That the principle be affirmed by the Synod that a matter of such magnitude for the life of the Synod as the reception of a new hymnal receive final approval by the Synod in convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Bylaws of the Synod be amended as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

11.113 Functions and Duties

a. The commission shall be responsible for preparing, revising, and making available official service books and hymnals of the Synod.

b. The commission shall—

1. make literature available to members of the Synod, to develop and deepen an understanding and love for the Lutheran heritage in Christian worship and for the various media of expression needed for our worship;

2. clear all literature related to corporate Christian worship in liturgics and hymnology made available through the Synod's boards or through Concordia Publishing House;

3. recommend worship materials to the church and advise and warn against the use of worship materials which are unworthy of use in the Christian worship of the Lutheran Church;

4. represent the Synod in preparation of service books and hymnals in which the Synod may engage in cooperation with other synods;

PROPOSED WORDING

11.113 Functions and Duties

The commission shall—

a. (same as 1)

b. (same as 2)

c. (same as 3)

d. (same as 4)

5. consult with the practical and the music departments of synodical schools to establish principles and practices in liturgics, hymnology, church music, and church art which best express the true spirit of worship of the Lutheran Church.

e. (same as 5)

11.115 Official Service Books and Hymnals

a. All service books and hymnals which are to be accepted as official service books and hymnals of the Synod shall be given such status only by a convention of the Synod after a process of exposure and testing decided upon by the Synod in convention.

b. Revisions in such books shall be made only by a convention of the Synod after requesting the Commission on Worship for an evaluation and recommendations.

Action: *Adopted (7).*

To Commend Task Force on Women and Continue to Study Role of Women in the Church

RESOLUTION 3-06

Report 3-01 IV, A; App. 3-01, I (CW, pp. 47, 52—54); Overtures 3-84A to 3-86E, 3-105 (CW, pp. 93-95, 100)

WHEREAS, The President of the Synod, at the direction of the 1973 synodical convention, appointed a Task Force on Women which was continued by the 1975 synodical convention; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force on Women has done valuable work in indicating those areas where the Synod has not fully utilized the talents God has given to women, nor adequately recognized the many services that women are already performing for the church; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod express its appreciation to the task force for its accomplishments by adopting its recommendations:

1. That since the entire structure of the Synod is now under study and piecemeal changes are to be discouraged, the Bylaw changes suggested in the task force's 1975 report (CW, 1975, pp. 62 f.) be forwarded to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure;
2. That responsibility for studying the issues relating to women in the church and society be assigned to the CTCR and its Social Concerns Committee and that particular attention be directed to the workshop proposal (see II, Goal 1, d, of this report);
3. That the whole church be encouraged to sensitize itself to the needs and concerns of women, to recognize the gifts that women are and can be in the mission of the church, and to utilize fully *all* the people of God as the church carries out its witness and ministry in the world; and be it further

Resolved, That particular attention be given by the CTCR and its Social Concerns Committee to studying

and clarifying issues concerning woman suffrage and women teachers.

Action: *Adopted (8).*

To Adopt Recommendations of Special Committee on Doctrinal Statements

RESOLUTION 3-07

Report 3-06 (CW, pp. 71—73); Overtures 3-16—3-17D, 3-23—3-37, 3-40, 3-42—3-45, 3-47—3-48, 3-96 (CW, pp. 75, 76-80, 81-84, 98)

WHEREAS, Throughout the history of the Christian church major doctrinal disputes have been resolved through the formulation of creeds or confessions speaking to the specific subjects in contention (e.g., Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, Athanasian Creed, Book of Concord); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod throughout its history has exercised the right and responsibility granted by the Lutheran Confessions (FC SD, Rule and Norm, 10) of stating what it believes by adopting doctrinal statements and resolutions on the basis of the Scriptures and Confessions in order to express its conviction with respect to contemporary challenges, problems, and aberrations; and

WHEREAS, The Anaheim convention recognized recent questions regarding doctrinal resolutions and statements through the adoption of Res. 3-04, calling for a special Committee on Doctrinal Statements to draft a proposed addition to the *Handbook* in order to set forth clearly:

a. the status of doctrinal statements as distinguished from the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions;

b. the procedures for adoption of such statements;

c. the procedures for proper expression of dissent and possible revision; and

WHEREAS, This committee has completed its assignment and has proposed an addition to the Bylaws; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod commend the Special Committee on Doctrinal Statements for its work and adopt its recommendations as amended:

PROPOSED WORDING

I. SYNODICAL ORGANIZATION

A. CONFESSION

1.01 Confessional Position

The confessional position of the Synod is set forth in Article II of its Constitution, to which all who wish to be and remain members of the Synod shall subscribe.

1.02 Doctrinal Resolutions and Statements

a. The Synod, in seeking to clarify its witness or to settle doctrinal controversy, shall have the right to adopt doctrinal resolutions and statements which are in harmony with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

b. Doctrinal *resolutions* may be adopted for the information, counsel, and guidance of the membership. They shall reiterate the corporate position of the Synod and shall ordinarily cite the pertinent passages of the Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, and any previously adopted official doctrinal statements or resolutions of the Synod. Such resolutions come into being in the same manner as any other resolutions of a synodical convention and are to be honored and upheld until such time as the Synod amends or repeals them.

c. Doctrinal *statements* set forth in greater detail the corporate position of the Synod especially in controverted matters. A proposed statement or a proposal for the development of such a statement shall be—

1. submitted by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations directly to those listed in c 2 or submitted by a synodical convention, a District convention, a synodical faculty, or an official District pastoral or teachers conference to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations for evaluation, refinement, development, or recommendation, as the case may be;

2. submitted by the commission, if it acts favorably, to the congregations, the colleges and seminaries, and the clergy and teacher members of the Synod for study and suggestions for no more than one year (failure by the Commission of Theology and Church Relations to submit a proposed doctrinal statement within a year may be appealed to the convention through a proper overture);

3. refined further by the commission on the basis of suggestions received;

4. submitted by the commission to a convention for further consideration and possible adoption by majority vote; amendments shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting;

5. resubmitted to the congregations for ratification in its final existing form;

6. ratified and operative if a two-thirds majority of the member congregations which respond within 6 months registers an affirmative vote on a ballot supplied by the synodical Secretary for that purpose. Failure to ratify makes the statement inoperative, and this fact shall be reported by the Secretary to the members of the Synod through an announcement in the official periodical.

7. Such adopted and ratified doctrinal statements shall be regarded as the corporate position of the Synod and shall be "accepted and used as helpful expositions and explanations" (FC SD Rule and Norm, 10). They shall be honored and upheld ("to abide by, act, and teach in accordance with" [1971

Res. 2-21]) until such time as the Synod amends or repeals them.

8. An overture to amend such an adopted and ratified doctrinal statement shall follow the same procedure as listed in paragraph c, 1 to 6, above.

9. An overture to repeal such an adopted and ratified doctrinal statement shall require a majority vote of a convention in answer to an overture properly submitted and be subject to the procedure of congregational approval set forth in paragraph c, 6, above.

10. In the interim, those who submit overtures to amend or to repeal shall, while retaining their right to dissent, continue to honor and uphold publicly the statement as the corporate position of the Synod, notwithstanding further study and action by the Synod.

- d. Dissent from doctrinal resolutions and statements shall be governed by Bylaw 1.09 e.

B. MEMBERSHIP

1.03 Application and Reception

Applications. . . .

1.04 Signing Constitution

All members. . . .

Action: Adopted as amended (9).

(Discussion was begun in Session 8 and continued in Session 9. The convention changed "simple majority" to "two-thirds majority" in proposed Bylaw 1.02 c, 6. It declined, 449 to 536, an amendment to change the same Bylaw paragraph to read: "... and operative if within 6 months a majority of the member congregations register an affirmative vote..." It also declined to insert "a congregation" after "conference" in Bylaw 1.02 c, 1, and insert "and which in no way restrict" after "in harmony with" in 1.02 a.)

To Support Efforts to Protect the Living but Unborn

RESOLUTION 3-08C

Report 3-01 I, B, 11; III, C (CW, pp. 41, 47); Overtures 3-68A—3-73 (CW, pp. 89—91)

WHEREAS, Life is a gift of God, and unborn (nascent) life is of special value before God, and life and death belong to the province of God (Ps. 139:13-16; Jer. 1:5; Is. 49:5; Gal. 1:15); and

WHEREAS, An individual human being is a sinner from the moment of conception (Ps. 51:5); and

WHEREAS, The Formula of Concord states that our Lord was fully human as well as fully divine from the moment of His conception (Tappert p. 592:7, p. 593:13, p. 596:26) and that His human nature is like ours in every way except in the matter of sin; and

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention in Milwaukee in 1971 addressed the issue of abortion and resolved that "willful abortion is contrary to the will of God" (Res. 2-39, 1971 *Proceedings*, p. 126); and

WHEREAS, The Synod has stated in its Social Ministry Affirmations, adopted in convention at Milwaukee in 1971, that "human life must be treasured, supported, and protected" and that "we encourage all people to avoid perverting God will . . . through such acts as abortion or euthanasia" (Res. 9-07, 1971 *Proceedings*, p. 191); and

WHEREAS, During the years since the initial opinion delivered by the Supreme Court of the United States declaring abortion on demand constitutionally permissible, except for certain minimal restraints, the CTCR and its SCC have reaffirmed the Synod's position and continue to oppose the legalization of nontherapeutic abortions; and

WHEREAS, The Social Concerns Committee has initiated a life-concerns program for various segments of the constituency of the LCMS, providing resources and conducting life-concerns workshops at colleges and in forums in some of the Districts of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Within the last year in testimony before the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives of the United States 94th Congress, members of the Synod's Social Concerns Committee restated our Christian commitment to all of life, submitted their testimony in opposition to abortion, and urged the Representatives on the Subcommittee to enact such measures into law as will afford a proper protection of the rights of as yet unborn human beings; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod encourage all of its members to support both corporately and individually programs designed to speak for the living but unborn child and to protest publicly the sin of abortion on demand; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod urge its members to support efforts by public officials and private citizens at every level—national, state, and local—to provide protection for all human life, including the living but unborn, under our judicial concept of well-ordered liberty; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS encourage its members to become involved in the development of "alternatives to abortion programs," offering compassionate counsel and assistance to pregnant women who are in spiritual and material need; and be it finally

Resolved, That the LCMS, under Law and Gospel, urge its members to become yet more sensitive to the dilemmas of individuals who contemplate abortion and stand in need of a Christian community that will deal pastorally with them as they have made or are making decisions under God that bear on this important matter.

Action: *Adopted as amended (12).*

(The convention replaced "evils" with "sin" in the first resolve and substituted throughout "living but unborn" for "unborn." It declined to place the words "abortion on demand" in quotation marks and to remove "corporately and" from the first resolve. It also refused to incorporate in the resolution paragraph b of the first resolve of Overture 3-71 A.)

To Declare Fellowship with SELK

RESOLUTION 3-09

Report 3-01UX (TB, p. 20)

WHEREAS, Three Lutheran Free Churches in Ger-

many formed the Selbstaendige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche (Independent Lutheran Church) on June 25, 1972; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has for many years enjoyed altar and pulpit fellowship with these three Lutheran Free Churches; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in gratitude to God officially declare itself to be in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Selbstaendige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche, thereby continuing fellowship it has enjoyed for many years with the member bodies of this church.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Clarify the Synod's Position Regarding Charismatic Teaching

RESOLUTION 3-10A

Overtures 3-62—3-67B (CW, pp. 87—89)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church has a rich heritage of Spirit theology in its confessional writings, in its exegetical studies, and in its hymns and prayers; and

WHEREAS, "We are grateful to God for the renewed interest which many Christians in all generations take in the work of the Holy Spirit" ("The Lutheran Church and the Charismatic Movement," 1977); and

WHEREAS, Scripture so clearly teaches:

1. That we are justified alone by the atoning work of Jesus Christ.
2. That the forgiveness of our sins on account of Christ, promised and offered in the Gospel, is our righteousness before God.
3. That it is by faith alone that we accept God's promised offer of forgiveness and are justified.
4. That the faith by which we accept God's forgiveness on account of Christ is the work of God's Spirit through the external means of grace, namely, the preaching (teaching) of the Gospel, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. Through these external means the Holy Spirit works faith in the heart when and where it pleases God. Through these external means of grace the Holy Spirit, together with all that is necessary for life and salvation, is given to those who believe.
5. That faith, which is the work of God's Spirit, is the confident assurance that for Christ's sake we are forgiven and accepted by God as righteous. Through this confident faith in the promise of God the accusing voice of conscience is quieted and the troubled heart finds rest.

and

WHEREAS, Certain doctrines held and taught by some individuals and groups in the charismatic movement are mere human opinion, not clearly taught in Holy Scripture and therefore contrary to the Holy Scriptures, and therefore dangerous to the salvation of men to teach:

1. That God desires every Christian, following Baptism, to have a 'second experience' such as the 'baptism with the Spirit.'
2. That the so-called 'gifts of the Spirit' are external signs by which we can assure ourselves that we have faith, are living in God's grace, or have the Spirit of God.
3. That God promises every Christian such gifts as speaking in tongues, healing, discerning of spirits, and prophecy and that God has given such a promise as a part of the 'full' or 'complete Gospel.'

4. That a 'conversion experience,' 'baptism with the Spirit,' or other inner religious experience is necessary for, or should be urged upon, Christians in order that they may be certain either of having faith and salvation or of the indwelling of God's Spirit.
5. That a Christian who has not had such an experience either has an incomplete faith, is unconverted and is still living under the rule of sin, or has only accepted Christ as his Savior but not as his Lord.
6. That the sanctification of a Christian is incomplete unless he possesses the gift of speaking in tongues.
7. That God promises healing and health to every Christian in this life and that, if such healing does not occur, it is due to a lack of faith.
8. That God gives guidance and leadership to the church today through visions and dreams of direct prophecy.

and

WHEREAS, Such doctrine is dangerous to the salvation of man, since it directs Christians to seek assurance of forgiveness, faith, and the indwelling of the Spirit in their own experience instead of in the promise of the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, The espousal of such doctrine often leads to division within and between congregations even when charismatic Christians are well intentioned and seek to make God-pleasing use of spiritual gifts; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS acknowledge that such doctrine is contrary to the Holy Scriptures, adds to the Gospel, and is dangerous to the salvation of men; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations of the Synod be warned against such false teaching and that the pastors of the Synod be strongly urged to emphasize to their congregations in a positive way what the Scriptures teach concerning the work of the Holy Spirit; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge congregations in which such doctrine has been introduced to study the CTCR's documents on the charismatic movement ("The Charismatic Movement and Lutheran Theology," 1972, and "The Lutheran Church and the Charismatic Movement," 1977) and to seek brotherly counsel; and be it further

Resolved, That brotherly guidance and admonition be given by District officials to pastors and/or congregations who are involved in the charismatic movement to guard against such false doctrine so that they do not endanger their own souls and the souls of those committed to their charge; and be it finally

Resolved, That we encourage the members of our congregations to exercise more fully their right and responsibility to participate in the spiritual work of the church that would glorify their Savior.

Action: *Adopted as amended (12).*

(The convention amended the proposed resolution by:

1. adding the entire third whereas;
2. adding to the fourth whereas: "and therefore contrary to . . . men to teach;"
3. substituting in the same whereas the 8 points listed for the original 5 points:
 1. that God desires every Christian, following Baptism, to have a "second experience" such as the "baptism with the Spirit,"

2. that God desires to give the gift of "tongues" to every Christian,
3. that if such experience has not been received by a Christian, it is due to the absence of commitment or conversion, unconfessed sin in the believer, or ignorance of such a promise of God,
4. that such experience is the assurance of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God, and
5. that God reveals His Word and will through a direct illumination of the Holy Spirit, apart from the written Word of God, a view expressly rejected in the Lutheran Confessions (AC, V. 2-4; FC, Epitome, II, 13; FC, SD, II, 4, 80; SA, III, viii, 3, 10);
4. adding to the second resolve the words: "and that the pastors . . . the Holy Spirit."

The convention adopted the amended resolution shortly after refusing to table it.

The points listed in the second and third whereases are quoted from the document mentioned in the second whereas. See CW, p. 430.)

To Declare Ourselves on the Historical-Critical Method

RESOLUTION 3-11

Report 3-01 I, B, 8 (CW, pp. 38-39); Overtures 3-60-3-61 (CW, p. 87)

WHEREAS, The historical-critical method makes decisions about the origin, nature, and interpretation of the Biblical literature on the basis of a historical reasoning which by definition is a procedure unable to deal with supernatural intervention and operations; and

WHEREAS, The use of such historical reasoning in accounting for the origin of the Biblical literature tends to minimize the "connection between the Spirit and history" (CTCR Document: "Revelation, Inspiration, and Inerrancy," page 3, par. 9) and fails to take into account that in history the *Spirit* creates that which is not of this world; and

WHEREAS, The use of such historical reasoning not only obscures the Spirit's connection with the history of the Bible's origin but at the same time emphasizes the *human* factors in the production of the sacred literature in such a way that the Bible is virtually reduced to a product of merely human thought and experience; and

WHEREAS, Such historical reasoning, by accounting for the production of the Biblical literature chiefly in terms of merely historically conditioned responses to a series of needs and situations among God's people in the Old and New Testament eras, and by regarding the Biblical literature as only human beings' writings, so tenuates the Spirit's authorship as to evaporate the unity of the Bible and to make inoperative the basic principle that the Bible interprets itself; and

WHEREAS, Such historical reasoning, which proposes that each constituent unit of the Biblical literature must be understood wholly in the light of its use through various states of oral and written transmission, negates also the principle that a Biblical text has only one meaning; and

WHEREAS, A view of the origin and nature of the Biblical literature that denies the unity of the holy writings and ascribes multiple meanings to a sacred

text in effect renders the Bible useless as the absolute and final authority for all the church does and teaches in God's name; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod reject and repudiate as opposed to sound Lutheran theology and injurious to the Gospel any view of the Bible and method of interpreting it which relates history to the production of the sacred writings in such a way as to diminish their "not of this world" character and to deprive them of their divine authority; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod reassure its members that the Synod still adheres faithfully to its historic position that the Scriptures are God's very own inspired, inerrant, and authoritative Word for all matters of doctrine and practice; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod call upon its responsible officers to implement evangelically the provisions of the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws, which were intended to assure that in all institutions under the Synod's control this position will be upheld and preserved; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod beseech the pastors, teachers, and congregations of the Synod, by the mercies of God, to continue to uphold the Synod's position.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Encourage CTCR to Complete Its Report on Communion Practices

RESOLUTION 3-12

Overtures 3-52—3-53B, 3-55—3-56C, 3-58—3-59C (CW, pp. 85—87)

WHEREAS, Good order and reasonable uniformity of practice are important factors in life together as members of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Considerable disparity in Communion practices has developed in the Synod in recent years, especially regarding the practice of open and close Communion; and

WHEREAS, Increasing confusion seems to exist regarding the matter of celebrating Holy Communion as part of the worship practices on the campuses of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, 1971 Res. 2-13 instructed the President of the Synod to appoint a special committee composed of members of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations and the Commission on Worship to make a comprehensive study of Communion practices and policies in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and to report through the CTCR to the next convention; and

WHEREAS This special committee has completed its report, which, however, has not yet been approved by the CTCR for distribution in the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Many of the members of this special committee are no longer associated with the CTCR and the Commission on Worship; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Special Communion Practices

Committee be released with thanks for their work; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod request the CTCR, following consultation with the Commission on Worship, to complete the Communion Practices Report as soon as possible, giving special attention to the matters of Communion practices on synodical campuses and open and close Communion; and be it further

Resolved, That in the meantime the Synod request the Boards of Control of the Synod's colleges and seminaries to make adequate provision for the sharing of the means of grace in the campus communities in such ways that the Synod's position on the Sacrament of the Altar, the central importance of the local congregation, and good order are not set aside; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm its position "that pastors and congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, except in situations of emergency and in special cases of pastoral care, commune individuals of only those Lutheran Synods which are now in fellowship with us." (1967 Res. 2-19)

Action: Adopted (12).

To Warn Against Transcendental Meditation/Science of Creative Intelligence

RESOLUTION 3-13A

Overtures 3-75—3-80, 3-82—3-83B, 3-88, 3-179

WHEREAS, The Commission on Organizations has rendered valuable and commendable service to the Synod and continues to respond to numerous requests for counsel and information; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Organizations has prepared a paper on Transcendental Meditation/Science of Creative Intelligence; and

WHEREAS, This commission has determined that the TM/SCI movement is a non-Christian eastern religious movement; and

WHEREAS, The TM/SCI claims to be a nonreligious, scientific organization and seeks to permeate all areas of society, i.e., educational systems, business, and government; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Commission on Organizations be authorized to send a copy of this paper on TM/SCI to all pastors, teachers, congregations, schools, and officials of the Synod and to civil authorities that may be affected by this movement; and be it further

Resolved, That we warn the members of the Synod against the religious exercises of this eastern cult.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Appoint a Doctrinal Committee of LCMS for Canada

RESOLUTION 3-14

Report 3-01, II, 3 (CW, pp. 42—43); Overtures 3-191—3-192 (CW, p. 123)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at Denver, 1969, declared fellowship with The American Lutheran Church and at the same time declared fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada (formerly The American Lutheran Church in Canada); and

WHEREAS, The LCMS and the ELCC had declared consensus in doctrine; and

WHEREAS, The ELCC in convention in 1976 adopted a position to permit the ordination of women to the pastoral ministry; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS is opposed to the ordination of women to the pastoral ministry; and

WHEREAS, Other problems and disagreements can develop among us; therefore be it

Resolved, That the President of the LCMS, in consultation with the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, appoint a committee (a majority of which is to be from Canada) similar to the Commission on Fellowship with the ALC, to initiate discussions with official representatives of the ELCC on the doctrine of Scripture, the ordination of women, and other possible differences, and that this committee report through the CTCR to the LCMS.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Reaffirm the Synod's Position on Women with Reference to the Pastoral Office

RESOLUTION 3-15

Overtures 3-75—3-80, 3-82—3-83B, 3-88, 3-179 A—B (CW, pp. 91—93, 95—96, 120)

WHEREAS, in previous conventions the Synod has, after study in depth by committees and commissions, repeatedly and at length stated its position on the place of women in the church according to the Scriptures; and

WHEREAS, The Synod stated in Detroit in 1965:

On the basis of 1 Cor. 14:34-35 and 1 Tim. 2:11-15 we hold that God forbids women publicly to preach and teach the Word to men and to hold any office or vote in the church where this involves exercising authority over men with respect to the public administration of the Office of the Keys. We regard this principle as of binding force and also today because 1 Tim. 2:11-15 refers to what God established at creation.

and

WHEREAS, The Synod stated in Denver in 1969:

These statements of Scripture which direct women to keep silent in the church and which prohibit them to teach and to exercise authority over men, we understand to mean that women ought not to hold the pastoral office or serve in any other capacity involving the distinctive functions of this office.

and

WHEREAS, The Synod stated in Milwaukee in 1971:

That the Synod reaffirm its position that the Word of God does not permit women to hold the pastoral office or serve in any capacity involving distinctive functions of this office.

Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm its position that the Scriptures forbid women to hold the pastoral office or to serve in any capacity involving distinctive functions of this office.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Take No Action on AELC Fellowship

RESOLUTION 3-16

Overtures 3-161, 3-163—3-170 (CW, pp. 116—118)

WHEREAS, The requirements for the consideration by the Synod of altar and pulpit fellowship have not been met according to Bylaw 16.03 a; therefore be it

Resolved, That no action on fellowship with the AELC be taken at this time.

Action: Adopted (15).

To Decline Overtures Regarding Dr. Tietjen

RESOLUTION 3-17

Overtures 3-21, 3-22A—B (CW, p. 76)

WHEREAS, The requested documentation for one of the overtures has not been forthcoming; and

WHEREAS, The case of Dr. Tietjen has not been completed and is still in the process of adjudication; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention respectfully decline Overtures 3-21, 3-22A—B.

Action: Adopted (15).

To Decline Consideration of Overture 3-118 (Arthur Piepkorn)

RESOLUTION 3-18

Overture 3-118 (CW, p. 104)

WHEREAS, N.O. Res. 3-09 dealt solely with doctrinal aberrations found by the Fact Finding Committee ("Report by the President . . .") and contained in the document "Faithful to Our Calling, Faithful to Our Lord," rather than with the teaching of specific individuals of the so-called "faculty majority" which signed the document; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has never interpreted N.O. Res. 3-09 to charge individual members of the faculty with false doctrine; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod decline to consider Overture 3-118.

Action: Adopted (15).

(A motion to substitute Overture 3-118, whereas and first resolved, failed.)

As I stand here tonight reflecting over the hundred years of Black Lutheran ministry, I am acutely aware that I am the first Black pastor, or pastor involved in Black Lutheran ministry, to have the privilege to preach to a Missouri Synod in convention. In this role I feel that I speak for the many veterans of this crucial and difficult ministry who tried seemingly in vain to alert the church to the potential and difficulties of this ministry. I hope and pray that, with God's help, I can get their message over to the Synod.

I know that they are among the cloud of witnesses watching us tonight. I think of Dr. N. J. Bakke, the guiding spirit behind the first fifty years. His entire ministry was devoted to this work. He tried in vain to tell the church how best to do this ministry. I think of F. J. Lankenau, the inspired and visionary president of Luther College, New Orleans, who saw his dream deferred because of lack of funds. I think of Dr. Henry Nau, for twenty-five years president of the college and seminary in Greensboro, N.C., and one of the most knowledgeable and competent missionaries of his day. He tried to lay out a strategy for foreign missions which would be effective, but he was a man whose ideas were at least twenty years ahead of his time.

I think tonight in reflection of Dean Robert Otho Lynn, whose heroic stand against despotism in the church was never appreciated in his day; Dr. M. N. Carter of Chicago, who became quite disillusioned with our Lutheran church in his last days because of the apparent refusal of many of our white Lutherans to evangelize the Blacks moving into the changing communities; of my sainted brother, Moses S. Dickinson, who was next in line for the vice-presidency of the Synod—a heartbeat away—but whose heart failed him in death before he could attain unto the position. I hope and fervently pray that I sound their message clear because I feel that I speak for them tonight and that their message has been muted for so long.

Reflecting upon Black Lutheran ministry from the perspective of the book *Roses and Thorns*, the convention drama, and the testimony of many of the veterans of this special ministry, one must conclude that, although we celebrate

One hundred years of Word and sacrament,
Bringing God's love to people who repent,
And strength and peace and joy to heart's content,

the words of the Black National Anthem aptly describe this ministry where they read:

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come treading our path through the blood
of the slaughtered.

It would perhaps be too optimistic to conclude that stanza by saying, "Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast."

As I stand here tonight and reflect upon the character and commitment of Black people all across this land, the Black people towards whom this ministry has been directed for the past one hundred years, I am so proud to be a Black Lutheran American. Discrimination has plagued us all the way, but I say in the words

of Paul Lawrence Dunbar's poem, "The Ode to Ethiopia":

O mother race, to thee I bring
This pledge of faith unwavering,
This tribute to thy glory.
I know the pangs which thou didst feel
When slavery crushed thee with its heel,
With thy dear blood all gory.
Sad days were those, ah, sad indeed,

As Dunbar is concluding this poetic masterpiece, he pens the words I love. I want you to check out the validity of his assertion where he says:

No other race, or white or black,
When bound, as thou wert to the rack,
So seldom stooped to grieving.
No other race, when free again,
Forgot the past, and proved them men
So noble in forgiving.

That is why I am so proud to be a Black Lutheran tonight, for it is in this segment of the church's ministry all races and nationalities, cultures and conditions of God's people are accepted, respected, and served, accepted into our churches, our pulpits, our schools, and our homes. I pray God that it will ever be so.

We could ramble in this glorious past all evening and enjoy every minute of it, but the sentence "We have come" is very delusive. It seems to denote a task completed. It reminds me of the words of Henry van Dyke in his poem "America for Me," where he says:

I know that Europe's wonderful,
Yet something seems to lack.
The past is too much with her
And the people looking back.

Of America he said:

The glory of the present
Is to make the future free.
We love our land for what she is
And what she is to be.

It is truly a blessing from God to be able to sit and to reflect, to close out everything else and in our minds be able to relive many of the thrilling moments of our past and, vicariously, other thrilling or chilling moments of our past, but there comes a time when one must say with the apostle: "Forgetting those things which are behind, and looking forward to those things which are before, I press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Thanks be to God for the ability to forget many things of our past. Sometimes remembering them can make us bitter and remorseful or proud and overconfident. I know that there are many under the sound of my voice tonight whose homes are unhappy and whose lives are miserable because they cannot or refuse to forget incidents that happened between them and friends years ago. It drives many into serious depression. This is why psychotherapists utilize shock treatments to break up the memory patterns, and the patient becomes happy when he no longer remembers the event and incidents which made him unhappy.

We have paused and reflected. It is our hope that the pause has been or will be one that refreshes, that will enable us to extract courage from despair and hope in

To Study Issues of Human Sexuality

RESOLUTION 3-19

Report 3-01, I, B, 4 (CW, p. 38)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of the Synod has in process a study of issues of human sexuality; and

WHEREAS, A moral decadence is sweeping across our land resulting in a debasing of God's gift of sex, a cheapening of relationships, and a perversion of basic sexuality; and

WHEREAS, This decadence manifests itself in sexual abuses of many kinds which tear at the fabric of family life and social structures; therefore be it

Resolved, That the CTCR continue to study all issues of human sexuality; and be it further

Resolved, That the results of this study be shared with the membership of the Synod as soon as possible; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod witness to the wholeness of God's gift of sex and urge its members to resist anything that would debase, cheapen, or pervert this gift of God.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

("Illness" was changed to "decadence" by common consent.)

To Encourage Fellowship Discussions with All Lutheran Church Bodies

RESOLUTION 3-20

Report 3-01, II, F-I (CW, pp. 44-45); Overtures 3-172A-3-178, 3-180-3-182E (CW, pp. 118-121)

WHEREAS, The unity of the church is the work and gift of the Holy Spirit as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon God's people to work for the visible expression of our unity in the confession of Christ on the basis of the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired revelation of God and the witness to the salvation He has given us in Christ; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod encourage its President, in consultation with the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, to initiate and/or continue discussions with all Lutheran church bodies regarding fellowship; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the Synod and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations be requested to report to the Synod on the progress and results of these discussions.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Reaffirm Christ as Word

RESOLUTION 3-21

Overture 3-92 (CW, p. 97)

WHEREAS, Both the Holy Scriptures and the

Lutheran Confessions use the term "Word" to describe the Holy Scriptures as the written Word of God; and

WHEREAS, Both the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions use the term "Word" also to describe Christ as the "Incarnate" Word; therefore be it

Resolved, That we reaffirm our understanding of the use of this term; and be it further

Resolved, That we reject any understanding of the term "Word" that would limit its use to one sense or to the other.

Action: *Adopted (16).*

To Preserve a Proper View of the Doctrine of the Law

RESOLUTION 3-22

Overture 3-98 (CW, p. 98)

WHEREAS, In The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod "we believe, teach, and confess that the Law is properly a divine doctrine, which teaches what is right and pleasing to God, and reproves everything that is sin and contrary to God's will," and that "for this reason, then, everything that reproves sin is, and belongs to, the preaching of the Law" (FC, V, 2, 3); and

WHEREAS, In The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod "we believe, teach, and confess that the preaching of the Law is to be urged with diligence, not only upon the believing and impenitent, but also upon true believers, who are truly converted, regenerate, and justified by faith," and that "thus the Law is and remains both to the penitent and impenitent, both to regenerate and unregenerate men, one (and the same) Law, namely, the immutable will of God; and the difference, so far as concerns obedience, is alone in man, inasmuch as one who is not as yet regenerate does for the Law out of constraint and unwillingly what it requires of him (as also the regenerate do according to the flesh); but the believer, so far as he is regenerate, does without constraint and with a willing spirit that which no threatenings (however severe) of the Law could ever extort from him" (FC, VI, 2, 6); and

WHEREAS, "All Scripture should be divided into these two chief doctrines, the law and the promises" (Ap IV, 5); therefore be it

Resolved, That we reaffirm that the Law, as well as the Gospel, is the Word of God and therefore a divine doctrine; and be it further

Resolved, That we reaffirm our Scriptural and confessional Lutheran position with respect to the threefold use of the Law:

1. as a curb, to check coarse outbursts of sin (1 Tim. 1:9-10);
2. as a mirror, to show us our sin (Rom. 3:20);
3. as a rule, to guide us in living a God-pleasing life (Ps. 119:105).

Action: *Adopted (16).*

("Scriptural and" was added to the second resolve by mutual consent.)

To Declare the Synod's Position on Public and Manifest Sins

RESOLUTION 3-23

Overture 3-97 (CW, p. 98)

WHEREAS, The 1973 convention of the Synod at New Orleans adopted Res. 2-04, declaring homophile behavior sinful; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations is continuing its study on human sexuality and the whole question of divorce and remarriage (cf. CW, p. 38); and

WHEREAS, The Synod has spoken forthrightly against the sin of abortion (Res. 2-39, 9-07, 1971 *Proceedings*); and

WHEREAS, There is a continuing need for the church to witness to God's judgment against public and manifest sins of the flesh, as well as to speak God's Word of pardon to penitent sinners; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod continue to express its public opposition to public sins of our society and to engage in continual efforts to offer our people guidance from God's Word on the moral issues which confront them.

Action: *Adopted (16).*

To Study Advisability of Amending Bylaws to Grant Lutheran Church—Canada Authority to Negotiate Toward Fellowship in Canada

RESOLUTION 3-24A

Report 3-01, II, A, 3 (CW, pp. 42—43); Overtures 3-189, 3-190 (CW, pp. 122—123)

WHEREAS, The Synod has encouraged the Lutheran Church—Canada to negotiate toward pulpit and altar fellowship with the Lutheran Church in America—Canada Section as precursor to completing negotiations toward one Canadian Lutheran Church (we already have pulpit and altar fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada); and

WHEREAS, It is very difficult to negotiate on unequal basis with others who have autonomy or the equivalent of autonomy in such matters; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Commission on Constitutional Matters, the CTCR, and the Canadian District Presidents study the advisability of amending the Synod's Bylaws to grant Canadian Districts authority to negotiate towards fellowship in Canada through the Lutheran Church—Canada and report to the next convention.

Action: *Adopted (16).*

(“Comprised of the three Canadian Districts” was struck from the first whereas by mutual consent.)

To Speak Regarding Lutheran/Non-Lutheran Weddings

RESOLUTION 3-25

Overture 3-103 (CW, p. 99)

WHEREAS, Increasingly in mixed marriages the pastors of both parties to the marriage are being invited to the marriage and are being invited to participate in the wedding service; and

WHEREAS, Article VI of the Synod's Constitution lists among the conditions of membership the “renunciation of unionism and syncretism of every description such as . . . taking part in the services and sacramental rites of heterodox congregations or of congregations of mixed confession”; and

WHEREAS, The Synod's Commission on Worship has stated that a “service” is “any occasion in which a public worship of God occurs” and that this would “include not only those occasions regularly designated as worship services (e.g., the ordinary Sunday morning worship) but also occasions such as weddings, funerals, dedications, baccalaureates, etc.—which may have an ad hoc assembly different from the regular congregational worship assembly” (1975 CW, p. 47); and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has stated that “the matter of Lutheran ceremonies is not a question to which the right of the congregation to be the judge of the expediency of the resolution as applied to its local condition (Bylaw 1.09 b) is applicable, but rather a situation in which a congregation is called upon to make application of the conditions of membership to which it has agreed in Article VI of the Constitution” (1973 CW, p. 47); and

WHEREAS, The Council of Presidents has stated that participation in ecumenical marriage ceremonies should “not be as co-officiant, worship leader, or celebrant, but should be arranged in such a way that it is not an official part of the worship service, nor a solemnizing or celebrating of the marriage” (1973 CW, p. 44); therefore be it

Resolved, That we affirm the validity of Article VI of the Constitution of the LCMS; and be it further

Resolved, That we expect our pastors and congregations to follow this article with respect to mixed wedding ceremonies.

Action: *Adopted (16).*

(The convention declined to substitute “encourage” for “expect” and “examine” for “follow” in the second resolve.)

To Provide Assistance Regarding Bioethics

RESOLUTION 3-26

Report 3-01, App. 3-01, J, Rec. 1 (CW, p. 57)

WHEREAS, The emerging science of bioethics, coupled with new developments in biomedical technology, is causing discussion in the fields of medicine, law, social work, and theology; and

WHEREAS, Guidance and input to these discussions should include those who will ultimately be most affected by continuing exploration in these fields; and

WHEREAS, Serious questions concerning the legitimate use of technology to extend life beyond "naturally" occurring limits, the control of human behavior through surgery and drug therapy, the use of techniques such as amniocentesis to diagnose disease and determine sex in the unborn child, medical experimentation on human subjects, and the altering of the genetic code in both human and animal subjects have led the U. S. Congress and the general public to express concern regarding proper ethical constraints in biomedical research; and

WHEREAS, Pastors are becoming increasingly involved in these issues in their ministry to individuals confronted with making personal decisions in life-and-death matters; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod encourage the CTCR and its Social Concerns Committee, in consultation with the Commission on Services to the Mentally Retarded, to address themselves to the moral aspects of these questions with the purpose of providing assistance to pastors in their counseling, guidance to members of professions involved in the technical aspects of bioethics, and information to the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod on the serious questions raised by developments in the life sciences.

Action: *Adopted (16)*.

To Promote Proper Discipline

RESOLUTION 3-27

Overtures 3-37A—B, 3-114A—3-115 (CW, pp. 80, 102—103)

WHEREAS, The Synod has spelled out a thorough and effective means of helpful supervision and discipline in its *Handbook* (III, E, Circuit Counselors and Official Visits, and V, Adjudication and Appeals); and

WHEREAS, The exercise of proper supervision and discipline is intended for the promotion of the unity of the true faith and a united defense against schism and sectarianism (Constitution, Art. III); therefore be it

Resolved, That elected officials be reminded of the responsibilities of their office and be encouraged to perform their work with confidence in the power of the Spirit working through the Word.

Action: *Adopted (16)*.

(The delegates declined to add the last three resolves of Overture 3-114A.)

To Refer "Revision to A Statement" to the Church

RESOLUTION 3-28

Report 3-01, App. 3-01A (CW, p. 48)

WHEREAS, The 1975 Anaheim convention (Res. 3-05)

instructed the CTCR "to prepare and submit to the 1977 convention" the four revisions that had been recommended by the CTCR in its "Report on Dissent"; and

WHEREAS, The CTCR has prepared and adopted this document in September and November 1976 and January 1977; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention commend the CTCR for all its work and refer the "Revision to A Statement" (CW, p. 48, App. 3-01A) and other CTCR documents for the prayerful study and use of the church.

Action: *Adopted (16)*.

To Urge Unified Witness Against Anti-Christian Organizations

RESOLUTION 3-29

Overtures 3-89—3-91 (CW, pp. 96-97)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has declared itself to be firmly opposed to all societies, lodges, and associations of unchristian and antichristian character (*Handbook* 14.01 and 14.03); and

WHEREAS, No changes have been made, not even by so-called "animal" lodges, that would remove the Synod's objections and that would permit a change in the Synod's position; and

WHEREAS, A common witness against such organizations is vital to maintain the unity of faith and life within the synodical fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Congregations that disregard these Bylaws of the Synod—

1. present a false witness to the world and to their own members;

2. undermine and weaken the witness of others that seek this position out of a sincere concern for the spiritual life and welfare of God's people;

3. cause confusion and uncertainty among those who hold or seek membership in such organizations in that they are accepted in some LCMS congregations and rejected by others; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations in the Synod be encouraged to study and discuss Art. XIV of the synodical *Handbook* together with materials available from the synodical Commission on Organizations; and be it further

Resolved, That all members of the Synod be strongly urged to follow the guidelines of Art. XIV out of love and concern for other members of the Synod and from a desire to help provide common witness to the world; and be it finally

Resolved, That District officials be reminded of their responsibility to exercise proper Christian, evangelical supervision and discipline in such cases wherever such leadership is required.

Action: *Adopted (16)*.

To Affirm Sacredness of Human Life

RESOLUTION 3-30

**Report 3-01 I, B, 1; App. 3-01 J, 2 (CW, pp. 38, 58);
Overtures 3-74A—B (CW, p. 91)**

WHEREAS, Life is a gift from God and comes into being by an act that shares in the creative powers of God Himself; and

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that suffering has a purposes of God; and

WHEREAS, Life and death belong in the realm of God's providence; and

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that suffering has a positive purpose and value in God's economy and is not to be avoided at all costs (2 Cor. 1:5-7; 2 Cor. 4:7-11; Heb. 12:5-11; Rom. 8:16-18, 28, 35-39; Phil. 3:10; Col. 1:24); and

WHEREAS, We sing of the positive purpose of suffering in our worship (*TLH*, 523, 528, 533, et al.); and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) and its Social Concerns Committee (SCC) currently have a study in progress regarding the question of euthanasia; and

WHEREAS, The willful taking of the life of one human being by another is contrary to the Word and will of God (Ex. 20:13); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod affirm that human life is sacred and finds meaning and purpose in seeking and following God's will, not in self-centered pleasure, a concern for convenience, or a desire for comfort; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod affirm the positive benefits of suffering, so that God's children may be comforted in Christ Jesus and have their sights focused more firmly on eternal values; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod unequivocally declare that the practice known as euthanasia, namely, inducing death, is contrary to God's Word and will and cannot be condoned or justified; and be it finally

Resolved, That the CTCR and its SCC be urged to complete their study as soon as possible.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Provide Assistance in Worship and Music to Local Parishes

RESOLUTION 3-31

Overtures, 3-229. (CW, pp. 132-133)

WHEREAS, Individual congregations of the Synod have benefited from professional and technical assistance in the areas of church music and worship; and

WHEREAS, Avenues of communication between the synodical Commission on Worship and individual congregations have been maintained; and

WHEREAS, Synodical District offices have rendered valuable service in channeling information concerning the needs of congregations and the resources of the synodical Commission on Worship; and

WHEREAS, Synodical colleges and seminary faculties have rendered valuable in-service assistance to church musicians and congregational worship leaders; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod continue to encourage congregations, Districts, and parish worship leaders to promote communication between one another in church music and worship practices through workshops, institutes, training sessions, and other channels of communication.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Respectfully Decline to Establish a Bible Science Commission

RESOLUTION 3-32

Overtures 3-112A—C (CW, pp. 101-102)

WHEREAS, The needs expressed in Overtures 3-112A—C, namely, to promote a better understanding of the proper relationship between the Bible and science and to promote the creation approach to origins, can be properly handled by existing boards and agencies in the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overtures 3-112A—C.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Encourage Lay Involvement in Public Worship

RESOLUTION 3-33

Overture 3-230 (CW, p. 133)

WHEREAS, Many congregations of the Synod have used the laity in various functions in services of worship; and

WHEREAS, The Augsburg Confession XIV states: "Our churches teach that nobody should preach publicly in the church or administer the Sacraments unless he is regularly called"; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to continue to involve the laity in worship and other services of the church within the limitations established by the Scriptures and the Confessions.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Be Informed on Equal Rights Amendment

RESOLUTION 3-34

Report 3-01, I, A, 1 (CW, p. 37); Overture 3-87 (CW, p. 95); App. III (CW, p. 420)

WHEREAS, The 1973 convention of the Synod adopted Res. 9-11 urging "all our people to inform themselves concerning the Equal Rights Amendment and that we work toward the goal of giving women

equal rights before the law"; and

WHEREAS, The Synod's Commission on Theology and Church Relations published its "Report on Equal Rights Amendment" (*Lutheran Witness*, Feb. 1, 1976) offering guidance to the Synod in this matter; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod be encouraged to study the issues involved and work toward the goal of giving women equal rights before the law; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod commend the CTCR's report for study and response.

Action: *Adopted (16).*

To Receive Guidelines on Capital Punishment

RESOLUTION 3-35

Overtures 3-117A—B (CW, p. 103); App. III (CW, pp. 422—425)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has declared that capital punishment is in accord with the Sacred Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions (1967 Res. 2-38); and

WHEREAS, The Synod was petitioned to prepare and disseminate guidelines to assist our membership to make judgments regarding capital punishment (1973 Res. 9-14); and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has completed its work and has published such guidelines in *The Lutheran Witness* (May 16, 1976); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod commend the CTCR for its work and receive this paper for study and response.

Action: *Adopted (16).*

(Delegates declined to consider a substitute motion to reiterate the first three whereases, the 7th whereas, and the third resolve of Res. 3-30, simply replacing "euthanasia" with "capital punishment.")

To Decline Consideration of Overture 3-110 (Doctrinal Review)

RESOLUTION 3-36

Overture 3-110 (CW, p. 101)

WHEREAS, The *Handbook* (11.151—11.159, pp. 215—217) spells out the details of doctrinal review; and

WHEREAS, The names of the doctrinal reviewers are not revealed, in order to assure candidness and objectivity of review (cf. 11.159 e), which are necessary for the proper functioning of the doctrinal review process; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention decline Overture 3-110.

Action: *Adopted (16).*

To Approve Amendments to LCUSA Constitution

RESOLUTION 3-37

Overture 3-134 (CW, p. 107)

The following amendments to the constitution of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. were passed unanimously by the church body representatives at the 1976 annual meeting. Amendments, however, require approval by two thirds of the participating bodies, and the Synod is hereby requested to give its approval.

PRESENT WORDING

Article X, Section 4

A commission is an administrative committee under the general secretariate or within the structure of a division appointed by the council to meet emergency situations.

Article X, Section 5

An office is an executive unit charged with a specific or technical assignment under the supervision either of a division or of the general secretariate.

PROPOSED WORDING

Article X, Section 4

A commission is an administrative committee under the general secretary or within the structure of a division appointed by the council to meet emergency situations.

Article X, Section 5

An office is an executive unit charged with a specific or technical assignment under the supervision of the general secretary.

Action: *Adopted (16).*

4. ADMINISTRATION

To Make Maximum Use of Circuit Counselor

RESOLUTION 4-01A

Overtures 4-51, 4-52 (CW, pp. 158-159)

WHEREAS, The office of the Circuit Counselor has historically and traditionally been one of importance in our beloved Synod; and

WHEREAS, This office, when properly utilized, has been and is of great value; and

WHEREAS, The tensions and needs of our day make the effective functioning of this office even more crucial, in terms of service both to congregations and Districts and to the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention recognize the valued contribution Circuit Counselors make to the life of the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod and its Districts make greater use of the Circuit Counselor in communicating the needs of the parish pastor and the person in the pew to Districts and the Synod and in communicating the work and the needs of the Synod and its Districts to the congregations in the circuit; and be it further

Resolved, That special attention be given to the need to make the circuit pastoral conference a supportive association for its pastors; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure be urged to strengthen the role of the Circuit Counselor and that District Presidents and

other synodical officers make optimum use of this office.

Action: Adopted (3).

To Rearrange Financial Responsibilities

RESOLUTION 4-02A-1

Overture 4-47 (CW, pp. 153-158)

WHEREAS, The financial and accounting procedures of the Synod are an important function of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Increasing federal and state regulations of trust, pension, and investment funds, and changing generally accepted accounting principles require that all accounting records and financial procedures of the Synod meet established standards; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Directors, the Treasurer, and other financial officers of the Synod convene a meeting of District fiscal representatives to review and establish the procedures in working together in these areas; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod's procedures as to accounting, budgeting, and auditing be amended to conform with the necessities of increasing federal and state regulations and changing accounting principles; and be it finally

Resolved, That these resolutions be implemented through the following Bylaw changes:

PRESENT WORDING

2.85 Financial Duties

PROPOSED WORDING

2.85 Financial Duties

a. Accounting Procedure

1. The Board of Directors shall establish and prescribe uniform accounting procedures and systems, financial reporting, and budgeting classifications in and for all boards, commissions, agencies, and institutions of the Synod. Such procedures and systems shall apply to all operations, including Church Extension, Worker Benefit Plans, and all specific funds. The Board of Directors shall, through the Accounting Department, receive from all agencies, institutions, boards, and commissions periodic financial statements, consolidated balance sheets, and operating statements.

2. Districts shall to the extent possible publish their quarterly and annual reports in the Synod's standard reporting format and transmit to the Synod's Accounting Department such reports for use in preparing consolidated financial statements. Districts shall be encouraged to use the Synod's procedures as described in paragraph 1 above.

3. The Board of Directors shall provide an Accounting Department which shall, in accordance with policies and procedures established by the board, maintain on behalf of the Treasurer (cf. Art. XI, E, of the Synod's Constitution, "Duties of the Treasurer") all accounting records for all fund classifications of the Synod (exclusive of the Districts, except where legally required), including the

a. *Budgeting Procedure*

1. The Board of Directors shall receive, review, and evaluate the work program of the boards and commissions of the Synod

2. The Board of Directors, on the basis of this review, shall prepare for each biennium a program of current work and capital projects for presentation to the delegate convention for its consideration and review. Upon action by the convention, the annual budgeting procedure specified elsewhere in these Bylaws shall then be followed.

3. The Board of Directors shall, within a budget period, direct the Council of Administrators, through the Administrative Officer of the Board of Directors, to modify previously approved plans where a necessary balancing of income and expenditure requires such budget modification. Such a directive should specify the amount of adjustment, but the manner in which such adjustments will be made shall be determined by the agencies affected.

4. Prior approval of the Board of Directors shall be required for all commitments which exceed a synodical agency's approved budgetary allocation. Interbudgetary transfers of current operating funds from one classification to another within the agency's approved budget shall receive prior approval of the Controller. All funds held or received by a synodical agency shall be accounted for and shall be subject to budgetary control.

b. *Capital-Fund Borrowing Authority*

1. The Board of Directors shall be empowered to authorize the synodical Treasurer to borrow capital funds after the board has determined the amounts and the conditions under which these capital funds shall be borrowed, for capital-fund outlay, for site acquisition, and for construction projects which are authorized by synodical conventions.

2. The Board of Directors and the responsible

general ledgers, which may feasibly and conveniently be maintained in a centralized Accounting Department of the Synod; prepare checks for all disbursements supported by approved vouchers for signatures of the Treasurer; serve as custodian of payroll and accounting records; and prepare, publish, or disseminate in consultation with the Treasurer financial statements and reports, including regular fiscal reports to the Board of Directors.

(Note: The term "Accounting Department" should be substituted for the term "Controller" wherever it appears in the Bylaws.)

b. *Budgeting Procedure*

1. The Board of Directors shall establish and prescribe uniform budgeting procedures in and for all boards and commissions of the Synod and all its institutions for all operations, including Church Extension, Worker Benefit Plans, and all specific funds, and through the Accounting Department shall receive the budgets and work programs for review and evaluation with representatives of the appropriate boards and commissions.

2. The Board of Directors, on the basis of this review, shall prepare for each biennium a program of current work and capital projects for presentation to the delegate convention for its consideration and review. Upon action by the convention, the annual budgeting procedure specified elsewhere in these Bylaws shall then be followed.

3. (Same)

4. Prior approval of the Board of Directors shall be required for all commitments which exceed a synodical agency's approved budgetary allocation. Interbudgetary transfers of current operating funds from one classification to another within the agency's approved budget shall receive prior approval of the Accounting Department. All funds held or received by a synodical agency shall be accounted for and shall be subject to budgetary control.

c. *Audit Procedure*

1. The Board of Directors shall assure itself that audits are provided by internal auditors or independent certified public accountants for all boards, commissions, and agencies of the Synod and all its institutions, and in all the synodical Districts, for all operations, including Church Extension, Worker Benefit Plans, and all specific funds, and through the Internal Audit Department shall receive copies of such audits.

2. The Board of Directors shall provide an Internal Audit Department which shall, in accordance with policies and procedures established by the board, conduct or arrange for audits for the units described in paragraph 1 above, all audits to be conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

d. *Capital-Fund Borrowing Authority*

1. (Same)

2. (Same)

officers of the Synod are empowered to do all things necessary to effect such capital-fund borrowings if and when required, including the pledging of real and other property belonging to the Synod in order to secure loans to obtain the necessary funds.

3. The borrowed capital funds shall not be used for any operating expenditures and shall be subject to provision for amortization.

c. Special Offerings

1. The Board of Directors, in the event of need or unusual circumstances, may, after consultation with the Council of Presidents, provide for special offerings for synodical purposes.

2. The Board of Directors alone may authorize the solicitation of funds by any person, board, commission, agency, or corporation in the Synod at large and shall have the authority to regulate the collection of funds from congregations and the Synod at large beyond the confines of any one District in accordance with policies adopted by the delegate convention of the Synod. There shall be no such solicitation of funds by any person, board, commission, agency, or corporation without the approval of the Board of Directors, provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed to interfere with District or local financial undertakings where the collection of funds is confined to the District or a local area.

3. (Same)

e. Special Offerings

1. (Same)

2. (Same)

Action: Adopted (3).

To Assemble, Review, and Coordinate Position Descriptions

RESOLUTION 4-02A-2

Overture 4-47 (CW, pp. 153-158)

WHEREAS, The Synod normally carries out its work through boards, commissions, and departments and expects that these units carry out their assignments through duly elected and/or appointed staff members; and

WHEREAS, Position descriptions for such staff may change from time to time, and for that reason would best be maintained in a policy manual, which should be available to the entire church upon request, rather than by *Handbook* provision; and

WHEREAS, The objectives of the Synod are of such a nature that boards, commissions, and departments might give similar assignments to staff members working in related areas (viz., Missions and Evangelism; Stewardship Mission Education and Missions, etc.); therefore be it

Resolved, That position descriptions be developed and kept by each program board, commission, and department for each of its staff positions; and be it further

Resolved, That the position description of the Administrative Officer of the Board of Directors remain as currently provided in Bylaws 2.89 and 2.91 in view of the fact that the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure is currently considering the entire structure of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the Administrative Officer of the Board of Directors be authorized to gather all such position descriptions from the various units into a composite manual for the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors review such position descriptions for purposes of coordination so that overlapping of responsibility and duplicative action are minimized; and be it finally

Resolved, That these resolutions be implemented by the following Bylaw changes:

PRESENT WORDING

2.60 Assistant Treasurer

The Assistant Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board of Directors subject to the approval of the President of the Synod. He shall perform such duties as are assigned to him by the Treasurer, to whom he shall be responsible.

2.83 Duties with Respect to Synodical Personnel

a. The Board of Directors shall appoint, subject to the approval of the President of the Synod:
An Administrative Officer of the Board of

PROPOSED WORDING

2.80 Assistant Officers

The Board of Directors, subject to the approval of the President of the Synod, shall appoint such assistant officers and such staff as may be required from time to time to carry out the business and legal affairs of the Synod.

2.83 Duties with Respect to Synodical Personnel

a. The Board of Directors shall review position descriptions of synodical staff members to eliminate overlap and duplication of activity.

Directors
 A Controller
 Assistant Treasurer(s), and
 An executive secretary for medical missions
 Such other personnel as the Board of Directors
 feels it requires to perform its
 responsibilities.

b. The Board of Directors, after consultation with the respective synodical board or commission, shall establish policies and conditions of employment of all employees of the Synod and its various boards and commissions.

c. The Board of Directors shall establish the remuneration of elected synodical officers and of staff personnel who report directly to it.

d. The Board of Directors shall appoint the executive secretaries and staff members in cases where there is no board or commission.

e. The Board of Directors shall provide a Personnel Director who shall be advisory to the boards, commissions, and officers of the Synod upon their request. He shall also, in cooperation with all boards, commissions, and departments of the Synod, maintain current position descriptions; maintain historical information on service, salary, and performance evaluations; advise on salary schedules and adjustments, also when annual performance reviews, salary reviews, and personnel reappointments are due; assist in employee training programs; process applications for positions; and maintain in cooperation with the Statistician an adequate information file on persons who are eligible and qualified for ministerial, teaching, literary, and other duties in the church and make the resources of this file available to congregations, Districts, and other agencies of the Synod for purpose of selection, call, or appointment.

2.93 Controller

a. The Controller shall be appointed by the Board of Directors subject to the approval of the President of the Synod. He shall be responsible to this board and the President. The personnel of his department shall consist of such assistants as may be approved by the Board of Directors.

b. The Controller shall—

1. head the Department of Controllershship and supervise the personnel in this department in their duties;

2. establish and prescribe uniform accounting methods, budgetary classifications, internal controls, and auditing procedures in and for all agencies of the Synod and all its institutions, and in all of the synodical Districts, for all operations including Church Extension and other specific funds, and shall receive from all agencies of the Synod and all its institutions, and from all Districts, monthly and annually their financial statements, consolidated balance sheets, and operating statements, and copies of the annual independent audits;

3. maintain on behalf of the Treasurer all accounting records, including the general ledgers of the Synod, which may feasibly and conveniently be maintained in a centralized accounting department of the Synod;

4. analyze and interpret accounting data, to discover opportunities for economy, to anticipate fiscal problems, and to develop cost standards;

5. administer the classification and authorized disbursement of special funds of the Synod and assist all departments for the purpose of achieving economy and efficiency;

6. prepare, publish, or disseminate, in consultation with the synodical Treasurer, financial statements and reports;

7. assemble and assist in the integration of the synodical budget, assist in conforming expense

b. (Same)

c. The Board of Directors shall establish the remuneration of elected synodical officers and of staff personnel.

d. (Same)

e. The Board of Directors shall provide a Personnel Director who shall be advisory to the boards, commissions, and officers of the Synod.

(Delete)

budgets with concomitantly and realistically estimated budgets of income;

8. prescribe and supervise appropriate procedures for the control of commitments and the preaudit of expenditures of the Synod;

9. prepare vouchers and checks for all disbursements (except in instances of necessarily decentralized fiscal operation), approve these for payment, and convey them to the Treasurer for signature and release;

10. serve as a voting member of the Council of Administrators and as an advisory member of any other board, commission, or committee in which his membership or attendance is required;

11. serve as custodian of salary and payroll records; be responsible for the preparation and maintenance of salary schedules and payroll checks; and participate on the Synod's salary review committee;

12. administer the purchasing function for the Synod including centralized purchasing for the Synod and its agencies where practical;

13. examine, analyze, and report regularly to the Board of Directors on all fiscal business of the Synod;

14. account directly to the Board of Directors for the performance of his duties and for his direction of the Department of Controllershship and on such related duties as the Board of Directors may assign to him.

15. perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors.

Action: *Adopted as amended (3).*

(Amendment: The Committee had proposed that Bylaw 2.83 b should read: "The Board of Directors shall establish the terms and conditions of employment for all employees of the Synod." However, the convention resolved to retain the present wording.)

To Refer the Consideration of Making the Office of Treasurer of the Synod a Full-Time and Appointive Office

RESOLUTION 4-03

Overtures 4-48, 4-49 (CW, p. 158)

WHEREAS, The office of the Treasurer of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been from the inception of the Synod an elective, nonsalaried position; and

WHEREAS, The growth of the Synod has required additional personnel to carry out the functions of the office of the Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, A considerable amount of expertise and experience is required to supervise the fiscal affairs of a multimillion-dollar corporation, such as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, Both the Committee for Convention Nominations and the electorate of the Synod have difficulty in completing the required in-depth evaluation of candidates within the framework of the process and time presently available; and

WHEREAS, The option for continuity beyond the present tenure limitations governing the office of Treasurer may be desirable; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure be asked to consider the advisability of designating the office of Treasurer of the Synod as a full-time appointive office rather than an elective office.

Action: *Declined (3).*

To Publish Synopsis of Board of Directors Minutes

RESOLUTION 4-04

Overture 4-68 (CW, p. 163)

WHEREAS, There is a continuing need to communicate to the church the story of programs and activities at all levels; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors is charged by *Handbook* regulations and convention decisions with responsibilities for much of the Synod's work, especially in fiscal matters; therefore be it

Resolved, That we commend the Board of Directors for sharing information with the church in the past; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage the board to continue to expand its efforts to communicate to the members of

the Synod as many details as possible concerning its work.

Action: *Adopted (3).*

To Approve Transfers of Congregations

RESOLUTION 4-05

Overtures 4-13—4-15, 4-18, 4-19 (CW, p. 149)

WHEREAS, The following congregations have requested a transfer from the English District to the Districts hereafter named:

1. Grace Lutheran Church of Strasburg, Ill., to the Central Illinois District;
2. Redeemer Lutheran Church of Seymour, Ind., to the Indiana District;
3. Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cleveland, Ohio, to the Ohio District;
4. Our Savior Lutheran Church, Midland, Mich., to the Michigan District;

and

WHEREAS, Trinity Lutheran Church of Fairfax, S. Dak., seeks transfer from the Nebraska District to the South Dakota District; and

WHEREAS, It appears that good reason and appropriate approvals have been given for each of the requested transfers; and

WHEREAS, It appears that such transfers will permit each of the congregations transferred an opportunity for closer consultation and cooperation on a circuit and District level, by being identified with the District of their geographical area and thereby permit greater participation in circuit and District work in carrying out the ministries and missions assigned to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That each of the requests for transfer be, and they are, hereby approved and granted.

Action: *Adopted (3).*

To Approve Congregation Transfers

RESOLUTION 4-06

Overtures 4-16 (CW, p. 149); 4-84U (TB, p. 16)

WHEREAS, Ebenezer Lutheran Church of Milwaukee, Wis., has requested a transfer from the South Wisconsin District to the English District; and

WHEREAS, Holy Comforter Lutheran Church of Mt. Vernon, N. Y., has requested a transfer from the English District to the SELC District; and

WHEREAS, It appears that in each case appropriate approval has been given and good reason supports the requests; therefore be it

Resolved, That the requests for transfer be, and they are, hereby approved and granted.

Action: *Adopted (3).*

To Answer Transfer Requests

RESOLUTION 4-07A

Overture 4-17 (CW, p. 149)

WHEREAS, By joint overture Holy Trinity, Livonia; All Saints, Livonia; Faith, Livonia; and The Savior, Kalamazoo, have requested transfers from the Michigan District to the English District; and

WHEREAS, Holy Trinity and Faith congregations have withdrawn from the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the request of All Saints of Livonia and The Savior of Kalamazoo to transfer to the English District be, and the same is, hereby approved and granted; and be it further

Resolved, That we decline to act on the transfer requests of Holy Trinity and Faith congregations by reason of their withdrawal from the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (3).*

To Defer Request of Immanuel, Charleston, to Transfer from Central Illinois District to English District

RESOLUTION 4-08

Overtures 4-11, 4-12 (CW, pp. 148-149)

WHEREAS, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Charleston, Ill., has requested a transfer of membership from the Central Illinois District to the English District; and

WHEREAS, The Central Illinois District, earnestly desiring to continue this town-gown ministry, wishes this congregation to remain in its District; and

WHEREAS, Some confusion exists as to justifiable reasons for granting or declining this request; and

WHEREAS, Immanuel Lutheran Church currently has a pastoral vacancy; and

WHEREAS, Immanuel Lutheran Church has sought and received counsel and guidance from the English District President, who has been in consultation with the Central Illinois District President; therefore be it

Resolved, That the congregation be urged to continue to work its way toward a God-pleasing solution, making use of the counsel of the President of the English District; and be it further

Resolved, That the presidents of the Central Illinois District and the English District continue to cooperate in a healing ministry to this congregation for the purpose of fostering harmony and stability under the loving hand of God; and be it finally

Resolved, That action on the transfer request be deferred.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

(This was introduced in Session 3. The convention consented to consider a substitute motion to grant the request. However, in Session 5 it voted down the substitute and adopted Res. 4-08.)

To Encourage the Eastern District

RESOLUTION 4-09A

Overtures 5-116U A—B, 5-118U (TB, pp. 16-17)

WHEREAS, The Eastern District has a long and valued heritage of support to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, The presidents of the Eastern District have given leadership in stewardship and other fields of service to the District and the Synod; and

WHEREAS, There now is difficulty in the District because of questions relating to dual claims for the office of the President; and

WHEREAS, The congregations of the Eastern District are to be commended that during its recent difficult history there has been a determination to continue membership in the Synod; and

WHEREAS, We, the members of the Synod, are eager to support our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Eastern District with our prayers, understanding, and trust; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage the members of the Eastern District to work out a solution for their difficulties which will meet the basic requirements of Anaheim 5-02A and at the same time promote healing and unity in the District at a pace which encourages such healing and unity; and be it finally

Resolved, That a grateful notice of the resolution of these difficulties be provided to the 1979 convention of the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

(The committee inserted "congregations of the . . . are" in the fourth whereas. The convention agreed to consider Overture 5-116UA in *Today's Business*, page 16, as a substitute resolution. It then declined the substitute and adopted Res. 4-09A)

To Hold Synodical Conventions in St. Louis

RESOLUTION 4-10-1

Overtures 4-36A—4-39 (CW, p. 151)

WHEREAS, The cost of conducting synodical conventions is becoming increasingly expensive; and

WHEREAS, It would be more convenient and more economical to conduct our conventions in a central location; therefore be it

Resolved, That future conventions be conducted in St. Louis, effective with the 1981 convention, with the understanding that consideration may be given to other areas upon special request; and be it further

Resolved, That the convention manager be instructed to prepare a system to equalize convention travel costs on a District-by-District basis; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Commission on Constitutional Matters be authorized to adjust the wording of the

Bylaws of the Synod to properly effect the purpose of this resolution.

Action: *Adopted as amended (5).*

(Amendment: "effective with the 1981 convention." A motion to table until the 1979 convention was ruled out of order. At this time the interpretation was given that the 1979 convention would be held in Kansas City. However, see the resolution which follows.)

To Determine Place for 1979 Convention

RESOLUTION 4-10-2

Overture 4-37 (CW, p. 151)

WHEREAS, There appears to have been misunderstanding about the location of the 1979 convention of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Commitments were made to hold the 1979 convention in St. Louis as a result of the discussion of this matter at the 1975 Anaheim convention; therefore be it

Resolved, That the arrangements made to hold the 1979 convention of the Synod in St. Louis be honored; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of our church in the Kansas City area be thanked for their willingness to be hosts for the 1979 convention; and be it finally

Resolved, That the members of our church in the Kansas City area be encouraged to invite the convention to Kansas City for some future convention year, after complying with Bylaw 1.39 and Res. 4-10-1 of this convention.

Action: *Adopted (13).*

(The second whereas originally had read "tentative commitments.")

To Add to the Handbook an Explanatory Paragraph re Support Program

RESOLUTION 4-11

Overture 4-60 (CW, p. 161)

Resolved, That for explanation and clarification the following introductory paragraph be inserted ahead of Bylaw 10.23:

C. SUPPORT

The support program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is a program of financial assistance to those eligible pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and their eligible dependents who are in financial need. This aid is in the form of a gift from the budget funds of the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

To Decline Overture 4-50

RESOLUTION 4-12

Overture 4-50 (CW, p. 158)

WHEREAS, The Great Commission given us by our

Lord Jesus Christ is being given high priority in our church; and

WHEREAS, All members are encouraged to renew their dedication to and promotion of this goal; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 4-50 be respectfully declined.

Action: Adopted (5).

To Decline to Relocate Synodical Headquarters

RESOLUTION 4-13

Overture 4-69 (CW, pp. 163—164)

WHEREAS, The Synod presently leases two floors at 500 North Broadway in downtown St. Louis for office space; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has a 10-year lease which is currently in its fourth year, with the option to renew the lease for another 5 years; and

WHEREAS, The terms of this lease provide us with office space at a favorable rental rate; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overture 4-69.

Action: Adopted (13).

(In Session 5 the convention agreed to consider a substitute resolution consisting of Overture 4-69, *Workbook*, p. 163, and a first resolve "that we terminate the lease at the end of this 10-year period." In Session 13 the delegates declined the substitute and adopted Res. 4-13.)

To Commend Dr. Preus and Other Officers

RESOLUTION 4-14

Overtures 4-71—4-74 (CW, pp. 164—165)

WHEREAS, Dr. J. A. O. Preus, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, has endeavored in a firm and evangelical manner to provide leadership to our Synod and to uphold the Word of God and the



Retiring members of the Board of Directors: Milton Carpenter, Theo. Nickel, Alvin W. Mueller, Walter Hinck, Gerhardt Nitz, August Bernthal, Walter Steinberg

Confessions and to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Many other officials of the Synod have also provided leadership in this direction; therefore be it

Resolved, That we thank God for the faithfulness and diligence of these leaders and assure them of our continuing prayer support by a rising vote of thanks.

Action: Adopted (13).

To Amend Bylaw 2.103 (Synodical Service Commission)

RESOLUTION 4-15

Overture 4-53 (CW, p. 159)

WHEREAS, The Synodical Service Commission under Bylaw 2.103 c, 2, is charged with soliciting, from all appropriate sources, suggestions or nominations of persons for the position which is to be filled and to receive nominations from any other sources; and

WHEREAS, This same Bylaw subparagraph directs the commission to publish the list of nominees in the official periodical of the Synod at least 4 weeks prior to the date on which the appointment is to take place; and

WHEREAS, This present Bylaw provision involves an unusually long time span in the filling of synodical executive positions because of the aforementioned publication requirement; and

WHEREAS, The commission is sincerely desirous of fulfilling its responsibilities conscientiously and expeditiously; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 2.103 be amended to add "or communicated to the member congregations of the Synod in another way" after the word "Synod":

PRESENT WORDING

2.103 Synodical Service Commission

2. solicit, from all appropriate sources, suggestions or nominations of persons for the position which is to be filled and receive nominations from any other sources. The list of nominees shall be published in the official periodical of the Synod at least 4 weeks prior to the date on which the appointment is to take place;

PROPOSED WORDING

2.103 Synodical Service Commission

2. solicit, from all appropriate sources, suggestions or nominations of persons for the position which is to be filled and receive nominations from any other sources. The list of nominees shall be published in an official periodical of the Synod or communicated to the member congregations of the Synod in another way at least 4 weeks prior to the date on which the appointment is to take place;

Action: Adopted (13).

To Amend Bylaw 10.31 (Official Lists—Pensions)

RESOLUTION 4-16

Overture 4-67 (CW, p. 163)

WHEREAS, It is advantageous for the Board of

Managers—Pensions and Support to have an official list of pastors, teachers, and professors; and

WHEREAS, This is also in the best interest of the individual enrollee with Pensions and Support; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 10.31 be amended to read as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

10.31 Official Lists

The lists of pastors, teachers, and professors appearing in the current records of the various Districts shall be the official lists for the purpose of the Board of Managers—Pensions and Support.

PROPOSED WORDING

10.31 Official Lists

The lists of pastors, teachers, and professors appearing in the current records of the synodical Department of Statistics shall be the official lists for the purpose of the Board of Managers—Pensions and Support.

and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution become effective immediately upon adoption.

Action: Adopted (13).

To Decline Overtures 4-56A and 4-56B (Access to Records)

RESOLUTION 4-17

Overtures 4-56A—B (CW, p. 160)

WHEREAS, The Synod does pursue a policy of openness in all its business dealings; and

WHEREAS, All proper congregational requests for information are currently being given prompt and, in most instances, satisfactory attention; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 4-56A and 4-56B be respectfully declined.

Action: Adopted as amended (13).

(The convention declined to consider the substance of Overture 4-56A, CW, page 160, as a substitute but did eliminate the third paragraph, which had read: "Whereas, Individual requests, particularly when they require much time and expense, are inadvisable and impractical and should be discouraged.")

To Continue Study of Providing Increased Retirement Benefits

RESOLUTION 4-18

Overture 4-61 (CW, p. 161)

WHEREAS, Through the Pension Work Committee, an ad-hoc committee with representatives from both the Board of Managers—Workers Benefit Plans and the Board of Trustees, benefits have been increased since 1965 from \$150 to \$200 per month through a managed program without subjecting the synodical budget to increased costs; and

WHEREAS, The Pension Work Committee is committed to an ongoing review of this matter; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans, in consultation with the actuary engaged by the board, is studying the feasibility of providing a cost-of-living increase; and

WHEREAS, Increased benefits for previously retired workers could potentially require increased contributions from current active workers; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Pension Work Committee and the Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans continue to study the feasibility of increased retirement benefits for retired workers.

Action: Adopted (13).

To Decline Overture 4-64 (Social Security)

RESOLUTION 4-19

Overture 4-64 (CW, p. 162)

WHEREAS, The federal Social Security program and the Concordia Retirement Plan have been changed to provide increased benefits; and

WHEREAS, The Concordia Survivor Plan costs and benefits have been adjusted in consideration of the above; and

WHEREAS, Only a small percentage of our ministers of religion do not participate in the Social Security plan; and

WHEREAS, Enlarging the coverage of those workers not in Social Security would create an inequity in relation to the workers in the Social Security program; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 4-64 be respectfully declined.

Action: Adopted (13).

(The convention agreed to consider the resolve of Overture 4-64 as a substitute but then declined it and adopted Res. 4-19.)

To Disapprove Arbitrary Retirement at Age 65

RESOLUTION 4-20

Overtures 4-54—4-55 (CW, p. 160)

WHEREAS, Twenty-three million persons in the United States have passed their 65th birthday and 3,500 are being added daily to this group, it being estimated that there are some 325,000 in this age group in the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Mandatory retirement practices at age 65 may cause serious problems for older people; and

WHEREAS, Older Christians carry a great potential for contributing to the mission and ministry of the church; and

WHEREAS, The dignity and worth of every person is derived from his creation, redemption, and sanctifica-

tion by our triune God, which dignity and worth is not diminished by advancing years or by becoming 65 years of age; therefore be it

Resolved,

1. That the corporate church and its membership voice disapproval of the arbitrary practice of mandatory retirement at age 65 when the persons affected are still able to serve effectively; and

2. That Bylaw 2.105 on retirement policies, paragraph a, subparagraph 1, be amended to provide:

PRESENT WORDING

2.105 Retirement Policies

a. The following retirement policies shall apply to salaried nonelective personnel of the Synod except as otherwise provided for in these Bylaws:

1. Each such person may retire at age 65, but shall be retired on the first day of the month following the month in which his 70th birthday occurs.

PROPOSED WORDING

2.105 Retirement Policies

a. The following retirement policies shall apply to salaried nonelective personnel of the Synod except as otherwise provided for in these Bylaws:

1. Each such person may request early retirement under the applicable provisions of the Concordia Retirement Plan, but he shall be eligible at the end of the calendar year in which his 65th birthday occurs for reappointment on a contract basis, which reappointment shall be for one calendar year at a time. Such request for reappointment shall be accompanied by satisfactory medical evaluations. No extension shall be granted beyond the year in which the employee attains the age of 70 as provided in the Concordia Retirement Plan.

(The additional paragraphs in the *Handbook* re Bylaw 2.105 remain unchanged.)

3. That the Synod through the witness of its retirement policies indicate to the world that arbitrary retirement at age 65 may be impractical, unwise, dehumanizing, and a form of discrimination; and

4. That the members of the Synod's congregations by their attitudes and practices regarding older persons reflect Christ's response to the plea: "Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth"; and

5. That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief, together with the Board of Parish Education, sensitize through the *Reporter*, the Synod's parish leadership, and through *The Lutheran Witness* its constituency to a deeper Christian concern for its older members and thereby enhance the image and sense of self-worth of the older person; and

6. That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief encourage persons facing retirement to avail themselves of preretirement counseling from the Synod or other organizations; and

7. That congregations be encouraged to involve persons of retirement age in such programs as Project Compassion, meals-on-wheels, telephone reassurance, evangelism visits, administrative assistance, and the like.

Action: Adopted (13).

(An amendment to remove the entire second resolve in the interest of consistency failed to carry.)

**To Approve the Change of Name—
California and Nevada District**

RESOLUTION 4-21

Overture 4-23 (CW, p. 150)

WHEREAS, The California and Nevada District requests that its District name be changed in order to more fully describe the geographical area it embraces; therefore be it

Resolved, That the name of the California and Nevada District be, and it is hereby, changed to the California-Nevada-Hawaii District.

Action: Adopted (13).

**To Hold Council of Presidents
Meetings at Locations Beneficial
to the Synod**

RESOLUTION 4-22

Overture 4-57 (CW, p. 161)

WHEREAS, The Council of Presidents may wish to schedule meetings in various locations for the benefit of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage the Council of Presidents to practice good stewardship and schedule meetings at locations beneficial to the entire Synod.

Action: Adopted (13).

**To Amend Method
of Selecting Representatives
on Board of Parish Education**

RESOLUTION 4-23

Overture 7-15 (CW, p. 288)

WHEREAS, Bylaw 7.23 specifies that the Board of Parish Education shall include "a representative from each of the seminaries and each of the teachers colleges appointed by the President of the Synod on recommendation of the Board of Parish Education"; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Parish Education best knows its specific needs and the presidents of the institutions best know their personnel; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 7.23 be amended to read:

PRESENT WORDING

7.23 Membership

The Board of Parish Education shall consist of three parish pastors, three teachers, and three laymen elected by the Synod, plus a representative from each of the seminaries and each of the teachers colleges appointed by the President of the Synod on recommendation of the Board of Parish Education.

PROPOSED WORDING**7.23 Membership**

The Board of Parish Education shall consist of three parish pastors, three teachers, and three laymen elected by the Synod, plus a representative from each of the seminaries and each of the teachers colleges appointed by the President of the Synod after consultation with the Board of Parish Education, to ascertain the needs of the board, and with the presidents of the respective seminaries and colleges, to find people to fill these needs.

Action: *Adopted (13).*

**To Refer Questions Concerning
Status and Guidelines
for Auxiliary Organizations**

RESOLUTION 4-24

Overtures 4-76—4-79 (CW, pp. 165—166)

WHEREAS, Recognition of auxiliary status is being sought for the Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ and for the Lutheran Rangers and Rangerettes; and

WHEREAS, Definitive guidelines for determination of auxiliary status within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod structure are nonexistent in the *Handbook*; and

WHEREAS, Such guidelines for determination of auxiliary status are necessary both for the Synod and for the organization seeking auxiliary status; therefore be it

Resolved, That the question of auxiliary status and guidelines be referred to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure for further study and recommendations.

Action: *Adopted (13).*

**To Advise Against Certain Revisions
of Congregational Constitutions**

RESOLUTION 4-25

Overture 4-82 (CW, p. 167)

WHEREAS, Certain groups are suggesting or recommending changes to congregational constitutions that will have the effect of altering the disposition of property in the event of a division of the congregation; and

WHEREAS, Article II of the Synod's Constitution, with a similar article in congregational constitutions, indicates the confessional basis for membership in the Synod and District; and

WHEREAS, Constitutional changes can have the effect of altering the confessional subscription of a congregation; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations take note of the possibility that, should division of the congregation occur, such changes may allow congregational property to accrue to groups not remaining in the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be advised to include and/or restore a clause such as the following: "should a separation on account of doctrine take place—which may God graciously prevent—the property of the congregation shall belong to those members who steadfastly and unreservedly adhere to the declaration of creed contained in Article No. _____ (article on doctrine) of this constitution"; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to seek appropriate legal advice regarding property rights in the event of division.

Action: *Adopted (13).*

**To Give Orientation
in Social Ministry**

RESOLUTION 4-26

Overture 4-80 (CW, p. 166)

WHEREAS, Social ministry is being increasingly recognized as a valid and vital part of our Christian mission and in need of encouragement; therefore be it

Resolved, That planners of District orientation sessions be urged to include social ministry in their agendas; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief provide orientation for graduating students at the Synod's terminal schools.

Action: *Adopted (13).*

To Encourage Guidance Counseling

RESOLUTION 4-27

Overture 4-66 (CW, pp. 162—163)

WHEREAS, The church recognizes the wisdom of guidance counseling; and

WHEREAS, The seminaries do have programs of guidance counseling; and

WHEREAS, Our Districts do have a wealth of human resources which can be called upon to assist in guidance needs; and

WHEREAS, The cost to the Synod of providing additional guidance counselors on an employed basis is prohibitive; therefore be it

Resolved, That the church encourage her institutions and Districts to continue drawing from existing human resources to provide guidance counseling; and be it finally

Resolved, That Overture 4-66 be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (13).*

**To Refer Concerns to the
Lutheran Women's Missionary League**

RESOLUTION 4-28

Overture 4-75 (CW, p. 165)

Resolved, That the congregation submitting Over-

ture 4-75 be respectfully requested to share its concerns directly with the LWML.

Action: *Adopted (13).*

To Decline Overture 4-83 (Faithful Minorities)

RESOLUTION 4-29

Overture 4-83 (CW, p. 167)

WHEREAS, The structures already exist within the Synod to answer the needs described in Overture 4-83; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 4-83 be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (13).*

PRESENT WORDING

10.27 Application for Support

Each application for support shall be addressed to the Board of Managers—Pensions and Support and shall before approval be investigated and endorsed by the subcommittee of the District in which the applicant was living at the time when support was applied for. The board may, however, ask the subcommittee of the District to which the applicant has moved to process the application.

10.29 District Subcommittees

Every District shall elect or appoint a subcommittee of the Board of Managers—Pensions and Support and fix the number of members and time of service. Each District subcommittee shall—

a. investigate the applications of all persons who ask for support and report its findings and recommendations to the board;

b. represent the Board of Managers—Pensions and Support in its District.

To Abolish District Subcommittees of Board of Managers—Pensions and Support

RESOLUTION 4-30

Overture 4-63 (CW, p. 162)

WHEREAS, District subcommittees of the Board of Managers—Pensions and Support no longer serve a useful purpose; therefore be it

Resolved, That District subcommittees of the Board of Managers—Pensions and Support be abolished; and be it further

Resolved, That the applicable Bylaw 10.29 be deleted from the *Handbook* of the Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That Bylaw 10.27 of the *Handbook* be correspondingly amended as follows:

PROPOSED WORDING

10.27 Application for Support

Each application for support shall be addressed to the Board of Managers—Pensions and Support and shall before approval be properly investigated and evaluated by the board.

(Delete)

Action: *Adopted (13).*

To Decline Overture 4-81 (Distribution of Assets)

RESOLUTION 4-31

Overture 4-81 (CW, p. 166)

WHEREAS, The assets of the Synod are held for the work of God's kingdom as this work is carried on by the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Synod will continue, under God, to use all its assets during and after any crisis which God may permit it to face; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has provided for equitable disposition of financial matters as well as loving solutions to problems which arise; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 4-81 be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (13).*

To Decline Overture 4-62 (Retirement Plan)

RESOLUTION 4-32

Overture 4-62 (CW, p. 161)

WHEREAS, The Concordia Retirement Plan does provide vesting of benefits in accordance with the provisions of the pension legislation enacted in 1974; and

WHEREAS, The Concordia Retirement Plan contains provisions for "transferred member" status which protects benefits for those workers transferring to "other eligible organizations"; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 4-62 be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (13).*

**To Decline Overtures 4-35A—B
(Convention Dates)**

RESOLUTION 4-33

Overtures 4-35A—B (CW, p. 151)

WHEREAS, The dates on which the synodical conventions are held are selected by those responsible for planning the convention; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 4-35A—B ("To Convene in a Different Month") be declined.

Action: *Adopted (13).*

**To Decline Overtures 4-40A—C
(Convention Manager)**

RESOLUTION 4-34

Overtures 4-40A—C (CW, p. 151)

WHEREAS, The position of convention manager is very helpful in arranging many convention details; and

WHEREAS, This is only a part-time position and does not involve an exorbitant cost; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overtures 4-40A—C.

Action: *Adopted (13).*

5. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

To Declare the Synod's Position on AELC, Especially Dual Membership in LCMS and AELC

RESOLUTION 5-01

Overtures 3-162, 3-171, 5-10, 5-15, 5-17—5-31A—
D (CW, pp. 116, 118, 175—181)

WHEREAS, The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches has been formed by certain members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in violation of the first object of the Synod, Art. III, 1: "The conservation and promotion of the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:10) and a united defense against *schism* and sectarianism (Rom. 16:17)," and therefore is to be regarded as schismatic; and

WHEREAS, The Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters has ruled that congregations, pastors, and teachers of the LCMS "cannot be affiliated with the AELC and/or its related bodies without forfeiting their membership in the Synod" (CCM Opinion re AELC, Aug. 13—14, 1976); and

WHEREAS, The nature and the future of the AELC is uncertain, according to public statements by its own leaders, some regarding it as a "confessing movement" and others as a "church body"; and

WHEREAS, One of the objects of the Synod is "the protection of pastors, teachers, and congregations in the performance of their duties and the maintenance of their rights" (Objects of the Synod, Art. III, 8); and

WHEREAS, 45 congregations have voted to join the AELC since its formation but also to remain in the LCMS (dual membership) and 107 congregations have voted to join the AELC and to sever ties with the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, These congregations, in almost every instance, have taken this action without any consultation with a representative of the LCMS who was able to present the cause of the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, There is a strong probability that sufficient consultation may have prevented them from joining the AELC; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention affirm the CCM's "Opinion re Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches" (1977 *Convention Workbook*, pp. 411—412); and be it further

Resolved, That the implementation date of Sept. 1, 1977, established by the CCM (Sept. 24—25, 1976) be extended; and be it further

Resolved, That in the case of the congregations, pastors, and teachers who claim dual membership in the LCMS and the AELC, the Synod:

1. express brotherly concern over the action they have taken and urge them to disassociate themselves from the AELC for reasons of integrity since such identification with and support of the AELC is in conflict with the



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Constitution of the LCMS (Art. III, 1), which they signed and thereby agreed to uphold;

2. encourage each of them to meet with their District President, along with certain respected and trusted individuals selected in consultation with the District President by a special committee appointed by this convention consisting of Dr. Michael Stelmachowicz, Dr. Otto A. Dorn, and Pastor Louis Meyer, in order to discuss with them the contradictory nature of such dual membership, and the six reasons given by the AELC for forming a new church body (see attachment), and especially in order to hear their concerns, so that there be no divisions among us and that we may be completely united with one thought and one purpose (1 Cor. 1:10);
3. direct the District Presidents, who have ministered to them and found them unwilling to terminate their AELC membership, to regretfully notify them, as well as those who have refused ministry by their District President, that they are regarded to have removed themselves from the roster of the LCMS and that this be effected no later than 30 days before their respective 1978 District conventions;
4. permit a District President, with the approval of the Synodical President, to extend this time in an exceptional case where conversations are taking place and where progress is being made toward what seems to be an imminent resolution, such extension to be granted prior to the date mentioned in the above paragraph;

and be it further

Resolved, That in any event it will be the congregation, pastor, and teacher, and not the Synod, which will determine whether or not membership in the Synod will be continued, since the Synod itself is most desirous that all continue in membership with the LCMS; and be it further

Resolved, That also LCMS congregations whose pastors and teachers claim membership in the LCMS and the AELC be urged to request such pastors and teachers to disaffiliate with the AELC since such identification with and support of the AELC is in conflict with the Constitution of the LCMS (Art. III, 1), which congregations, pastors, and teachers have signed and thereby agreed to uphold; and be it further

Resolved, That those who have terminated their membership in the LCMS be urged and invited by this convention to meet with whomever they choose—individuals, congregations, District or synodical officers—in order to reconsider their action and to return; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod in convention share this resolution with all congregations, pastors, and teachers involved with the AELC, and also address them with a pastoral letter which expresses the Synod's earnest desire to communicate with them, to meet with them, to discuss with them, to pray with them, and hopefully to resolve the issues which have divided our fellowship, so that we may again "praise with one voice the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 15:6).

Attachment: Why Are New Synods Needed?

1. The theology which governs the present Missouri Synod Mission board and staff is described in the Commission on Theology and Church Relations' review of the Mission Affirmations. While affirming the Affirmations, the CTCR destroys their intent. Verbal proclamation is separated from the "living", active word. The goal is "little Missouri Synods" rather than people free in Christ. (See the Appendix for Jim Mayer's critique of the CTCR's *The Mission of the Christian Church in the World*.)
2. Synod's leaders are moving ever further away from real fellowship with other Lutherans. The Missouri Synod is slowly withdrawing from the Lutheran Council in the USA (LCUSA). It has not actively pursued the 1969 Denver resolution of fellowship with The American Lutheran Church. At least two of its large districts, Michigan and South Wisconsin, have called for terminating that fellowship. The CTCR document, *A Lutheran Stance Toward Ecumenism* recommends further withdrawal and even limits pastors and individuals. (See excerpts in the Appendix.)
3. The Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) continues to churn out rulings and position statements. These pronouncements support the Preus administration's narrow theology and give ever more power to the administration. And Commission rulings are binding unless overturned by a Synodical convention.
4. Dr. Preus, the Commission on Constitutional Matters, and the Colloquy Board continue to refuse to accept graduates of Seminex into Missouri's ministerium—unless they capitulate. Graduates are accepted by some districts, but their ministries and their personal lives are being destroyed by constant harassment.
5. The theology of *A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles* continues to dominate the Missouri Synod. *A Statement* is non-Lutheran and borders on non-Christian because it establishes criteria other than faith in Christ for salvation—dangerously suggesting that faith in the Bible is essential for salvation.
6. The Missouri Synod is prepared to go to court if necessary to enforce its decisions. The cost to contest this litigation would be phenomenal—and at least two years of restraining orders against district officers and board and continued bad press before the world.

Missouri Synod lawyer, Philip Draheim, publicly stated that the Missouri Synod is prepared to attach personal

assets of officers and board members who actively resist. Peaceful "confessional disobedience," therefore, cannot be practiced for long.

(AELC "Resources for Congregations," p. 2)

Action: Adopted as amended (1).

(In presenting Res. 5-01 the committee updated the numbers in the 5th whereas as of July 11, 1977, and supplied the three names for the special committee. It also inserted into point 4 of the third resolve the words "where conversations . . . imminent resolution." Res. 5-01 and Res. 1-01 were both read to the convention. It was then moved and seconded to adopt Res. 5-01. An amendment was adopted to insert in point 3 of the third resolve the words: "as well as those who have refused ministry by their District President." After the question had been called by the required 2/3 vote, Res. 5-01 as amended was adopted. Thereupon Res. 1-01 was also adopted.)

To Accept into Membership Certain Congregations

RESOLUTION 5-02A

Overtures 5-04—5-06 (CW, p. 174); Overtures 5-117U, 5-119U, 5-120U, 5-121U, 5-122U (TB, pp. 17, 18, 189)

WHEREAS, The following newly organized congregations have applied for membership in the Synod: Carmel Lutheran Church, Carmel, Ind.; Heritage Lutheran Church, Valparaiso, Ind.; Christ Lutheran Church, Brownsburg, Ind.; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lawrence, Kans.; Concord Lutheran Church, Prairie Village, Kans.; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Great Bend, Kans.; Ascension Ev. Lutheran Church, Corunna, Ont.; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Centerville, Tex.; Christ Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Tex.; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Whitney, Tex.; Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, McMinnville, Tenn.; and Messiah Lutheran Church, Salem, Oreg.; and

WHEREAS, Their constitutions have been approved by their respective District constitution committees; therefore be it

Resolved, That these congregations be accepted into the Synod (*Handbook* 1.01); and be it further

Resolved, That the signing of the Constitution take place at the conventions of the respective Districts, in accordance with Section 1.03 of the *Handbook*; and be it finally

Resolved, That in those instances where congregations have come into existence through internal differences, all involved minister to one another so as to live and work together in love and peace.

Action: Adopted (11).

(In Session 7 an amendment was offered to delete the three Kansas congregations and to refer their application to the Kansas District. This was declined. After further discussion involving also the congregation in Salem, Oreg., the resolution was recommitted to Committee 5. After having received further information, Committee 5 shared this information with the convention and resubmitted its resolution in Session 11. An amendment was again declined to remove the names of the three Kansas congregations. The resolution was then adopted as presented by the committee.)

To Amend Bylaw 2.143 e to Improve Election Procedures by Providing Additional Information on Nominees

RESOLUTION 5-03A

Overtures 5-85, 5-86 (CW, pp. 195-196)

WHEREAS, The present Bylaws do not make provision for personal position statements of the nominees; and

WHEREAS, The Committee for Convention Nominations has provided a means of improving election procedures by providing additional information on nominees through written responses to two specific questions (5-85, 1 and 2); and

WHEREAS, This information was helpful to the Committee on Convention Nominations and may be helpful to voting delegates; and

WHEREAS, This information is available for distribution at the request of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 2.143 e be amended as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

2.143 Duties of Committee for Convention Nominations

e. At least 5 months prior to the convention the committee shall determine its complete list of candidates and alternates, obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate, and transmit its final report to the Secretary of the Synod in ample time to provide for its publication in a pre-convention issue of the official periodical of the Synod and also in the official convention workbook of reports and overtures (*Convention Workbook*). This report shall contain pertinent information concerning each candidate, such as age, occupation or profession, District affiliation, residence, and specific experience and qualifications for the office in question.

PROPOSED WORDING

2.143 Duties of Committee for Convention Nominations

e. At least 5 months prior to the convention the committee shall determine its complete list of candidates and alternates, obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate, and transmit its final report to the Secretary of the Synod in ample time to provide for its publication in a pre-convention issue of the official periodical of the Synod and also in the official convention book of reports and overtures (*Convention Workbook*). This report shall contain pertinent information concerning each candidate, such as age, occupation or profession, District affiliation, residence, specific experience and qualifications for the office in question, and if the candidate so desires, also a brief personal statement.

and be it further

Resolved, That the information obtained from the nominees by the Committee for Convention Nominations be presented as a supplement to *Today's Business*, Dallas, 1977, prior to the elections; and be it further

Resolved, That in the case of nominations from the floor at this 1977 convention, the response to these questions (Ov. 5-85, 1 and 2) be included as part of the

written information submitted by the nominator, if the nominee so desires; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Committee for Convention Nominations evaluate the overall response to this procedure.

Action: Adopted (2).

To Receive Progress Report of Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure

RESOLUTION 5-04

Report 5-02 (CW, pp. 172-174)

WHEREAS, The Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure has made a sound, valuable beginning of its assignment and in its report to the Dallas convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod presents its tentative conclusions regarding the constituting principles and objectives of the LCMS; therefore be it

Resolved, That we receive this progress report with thanks; and be it further

Resolved, That we commend the study of these constituting principles and objectives of the LCMS to the Synod for study, evaluation, and comment; and be it finally

Resolved, That this be done in the fall or spring pastors' and teachers' conferences and that congregations, individuals, and synodical and District boards, commissions, and staffs be given opportunities to respond.

Action: Adopted (2).

(The committee added to the final resolved "or spring" and "and synodical . . . staffs.")

To Amend Bylaws re Synodical Membership and Roster

RESOLUTION 5-05A

Overtures 5-37, 5-38 (CW, pp. 182-183)

WHEREAS, The District Presidents now bear the responsibility of deciding which individuals and congregations should be and remain on the roster of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Organizational practices usually specify that membership rosters are maintained by the secretary of the organization; and

WHEREAS, Uniformity is desired in the classification of membership; and

WHEREAS, Clarification of the Bylaws regarding status, membership, and appeal procedure is desirable; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following Bylaw changes be made, subject to the special provisions of Res. 5-01 regarding The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches dual membership:

PRESENT WORDING

I. SYNODICAL ORGANIZATION

A. MEMBERSHIP

1.01 Application and Reception

Applications for membership in the Synod may be acted upon in the convention of the Synod or of any District of the Synod.

3.49 Official Roster of Pastors and Teachers

The District President shall annually revise the official rosters of clergymen and teachers in the *Lutheran Annual* as far as his District is concerned and remove the names of those who have died, have severed their connections with the Synod, have been eliminated from the roster by the Council of Presidents, have resigned their status as clergymen or teachers in the Synod, or have in some way disqualified themselves for service in the church.

C. CLERGY AND TEACHER ROSTERS

4.31 Placement and Removal

Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws the District President shall be responsible for the initial placement of the names of all clergymen and teachers on the clergy and teacher rosters respectively of the Synod and also for their removal.

4.33 Continuing Eligibility

To be retained on the roster, a clergyman or teacher, as the case may be, must be performing the duties of one of the following offices:

- a. A pastor called to serve a parish;
- b. A teacher called or appointed to serve a parish;
- c. An officer of the Synod or a District, elected by the Synod or a District;
- d. An executive or professional staff member appointed by the Synod or by one of its controlled organizations;
- e. A missionary called or appointed by the Synod or by one of its Districts;
- f. An instructor, administrator, or other staff member on the faculty of a synodical educational

PROPOSED WORDING

I. SYNODICAL ORGANIZATION

A. MEMBERSHIP

1.01 Application and Reception

Applications for membership in the Synod may be acted upon in the convention of the Synod or of any District of the Synod. Member congregations, pastors, and teacher shall not hold membership in a church body other than the Synod.

1.04 Roster of Members

The official roster of member congregations, clergymen, and teachers shall be maintained by the Secretary of the Synod. The District President shall promptly notify the Secretary of the Synod of any action taken by a District convention regarding reception of new members or of any action of demission between conventions.

3.49 Rosters of Congregations, Pastors, and Teachers

The District President shall keep the Secretary of the Synod informed of any facts bearing on the roster status of congregations, pastors, and teachers. (See also new 1.04 and revised 4.31)

C. CLERGY AND TEACHER ROSTERS

4.31 Roster Responsibility

a. The official rosters of clergymen and teachers shall be maintained by the Secretary of the Synod. The District President shall promptly transmit to his office the names of those who have been regularly assigned to his District through the synodically approved procedures of assignment and have been received into membership in harmony with Bylaw 1.03; who have been transferred to another District; who have died; who have severed their connection with the Synod; who have resigned their status as clergymen or teachers in the Synod; or who have in some way disqualified themselves for service in the church.

b. The Secretary after consultation with the District President shall then determine what action shall be taken with reference to the roster status of the individual on the basis of the Constitution, Bylaws, and regulations of the Synod. (See present 3.49)

4.33 Continuing Eligibility

To be retained on the roster, a clergyman or teacher, as the case may be, shall not hold membership in a church body other than The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (although a clergyman or teacher may serve in a sister church on a temporary loan basis under the supervision of the Board for Missions) and shall be performing the duties of one of the following offices:

- a. A pastor called to serve a parish;
- b. A teacher called or appointed to serve a parish;
- c. An officer of the Synod or a District, elected by the Synod or a District;
- d. An executive or professional staff member appointed by the Synod or by one of its controlled organizations;
- e. A missionary called or appointed by the Synod or by one of its Districts;
- f. An instructor, administrator, or other staff member on the faculty of a synodical educational

institution or of an educational institution recognized by the Synod;

g. A military or institutional chaplain called by the Synod or by one of its Districts;

h. An executive or professional staff member called or appointed by a church-related agency recognized by the Synod.

4.35 Emeritus

A clergyman or teacher who has retired after reaching the age of 55 or for reasons of total and permanent disability shall be eligible for retention on the roster. Any unusual case shall be decided by the Council of Presidents.

4.37 Candidate Status

a. A clergyman or teacher who is eligible to perform the duties of the offices of ministry specified in Bylaw 4.33 but who is not currently performing those duties and who is not retired may be continued on the roster for a period not to exceed three consecutive years, subject to annual review by the President of the District of which he is a member. For the extension of the candidate status beyond three consecutive years the Council of Presidents shall require an annual application from the candidate as well as an evaluation by his District President. The Council shall determine by written ballot whether or not the request shall be honored, in each instance, for an additional year.

b. Among criteria for determining whether candidate status should be granted or continued are: the health of the applicant; the extent of his current involvement on a part-time and assisting basis in the ministry of Word and Sacrament; a demonstrated willingness to consider a call or appointment to a position recognized by the Synod under its Bylaw regulations.

4.39 Reinstatement

All applications for reinstatement to the clergy or teacher roster of the Synod shall be addressed to the President of the District in which the applicant last held membership. The President of the District shall review the matter and shall make a recommendation to the Council of Presidents, which shall decide the issue by means of a written ballot. If the applicant is reinstated, the District President shall announce this fact in *The Lutheran Witness*.

D. THE SECRETARY OF THE SYNOD

2.39 Duties

The Secretary shall—

a. perform all customary duties as corporation secretary and as such shall sign all duly authorized documents of the Synod and have custody of the corporate seal;

b. serve as a member and secretary of the Board of Directors of the Synod;

c. serve as consultant to the local convention committee;

d. publish the names of the members of the Committee for Convention Nominations in the official synodical periodical at least 12 months before each convention of the Synod;

e. provide the Committee on Elections with copies of a manual of suggested election procedures;

institution or of an educational institution recognized by the Synod;

g. A military or institutional chaplain called or endorsed by the Synod or by one of its Districts;

h. An executive or professional staff member called or appointed by a church-related agency recognized by the Synod.

4.35 Emeritus

A clergyman or teacher who has retired after reaching the age of 55 or for reasons of total and permanent disability may be eligible for retention on the roster.

4.37 Candidate Status

a. A clergyman or teacher who is eligible to perform the duties of the offices of ministry specified in Bylaw 4.33 but who is not currently performing those duties and who is not retired may be continued on the roster subject to annual review by his District President, whose findings and recommendations shall be transmitted to the Secretary of the Synod.

b. (same)

4.39 Reinstatement

All applications for reinstatement to the clergy or teacher roster of the Synod shall be addressed to the President of the District in which the applicant last held membership. The President of the District shall review the matter, and in consultation with the Council of Presidents he shall make a recommendation to the synodical Secretary, who shall decide the issue. If the applicant is reinstated, the Secretary shall announce this fact in the official periodical.

4.40 Appeals

Any action of a District President or of the synodical Secretary with reference to the roster status of a congregation, pastor, or teacher may be appealed by the party affected to the synodical Commission of Adjudication and if necessary to the Board of Appeals.

D. THE SECRETARY OF THE SYNOD

2.39 Duties

(Paragraphs *a* to *k* remain unchanged)

- f. record the proceedings during the synodical conventions;
- g. announce daily the time and the place of committee meetings at conventions;
- h. officially notify every member of the Synod elected to office of his election;
- i. edit the *Proceedings* of the convention and arrange for their distribution in harmony with the provisions of the Bylaws;
- j. serve as a member and secretary of the Commission on Constitutional Matters;
- k. carry out responsibilities with reference to the nomination and election of the President and First Vice-President as detailed in the Bylaws (2.127 and 2.129);
- l. perform such other work as the delegate convention or the President of the Synod may assign to him.

F. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SYNOD

2.81 Duties in Planning

e. The Board of Directors shall provide the necessary personnel to coordinate and insofar as practical to conduct the research and statistical activities for the Board of Directors, boards, commissions, operating departments, and agencies of the Synod; to maintain a continuing analysis of the growth characteristics of the Synod and prepare periodically short-range and long-range forecasts of synodical growth in terms of significant factors; to provide technical advice and guidance to the agencies of the Synod in the performance of their research work; to gather the parochial, District, and synodical statistics annually and publish such statistics in tabulated form with the necessary analysis and annotations in the *Statistical Yearbook* (all pastors, officers, District boards, etc. within the Synod shall furnish the department with the requested data on the prescribed forms); and to maintain the official rosters of the Synod.

2.83 Duties with Respect to Synodical Personnel

e. The Board of Directors shall provide a Personnel Director who shall be advisory to the boards, commissions, and officers of the Synod upon their request. He shall also, in cooperation with all boards, commissions, and departments of the Synod, maintain current position descriptions; maintain historical information on service, salary, and performance evaluations; advise on salary schedules and adjustments, also when annual performance reviews, salary reviews, and personnel reappointments are due; assist in employee training programs; process applications for positions; and maintain in cooperation with the Statistician an adequate information file on persons who are eligible and qualified for ministerial, teaching, literary, and other duties in the church and make the resources of this file available to congregations, Districts, and other agencies of the Synod for purpose of selection, call, or appointment.

- 1. maintain the official roster of member congregations, clergymen, and teachers of the Synod;
- m. perform such other work as the delegate convention or the President of the Synod may assign to him.

F. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SYNOD

2.81 Duties in Planning

e. The Board of Directors shall provide the necessary personnel to coordinate and insofar as practical to conduct the research and statistical activities for the Board of Directors, boards, commissions, operating departments, and agencies of the Synod; to maintain a continuing analysis of the growth characteristics of the Synod and prepare periodically short-range and long-range forecasts of synodical growth in terms of significant factors; to provide technical advice and guidance to the agencies of the Synod in the performance of their research work; to gather the parochial, District, and synodical statistics annually and publish such statistics in tabulated form with the necessary analysis and annotations in the *Statistical Yearbook* (all pastors, officers, District boards, etc., within the Synod shall furnish the department with the requested data on the prescribed forms); and to provide files for the official rosters of the Synod.

2.83 Duties with Respect to Synodical Personnel

e. The Board of Directors shall provide a Personnel Director who shall be advisory to the boards, commissions, and officers of the Synod upon their request. He shall also, in cooperation with all boards, commissions, and departments of the Synod, maintain current position descriptions; maintain historical information on service, salary, and performance evaluations; advise on salary schedules and adjustments, also when annual performance reviews, salary revpews, and personnel reappointments are due; assist in employee training programs; process applications for positions; and keep an adequate information file on persons who are eligible and qualified for ministerial, teaching, literary, and other duties in the church and make the resources of this file available for purpose of selection, call, or appointment.

and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on Constitutional Matters be authorized to make any additional necessary alterations in other Bylaws in order to bring them into conformity with the above changes.

Action: *Declined* (2).

(In presenting the resolution the floor committee inserted "after consultation with the District President" in Bylaw 4.31

b, "sister" for "partner" in 4.33, and "provide files for" for "maintain" in Bylaw 2.81 e. An amendment added "or endorsed" to 4.33 g. A proposed amendment to strike the references to dual membership in 1.01 and 4.33 was defeated, as well as a motion to substitute in 4.31 "shall record the action taken by the District President" for "shall then determine what action shall be taken." A motion to recommit Res. 5-05A for the purpose of restoring prevailing policy failed. Nevertheless, after the automatic call of the question had succeeded, the resolution failed to carry.)

To Devise Better Method of Signing the Synod's Constitution

RESOLUTION 5-06

Report 5-01, IV, E (CW, pp. 171-172)

WHEREAS, It is desirable to have a better method of signing the Constitution of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following Bylaw changes be made:

PRESENT WORDING

1.03 Signing Constitution

All members of the Synod shall sign the Constitution of the Synod in open session at the first convention of the District which they attend. The duly elected lay delegate of a newly received congregation shall sign the Constitution as the representative of his congregation. The District Secretary shall obtain the signatures to the Constitution in a book provided for this purpose. The District Secretary shall note opposite a member's signature the year in which the member is received or relinquishes membership or is transferred to another District of the Synod. The District President shall keep the Secretary of his District informed of transfers into and out of the District so that entries can be made in the records of his District.

PROPOSED WORDING

1.03 Signing Constitution

a. All pastor and teacher applicants shall file a signed statement as follows: "I have read the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and I hereby affix my signature to it, dated _____, signed _____." This statement shall be filed with the Secretary of the District prior to the convention in which the individual wishes to be received.

b. The duly elected lay delegates of newly received congregations shall sign the Constitution as the representatives of their congregations in open session at the District convention which they attend.

c. The District Secretary shall obtain the signatures to the Constitution and shall note the year in which the member is received or relinquishes membership or is transferred to another District of the Synod. The District President shall keep the Secretary of his District informed of transfers into and out of the District so that entries can be made in the records of his District.

Action: Adopted (3).

To Change Bylaw 2.107 a Regarding Commission on Constitutional Matters Membership

RESOLUTION 5-07

Overtures 5-92, 5-109A—C, 5-110 (CW, pp. 197, 204)

WHEREAS, Four of the members of the Commission on Constitutional Matters are appointed for 4-year terms by the President in consultation with the Vice-Presidents of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Under this system there is concern on one hand that the CCM is unduly influenced by the synodical administration, and on the other hand that in seeking to avoid such undue influence or any appearance thereof, the administration is often constrained to avoid presenting its own position to the CCM as forcefully as it otherwise might; and

WHEREAS, By reducing the number of members of the CCM who are subject to appointment by a single synodical administration, these concerns can effectively be minimized; and

WHEREAS, To elect these four members of the CCM would inject to a disproportionate and harmful degree elements of politics, personalities, and popularity; and

WHEREAS, It is nonetheless necessary to preserve the integrity of the CCM and its decisions, so that it is insulated as much as possible from any actual or apparent undue influence; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 2.107 a be amended to read:

PRESENT WORDING

2.107 Commission on Constitutional Matters

a. The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Vice-Presidents. The commission shall consist of five members: two pastors, two laymen, and the Secretary of the Synod. The President shall appoint one of the Vice-Presidents as an advisory member.

PROPOSED WORDING

2.107 Commission on Constitutional Matters

a. The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Vice-Presidents. The commission shall consist of five members: two pastors, two laymen, and the Secretary of the Synod. The President shall appoint one of the Vice-Presidents as an advisory member. The term of office of the appointed voting members of the commission shall be 8 years. Except when it is necessary to fill a vacancy for the remainder of an unexpired term, only one voting member may be appointed in any 2-year period.

(Paragraphs b to g remain unchanged)

and be it further

Resolved, That the following schedule of appointments be used until the above Bylaw change is fully effected: 1977—one 4-year and one 6-year term appointment; 1979—one 6-year and one 8-year term appointment.

Action: Adopted (3).

(The delegates declined a motion to refer this matter to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure.)

To Clarify Method of Electing Delegates

RESOLUTION 5-08

Overture 5-45 (CW, pp. 185—186)

WHEREAS, There has been considerable confusion regarding some of the wording of Bylaw 1.53 (Election of Delegates); therefore be it

Resolved, That the wording of Bylaw 1.53 be clarified in the following way:

PRESENT WORDING

1.53 Election of Delegates

a. Each electoral circuit shall meet at the call of the Counselor(s) to elect its delegates not later than 9 months prior to the opening day of the convention. The election shall be by written ballot. All pastors who are not advisory members under Article V B shall be eligible for election. The privilege of voting shall be exercised by one pastor and one layman from each member congregation of the circuit. Multiple parishes shall be entitled to a lay vote from each member congregation. Each delegate shall vote for two pastors, and balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until one pastor shall have received support from a majority of the voters, whereupon he shall be declared the pastoral delegate. The congregation or congregations served by the elected pastoral delegate shall be removed from consideration for supplying any other voting delegate or alternate for that particular convention.

b. Prior to the meeting of the electoral circuit, each congregation shall nominate one layman, either from its congregation or from the circuit, the name to be submitted to the Circuit Counselor. All congregational nominees shall be eligible for election. The election shall follow the same procedure as in paragraph "a" above, until a lay delegate has been chosen by majority vote, whereupon he shall be declared the lay delegate. The congregation from which the lay delegate has been elected shall then be removed from consideration for supplying any remaining voting delegate or alternate to that particular convention.

c. Balloting shall continue in the same manner on the remaining pastoral candidates until another has gained majority support, whereupon he shall be declared the alternate pastoral delegate. The congregation or congregations served by the elected alternate pastoral delegate shall be removed from consideration for supplying any other voting delegate or alternate for that particular convention.

PROPOSED WORDING

1.53 Election of Delegates

a. Each electoral circuit shall meet at the call of the Counselor(s) to elect its delegates not later than 9 months prior to the opening day of the convention. The election shall be by written ballot. All pastors who are not advisory members under Article V B shall be eligible for election. The privilege of voting shall be exercised by one pastor and one lay person from each member congregation of the circuit, both of whom shall have been selected in the manner prescribed by the congregation. Multiple parishes shall be entitled to a lay vote from each member congregation. Each delegate may write in the name of two pastors on the initial ballot. The three pastors (or more, in case of a tie vote) who receive the highest number of votes in this preliminary ballot shall be placed on the next ballot. Each voter shall now vote for only one candidate. Balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until one pastor shall have received a simple majority of all votes cast, whereupon he shall be declared the pastoral delegate. The congregation or congregations served by the elected pastoral delegate shall be removed from consideration for supplying any other voting delegate or alternate for that particular convention.

b. Prior to the meeting of the electoral circuit, each congregation may nominate one lay person, either from its congregation or from the circuit. These names must be submitted to the Circuit Counselor prior to the day of the circuit meeting and shall constitute the slate of candidates. All congregational nominees, except those who have been eliminated through the election of the pastoral delegate, shall be eligible for election. Each delegate may write in the name of two of the remaining lay nominees on the initial ballot. The three lay persons (or more, in case of a tie vote) who received the highest number of votes in this preliminary ballot shall be placed on the next ballot. Each voter shall now vote for only one candidate. Balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until one lay person shall have received a simple majority of all votes cast, whereupon he or she shall be declared the lay delegate. The congregation from which the lay delegate has been elected shall then be removed from consideration for supplying any remaining alternates to that particular convention.

c. All other pastors who received votes in the initial write-in ballot, except those who were eliminated through the election of the lay delegate, shall be eligible for election as the alternate. Each voter shall now vote for only one candidate. Balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until one pastor shall have received a simple majority of all votes cast, whereupon he shall be declared the alternate pastoral delegate. The congregation or congregations served by him shall be removed from consideration for supplying the remaining lay alternate.

d. Balloting shall continue in the same manner on the remaining lay candidates until another has gained majority support, whereupon he shall be declared the alternate lay delegate.

e. The Counselor(s) shall report the results of the election to the Secretary of the District in writing immediately after said election. If neither the delegate nor the alternate (pastoral or lay) can serve, the vacancy shall be filled by the District President in consultation with the respective Circuit Counselor(s).

d. All lay nominees except those which have been disqualified through the procedures listed above shall be eligible for election as the alternate lay delegate. The election of the alternate shall follow the same procedure as in paragraph c above.

e. All four persons elected shall come from four different member congregations.

f. (Same as present e)

Action: Adopted (4).

(A motion to remove the second sentence of 1.53 b failed.)

To Refer "Prior Consent to Serve" to Commission on Theology and Church Relations

RESOLUTION 5-09

Report 11-01; Overture 5-73 (CW, pp. 193, 433)

WHEREAS, Current election procedures for President and First Vice-President of the Synod require prior consent to serve (Bylaw 2.129); and

WHEREAS, This requirement has raised questions and concerns; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations is studying the doctrine of the call; therefore be it

Resolved, That the CTCR give attention to the matter of prior consent to serve.

Action: Adopted (4).

To Clarify Status of District Resolutions

RESOLUTION 5-10

Overtures 5-89—5-91 (CW, pp. 196—197)

WHEREAS, These overtures call attention to the resolutions of Districts which are in conflict with the synodical Constitution and Bylaws; therefore be it

Resolved, That we reaffirm the relationship between the Synod and Districts pertaining to District resolutions as stated in Art. XII (*Handbook*, pp. 21—22) and Bylaws 3.07 and 3.11.

Action: Adopted (4).

To Require Reporting of Tally in Elections

RESOLUTION 5-11

Overture 5-78 (CW, p. 194)

WHEREAS, The 1973 convention resolved (Res. 5-02) that the tally of votes cast for each candidate should be announced after each ballot in all elections; therefore be it

Resolved, That this provision be incorporated in the Bylaws by adding the following paragraph to Bylaw 2.125:

c. The tally of the votes cast for each candidate shall be announced after each ballot in all elections.

Action: Adopted (4).

To Amend Bylaws re Pastor and Teacher Conferences

RESOLUTION 5-12

Overture 5-103 (CW, pp. 201—203)

WHEREAS, The Denver convention adopted a revision of Bylaw 1.27; and

WHEREAS, One purpose of this revision was to eliminate the submitting of overtures from smaller circuit conferences; and

WHEREAS, This has created difficulties in defining which conferences have the privilege to memorialize the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters has studied this problem and has submitted this proposed change for the Bylaws concerning pastors' and teachers' conferences; therefore be it

Resolved, That we recommend the adoption of the following proposed wording submitted by the Commission on Constitutional Matters concerning conferences of pastors and teachers:

PROPOSED WORDING

I. CONFERENCES OF PASTORS AND TEACHERS

4.111 Official Pastoral and Teachers Conferences

a. In each District of the Synod there shall be an official conference for its pastors and an official

PRESENT WORDING

I. CONFERENCES OF PASTORS AND TEACHERS

4.111 Pastoral Conferences

Each District of the Synod shall arrange conferences for its pastors. Four weeks prior to the convention of the District the minutes and essays or

a reasonably comprehensive summary of the essays accepted by these pastoral conferences shall be submitted to a committee appointed by the District President for examination and a report to the convention.

4.113 Teachers Conferences

Each District of the Synod shall arrange conferences for its teachers. The minutes and essays or a reasonably comprehensive summary of the essays accepted by these conferences shall be submitted to the District convention in the same way as those of pastoral conferences.

4.115 Joint Conferences

Each District shall encourage joint conferences of pastors and teachers.

4.117 Smaller Conferences

Pastors and teachers are encouraged to organize smaller conferences in addition to their regular conferences and to meet for the purpose of discussing doctrinal, professional, and practical matters.

4.119 Intersynodical Conferences

Intersynodical conferences for the study of theology are desirable and are encouraged on a regular basis.

4.121 Purposes of Conferences

The official conferences of pastors and teachers shall be conducted for the spiritual and professional growth of their members. Matters pertaining to Christian doctrine and practice, to professional problems, to the proper conduct in office, to private study, to the welfare of the respective congregations and schools, to the work of the District and of the Synod, or to any other professional matter shall at all times receive due and sympathetic attention. The members of the conferences shall aim to cultivate brotherly relationship, be mutually helpful in every way possible, and encourage, instruct, and admonish one another in a spirit of sincerity and Christian love. Professional conferences have no synodical administrative functions.

conference for its teachers. Each official conference shall consist respectively of all clergymen and all teachers on the District roster and shall meet, if possible, in plenary sessions at least once each year and may meet more frequently in major sections (not more than four sections) whose geographical boundaries shall be established by the District in convention. Also such major sectional meetings shall be regarded as sessions of the official conference.

b. All clergymen and teachers on the District roster are expected to attend meetings of their official conference or present a valid excuse.

c. The plenary and the sectional meetings of both official conferences may adopt and submit overtures to the District and synodical conventions.

d. Four weeks prior to the convention of the District the minutes and essays or a reasonably comprehensive summary of the essays accepted by the pastoral conference and by the teachers conference in plenary and sectional meetings shall be submitted to a committee appointed by the District President for examination and a report to the convention.

4.113 Other Conferences

a. The official pastoral and official teachers conferences shall be encouraged to meet also jointly for the purpose of discussing doctrinal, professional, and practical matters.

b. Pastors and teachers are encouraged to organize smaller conferences in addition to their official conferences.

c. Intersynodical conferences for the study of theology are desirable and are encouraged on a regular basis.

4.115 Purposes of Conferences

(Same as present 4.121)

Action: *Adopted as amended (4).*

(The committee had added another paragraph to 4.111, but the convention removed it by amendment: "A representative from the office of the President of the Synod, together with a member of the Synod's programmatic staff, shall be in attendance for at least one of the annual meetings.")

To Change Bylaw 2.127 d

RESOLUTION 5-13

Report 11-01 (CW, p. 433)

WHEREAS, Bylaw 2.127 d does not specify the authorization for engaging an auditing firm for the tabulation of nomination results; and

WHEREAS, It is unnecessary for the chairman of the Committee on Elections to be involved in this process; therefore be it

Resolved, That we change Bylaw 2.127 d as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

d. The Secretary of the Synod together with the chairman of the Committee on Elections shall tabulate the nominations and shall report to the convention by means of the convention manual the names of all clergymen who have received at least five nominating votes for the office of President or First Vice-President.

PROPOSED WORDING

d. The Secretary of the Synod, with the approval of the synodical Board of Directors, may engage an external auditing firm to tabulate the nominations and shall report to the convention by means of the convention manual the names and tallies of all clergymen who have received nominating votes for the office of President and First Vice-President.

Action: Adopted as amended (4).

(The committee added "and tallies" and replaced "at least five" with "nominating." The amendment: "shall engage" was changed to "may engage.")

To Revise Bylaw 1.27 c (Acceptance of Overtures)

RESOLUTION 5-14

Overture 5-72 (CW, pp. 192-193)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters proposed a revision of Bylaw 1.27 c at the past two conventions of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 1.27 c be revised to read:

PRESENT WORDING

c. Overtures requesting the Synod to take action which is in conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws of the Synod or in matters for which the Constitution or Bylaws have provided specific procedures; which contain defamatory allegations; or overtures which may subject the President of the Synod or the Synod to civil actions for libel or slander, shall not be published or presented to any floor committee or to the convention; nor shall any overture be accepted with reference to any case involving suspension, expulsion, or appeals.

PROPOSED WORDING

c. Overtures with reference to a case in which a member has been suspended or expelled and which is at present in the process of or subject to appeal, as well as overtures which, upon advice of legal counsel, may subject the Synod or the corporate officers of the Synod to civil action for libel or slander, shall not be accepted for convention consideration.

Action: Adopted (7).

(Amendments to restore "which contain defamatory allegations" and "or in matters for which the Constitution or Bylaws have provided specific procedures" both failed.)

To Authorize the Secretary of the Synod to Make Available the 1969 and 1971 Election Results

RESOLUTION 5-15

Overture 5-75 (CW, p. 193)

WHEREAS, The information on the ballot tallies and records of the election committee of the 1969 and 1971 synodical conventions is available from the Secretary of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Synod be authorized to make this information available upon request.

Action: Adopted (7).

To Change Bylaw 2.127 a

RESOLUTION 5-16

Report 11-01 (CW, p. 433)

WHEREAS, Congregations sometimes have difficulty in deciding upon a single clergyman as a candidate for President or First Vice-President because of a division of opinion in the congregation; and

WHEREAS, The nomination of two clergymen by each congregation for the office of President and First Vice-President would provide the Synod with a broader indication of candidate support; therefore be it

Resolved, That we change Bylaw 2.127 a as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

2.127 Nominations for President and First Vice-President

a. Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of the Synod one clergyman as a candidate for President and one clergyman as a candidate for First Vice-President.

PROPOSED WORDING

2.127 Nominations for President and First Vice-President

a. Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of the Synod two clergymen as candidates for President and two clergymen as candidates for First Vice-President.

Action: Adopted (7).

To Retain Present Provisions re Submitting of Overtures

RESOLUTION 5-17

Overtures 5-68A-5-71C (CW, pp. 191-192)

WHEREAS, Experience has shown that interested people and groups have been able to submit overtures to the Synod by using present Bylaws; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 5-68A—F, 5-69, 5-70A—B, 5-71A—C be respectfully declined and that present provision for submitting of overtures be retained.

Action: *Adopted* (7).

(The delegates declined to consider Overture 5-68, CW, p. 191, as a substitute.)

To Decline the Matter to Redefine and Clarify the Role of the Synodical and District President

RESOLUTION 5-18

Overtures 5-93A—5-96 (CW, pp. 197—198)

WHEREAS, The convention has been asked to redefine and clarify the offices of both the synodical President and the District President; and

WHEREAS, A resolution of these issues would require study and consideration of the relationship between these offices and their effect upon other offices in the Synod; and

WHEREAS, These issues properly belong to the assignments given directly to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 5-93A—B and 5-94—5-96 be declined; and be it further

Resolved, That the issues addressed by these overtures be referred to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure for their consideration and recommendation to the 1979 synodical convention.

Action: *Adopted as amended* (7).

(Amendment: remove "possible" from "possible recommendation.")

To Recommend Bylaw Changes for Election of Delegates and Voting Privileges

RESOLUTION 5-19

Overtures 5-46A—5-62, 5-64—5-67 (CW, pp. 186—191)

WHEREAS, A task force to study and propose revision of the Constitution, Bylaws, and organizational structure of the Synod has been established (Anaheim Res. 5-01A); and

WHEREAS, It would seem, therefore, that decisions to change the Bylaws with regard to the election of delegates and voting privileges, at this time, would be premature because of the above-noted responsibilities of the task force; therefore be it

Resolved, That the concerns of Overtures 5-46A—5-62 and 5-64—5-67 be referred to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure for their consideration and possible recommendation; and be it further

Resolved, That the procedures of electing lay and pastoral delegates be considered; and be it finally

Resolved, That the task force also be directed to give

attention to the question of giving advisory delegates a vote and to the question of equalizing this vote with a proportionate amount of lay voting representation.

Action: *Adopted* (7).

("Matter" was changed to "question" by common consent. It was pointed out in response to a question that Bylaw 1.53 as amended by Res. 5-08 would prevail until a convention revises it.)

To Refer Limitation of Size of Conventions to Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure

RESOLUTION 5-20

Overtures 5-42—5-44 (CW, pp. 183—185)

WHEREAS, A task force to study and propose revision of the Constitution, Bylaws, and organizational structure of the Synod has been established (Anaheim Res. 5-01A); and

WHEREAS, It would therefore seem that decisions to limit the size of conventions at this time would be premature because of the above-mentioned responsibilities of the task force; therefore be it

Resolved, That the concerns expressed in Overtures 5-42, 5-43, and 5-44 be referred to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure for their consideration and recommendation.

Action: *Adopted* (7).

To Refer the Question of Cumulative Voting

RESOLUTION 5-21

Overture 5-77 (CW, p. 194)

WHEREAS, Cumulative voting has been suggested as a helpful process in assuring that the voice of the minority may be heard on an elective board, commission, or council; therefore be it

Resolved, That we refer this question to the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure for their consideration.

Action: *Declined* (11).

(In Session 7 the delegates declined to consider a substitute motion to approve cumulative voting. It did amend the resolution in Session 11 by substituting "has been suggested as" for "could be" and "question" for "matter." After declining to consider Overture 5-77, CW, page 194, as a substitute, the delegates also declined the amended resolution.)

To Change Bylaw 2.129 f (Amending Slates)

RESOLUTION 5-22

Report 11-01 (CW, p. 433)

WHEREAS, The present form of Bylaw 1.29 f does not offer sufficient protection against electioneering on the floor of the synodical convention; and

WHEREAS, Much time could be expended in debating an amendment to the slate of candidates for election as presented by the Committee on Elections; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 2.129 f be changed as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

2.129 Candidates for the Office of President and First Vice-President

f. The convention shall have the right to alter each slate at the proper time by amendment. Any delegate making a nomination from the floor shall have secured prior written consent of the candidate whom he wishes to nominate. Such delegate shall immediately submit to the Secretary of the Synod this document and written pertinent information concerning his nominee as detailed in 2.129 e.

PROPOSED WORDING

2.129 Candidates for the Office of President and First Vice-President

f. The convention shall have the right to alter each slate at the proper time by amendment. The amendment procedure shall include merely a motion, a second, and a vote on the amendment, deliberately excluding verbal characterizations and discussion of the motion (except for the chair to ascertain that the requirements have been met as to eligibility, consent, and the filing of the biographical form). Any delegate making a nomination from the floor shall have secured prior written consent of the candidate whom he wishes to nominate. Such delegate shall immediately submit to the Secretary of the Synod this document and written pertinent information concerning his nominee as detailed in 2.129 e.

Action: Adopted (11).

To Decline Action on Relationship of Congregations to the Synod

RESOLUTION 5-23

Overtures 5-102A—E, 5-103 (CW, pp. 199—201)

WHEREAS, The Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure in its progress report to the Dallas convention (CW, pp. 173—174) specifically deals with the nature of a Christian congregation and its relation to the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force is encouraging comment and evaluation of its report by congregations and individuals; therefore be it

Resolved, That those who have submitted Overtures 5-102A—E and 5-103 be encouraged to share their concerns directly with the Task Force.

Action: Adopted (11).

To Decline Overture 5-101 Concerning Purpose of Council of Presidents Meeting

RESOLUTION 5-24

Overture 5-101 (CW, p. 199)

WHEREAS, Overture 5-101 concerns functions of the Council of Presidents which are adequately defined in

applicable Bylaws pertaining to the Council of Presidents, *Handbook* 3.53 a—c; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overture 5-101.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Follow Handbook Procedures for Filing Charges

RESOLUTION 5-25

Overture 5-112 (CW, p. 205)

WHEREAS, This overture properly calls attention to certain vital concerns; and

WHEREAS, There may be additional concerns which need to be met in specific instances; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 1977 convention concur with the basic concerns of this overture, with the reminder that members of the Synod observe Scriptural and *Handbook* requirements in dealing with one another in an evangelical, loving Spirit.

Action: Adopted (11).

To Decline to Deal with Certain District Presidents and Officials

RESOLUTION 5-26

Overtures 5-98A—C (CW, p. 198)

WHEREAS, A structure exists for the removal and replacement of District officials which under Overtures 5-98A—C would be substantially changed; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure has been created for the purpose of the consideration of such changes; and

WHEREAS, There seems to be a need for further clarification of certain relationships as indicated by Overtures 5-98A—C; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 5-98A—C be respectfully declined; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure be requested to describe more precisely the relationship between the Synod and its District Presidents and to provide more adequate procedures for dealing with differences between the two when they arise.

Action: Adopted (11).

To Decline to Revise Procedure for Electing District Presidents

RESOLUTION 5-27

Overture 5-99 (CW, p. 199)

WHEREAS, A "District is the Synod itself performing the functions of the Synod" (*Handbook* 3.07 a); and

WHEREAS, "Each District President by virtue of his office represents the Synod in his respective territory" (*Handbook* 3.41); and

WHEREAS, The present process for the election of District Presidents has served the Synod with effectiveness and has been a blessing to the church, allowing local congregations to exercise a voice; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 5-99 be respectfully declined at this time but that the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure be requested to study this matter.

Action: Adopted (11).

To Decline Overture "To Require Loyal Officers and Appointees"

RESOLUTION 5-28

Overtures 5-79A—5-82 (CW, pp. 194—195)

WHEREAS, All synodical officials are expected to respect all resolutions of the Synod (Art. XI, B, 4; Art. XII, 9, a; Bylaw 1.09 b and Bylaw 109 c); therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 5-79A—C, 5-80, 5-81, and 5-82 be declined.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Caution re Property Division in Congregations

RESOLUTION 5-29

Overture 5-113 (CW, p. 205)

WHEREAS, Concern is expressed in this overture as to the disposition of congregational property in the event of a division of a congregation; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage all congregations to review their constitutions regarding the disposition of congregational property in the event of such a division and that the congregations seek legal aid and seek advice from their District or the Synod to help resolve these concerns.

Action: Adopted as amended (11).

(Before amendment the resolve had read: "That we encourage congregations which have such concerns to review. . .")

To Decline Elimination of Bylaw 2.127 e (Circularizing)

RESOLUTION 5-30

Overtures 5-83, 5-84 (CW, p. 195)

WHEREAS, Anaheim Res. 3-06, referred to in Overture 5-84, addresses itself to comments and criticisms of groups in the Synod in general matters, but Bylaw 2.127 e speaks specifically on the subject of circularizing the Synod concerning the nominations of President and Vice-President; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 2.127 e has served a useful purpose in the past; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 5-83 and 5-84 be respectfully declined.

Action: Adopted (11).

(The convention declined to consider a substitute resolution to accept Overture 5-84 and to eliminate Bylaw 2.127 e.)

To Decline to Limit Effectiveness Period of Resolution

RESOLUTION 5-31

Overture 5-87 (CW, p. 196)

WHEREAS, The implementation of Overture 5-87 would be impractical and cumbersome when applied to all resolutions; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline this overture.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Decline to Review Election Procedures at Anaheim

RESOLUTION 5-32

Overture 5-76 (CW, pp. 193—194)

WHEREAS, Overture 5-76 does not offer facts to substantiate the charges of improper electioneering at the Anaheim convention; therefore be it

Resolved, That we decline this overture.

Action: Adopted (16).

(Discussion had started on this resolution in Session 11.)

To Decline to Give Voting Privileges to ALC Pastors Serving LCMS Congregations

RESOLUTION 5-33

Overture 5-63 (CW, p. 190)

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Synod sets the standard for membership and voting privileges in the Synod (Art. V, VI); therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 5-63 be respectfully declined.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Decline to Make Laymen Eligible for All Synodical Offices

RESOLUTION 5-34

Overtures 5-74A—B (CW, p. 193)

WHEREAS, Our present system of electing synodical officials has proven to be beneficial and workable; and

WHEREAS, The interaction of the President, Vice-Presidents, and Secretary involve the chief executives of other church bodies who are clergymen; and

WHEREAS, Their assignments within the church call for a high degree of theological competency, for which pastors are especially trained; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overtures 5-74A—B.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Decline Overture 5-100 (Ohio District Resolution)

RESOLUTION 5-35

Overture 5-100 (CW, p. 199)

WHEREAS, The situation presented in Overture 5-100 is no longer relevant; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overture 5-100.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Decline to Postpone Reorganization

RESOLUTION 5-36

Overture 5-115 (CW, p. 206)

WHEREAS, The Synod does not intend to act on the matter of reorganization and redistricting at the Dallas convention; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure has been requested to submit their report at the 1979 synodical convention; therefore be it

Resolved, That we decline Overture 5-115.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Decline Ratification of Convention Resolutions by Congregations

RESOLUTION 5-37

Overture 5-88 (CW, p. 196)

WHEREAS, Implementation of Overture 5-88 would be cumbersome, difficult, expensive, and time consuming; therefore be it

Resolved, That this overture be respectfully declined.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Decline to Affirm San Francisco Night Ministry

RESOLUTION 5-38

Overture 5-111 (CW, pp. 204—205)

WHEREAS, The California and Nevada District has expressed a concern about a ruling of the Commission on Constitutional Matters relative to said District's San Francisco Night Ministry; and

WHEREAS, The convention Floor Committee 5—Committee on Constitutional Matters has been informed that this concern has been resolved; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overture 5-111.

Action: Adopted (16).

6. HIGHER EDUCATION

To Encourage Recruitment for the Parish Ministry

RESOLUTION 6-01

Overtures 6-89A—6-90 (CW, p. 258)

WHEREAS, The need for pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continues to grow as evidenced by parish vacancies; and

WHEREAS, Parish pastors are effective recruiters for the parish ministry; and

WHEREAS, The future of the congregation is vitally affected by shortage of qualified pastors; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education give priority to a program of assisting parish pastors in developing a program of recruitment for the parish ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregation recognize its responsibility to encourage young men to prepare for the pastoral ministry; and be it finally

Resolved, That the congregation strongly consider providing substantial financial aid to each of its sons entering the pastoral ministry training program.

Action: Adopted (2).

To Provide for Adequate Faculty Salaries

RESOLUTION 6-02

Overture 6-27A—D (CW, p. 240)

WHEREAS, The Synod has established seminaries and colleges to train servants for the church; and

WHEREAS, The institutions so established endeavor to provide the best training for future servants of the church; and

WHEREAS, To fulfill this sacred obligation, it is important that they engage the best teaching talent available; and

WHEREAS, The seminaries in particular need to have on their staffs successful parish pastors and Christian educators, who are able by their experience, as well as their academic abilities, to bring to future pastors of our Synod the training so vital; and

WHEREAS, Our institutions often find it very difficult to offer salaries and other compensations that compare favorably with salaries offered by congregations and other comparable institutions; and

WHEREAS, Potential professors, teachers, and administrators are often placed in a position where their acceptance of a call to our institutions means a significant cut in salary; and

WHEREAS, The church is concerned for the welfare of our present staffs, who have labored with love during this inflationary period; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education

develop a salary schedule which will provide for an orderly means of salary increases and benefits over a 2-year period, to a level equal to or higher than competing positions in the parish ministry and/or other comparable seminaries and colleges; and be it further

Resolved, That yearly adjustments to this schedule continue to be provided which take into consideration the present inflationary trend; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors continue this as one of their top priorities when dealing with budget matters.

Action: Adopted (2).

(The committee substituted "two" for "four" year period, "continue" for "consider," and dropped the final words: "in the next four years." By common consent Christian educators were added to the fourth whereas. An amendment that the Board of Directors consider this as their top priority failed.)

To Have Senior College Board of Control Discontinue to Function

RESOLUTION 6-03A

Overture 6-68 (CW, p. 251)

WHEREAS, Concordia Senior College was officially closed as of June 30, 1977; and

WHEREAS, The technicalities and details of the closing were carefully outlined and followed in effecting the closing of the Senior College; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 6-68 be respectfully declined and Resolution 6-03 be withdrawn.

Action: Adopted (2).

(Res. 6-03 had proposed that the Board of Control continue to function.)

To Regularize Saskatoon Arrangements in Bylaws

RESOLUTION 6-04A

Overtures 6-57A—B, 6-59A—6-61, 6-67 (CW, pp. 248—249, 251)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, Sask. (jointly operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada and the Lutheran Church in America—Canada Section), has welcomed the placement of professors from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod on its faculty; and

WHEREAS, Our Synod has placed one professor on that faculty (Milwaukee convention, 1971); and

WHEREAS, The Board for Higher Education was requested by the Anaheim convention to "develop a procedure to endorse candidates from the Saskatoon seminary that is consistent with the Constitution of the LCMS and to develop policy statements in consultation with Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, for

the training of LCMS pastors at Saskatoon, and that these be presented to the next synodical convention"; and

WHEREAS, The need for pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continues to grow, particularly in Canada; and

WHEREAS, In the past, Saskatoon graduate pastoral candidates have fully met the requirements for placement in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, There is a continuing concern that our pastoral candidates receive sound theological training; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following Bylaw addition be made concerning the synodical involvement with Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon as a temporary expedient to regularize arrangements in the Bylaws:

6.171 Canadian Theological Program at Saskatoon

a. The Board for Higher Education shall appoint a person to the faculty of Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada, to serve as a professor of theology and adviser to students who desire to enter the pastoral ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

b. This appointment shall require the approval of the president of the seminary.

c. The term of the appointment and the conditions of service, including compensation, shall be established by the Board for Higher Education in consultation with the president of the seminary.

d. The ranking and academic assignments of the faculty member shall be determined by the governing board of the seminary in consultation with the Board for Higher Education.

e. Students enrolled at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Saskatoon, Sask., Canada, who desire to enter the pastoral ministry of the Synod shall from the time of enrollment seek the guidance of the faculty adviser appointed by the Board for Higher Education.

f. To receive an internship (vicarage) assignment in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a student at this seminary shall—

1. be certified by the faculty of the seminary as academically qualified;

2. be examined and found qualified for internship placement in a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation by a Board of Examiners consisting of the presidents of the Canadian Districts of the Synod and the designated synodical member of the faculty; and

3. be recommended by the synodical professor to the Council of Presidents acting as the Board of Assignments.

g. To be accepted into the pastoral ministry of the Synod and to receive placement, a candidate shall—

1. be certified by the faculty of the seminary as academically qualified;

2. be examined and found qualified by a Board of Examiners consisting of the presidents of the Canadian Districts of the Synod and the designated synodical member of the faculty; and

3. be recommended by the synodical professor to the Council of Presidents acting as the Board of Assignments.

and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education

restudy the arrangement with Saskatoon and report to the 1979 convention of the Synod.

Action: Replaced (see below).

To Provide Temporary Arrangement for the Endorsement of Canadian Students at Saskatoon

RESOLUTION 6-04B

Overtures 6-57A—B, 6-59A—6-61, 6-67 (CW, pp. 248—249, 251)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (jointly operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada and the Lutheran Church in America—Canada Section), has welcomed the placement of professors from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod on its faculty; and

WHEREAS, Our Synod has placed one professor on that faculty (Milwaukee convention, 1971); and

WHEREAS, The Board for Higher Education was requested by the Anaheim convention to "develop a procedure to endorse candidates from the Saskatoon seminary that is consistent with the Constitution of the LCMS and to develop policy statements in consultation with Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, for the training of LCMS pastors at Saskatoon, and that these be presented to the next synodical convention"; and

WHEREAS, The need for pastors in the LCMS continues to grow, particularly in Canada; and

WHEREAS, In the past, Saskatoon graduate pastoral candidates have fully met the requirements for placement in the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, There is a continuing concern that our pastoral candidates receive sound theological training; therefore be it

Resolved, That present *Handbook* provisions notwithstanding, the following arrangements be made concerning the synodical involvement with Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, as a temporary expedient:

1. The Board for Higher Education shall appoint a person to the faculty of Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada, to serve as a professor of theology and adviser to students who desire to enter the pastoral ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;

2. This appointment shall require the approval of the president of the seminary;

3. The term of the appointment and the conditions of service, including compensation, shall be established by the Board for Higher Education in consultation with the president of the seminary;

4. The ranking and academic assignments of the faculty member shall be determined by the governing board of the seminary in consultation with the Board for Higher Education;

5. Students enrolled at Lutheran Theological

Seminary at Saskatoon, Sask., Canada, who desire to enter the pastoral ministry of the Synod shall from the time of enrollment seek the guidance of the faculty adviser appointed by the Board for Higher Education;

6. To receive an internship (vicarage) assignment in the LCMS, a student at this seminary shall:

- a. be endorsed by the faculty of the seminary as academically qualified;
- b. be examined and endorsed for internship placement in a LCMS congregation by a board of examiners consisting of the Presidents of the Canadian Districts of the Synod, the designated synodical member of the faculty, and a member of the Colloquy Board for the Pastoral Office of the Synod; and
- c. be recommended by the synodical professor to the Council of Presidents acting as the Board of Assignments;

7. To be accepted into the pastoral ministry of the Synod and to receive placement, a candidate shall:

- a. be endorsed by the faculty of the seminary as academically qualified;
- b. be examined and endorsed by a board of examiners consisting of the Presidents of the Canadian Districts of the Synod, the designated synodical member of the faculty, and a member of the Colloquy Board for the Pastoral Office of the Synod; and
- c. be recommended by the synodical professor to the Council of Presidents acting as the Board of Assignments;

and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education restudy the arrangement with Saskatoon and report to the 1979 convention of the Synod.

Action: Adopted (8).

(Committee 6 had replaced 6-04 with 6-04A, "To Regularize Saskatoon Arrangements in Bylaws." A motion was made and seconded in Session 2 to eliminate the first resolve with its proposed Bylaws, leaving only the second resolve, which asked the BHE to restudy the Saskatoon arrangement. The motion failed to carry. In Session 8 the convention permitted the committee to present Res. 6-04B as a substitute. The principal change lay in substituting temporary arrangements for proposed Bylaws. Favorable action followed.)

To Provide for Canadian Operation of Concordia College, Edmonton

RESOLUTION 6-05A

Overtures 6-62—6-66C (CW, pp. 249—251)

Resolved, That Overture 6-65A be adopted as stated:

WHEREAS, The 1962 convention of the Synod resolved that the plans and problems necessary for the development of an indigenous Canadian ministry require that the future of Edmonton (Concordia) be considered apart from the long-range plans for the synodical schools in the United States (Res. 1-16, Proposition Twenty-two, 1962 *Proceedings*, p. 78); and

WHEREAS, The Board for Higher Education and the Concordia College, Edmonton, Board of Control have applied this planning and operating principles for the past 15 years and have seen the school thrive and expand in its service to the church in Canada; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Control with the support of the Alberta and British Columbia District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has determined that the conditions in church and state are such as to require Canadian control of Concordia College in order to maximize its contribution to church and society; therefore be it

Resolved, That Concordia College, Edmonton, Alta., Canada, become a church-affiliated college owned by the LCMS Alberta and British Columbia District and governed by the Alberta and British Columbia and the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Districts of the LCMS until otherwise determined by the LCMS in convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education in consultation with the Board of Control develop and implement such policies, regulations, and procedures as will provide for the orderly assumption of governance and support of Concordia College, Edmonton, by the appropriate Canadian authorities.

Action: Adopted (8).

(The committee inserted "Alberta and British Columbia District" after "LCMS" in the first resolve.)

To Respond to Requests to Move to 4-Year College Status

RESOLUTION 6-06A

Overtures 6-76—6-77, 6-111U (CW, pp. 253—254; TB, pp. 18—19)

WHEREAS, Various synodical junior colleges have expressed the desire to study and move toward 4-year status; and

WHEREAS, Concordia College of Portland has submitted detailed studies demonstrating spatial, educational, and fiscal preparation to move to 4-year status, thereby meeting specific criteria for a move to such 4-year status, such as geographic considerations and density of Lutheran population, as outlined in Anaheim Res. 6-07A; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Higher Education has appointed a planning committee to assess the entire system of seminaries and colleges and the effects of change upon that system; therefore be it

Resolved, That permission be granted to Concordia, Portland, to move to 4-year status with subsidy to be determined according to synodical formula but not to exceed the current dollar level of synodical subsidy and with no direct contributions from the respective District treasuries; and be it further

Resolved, That there be careful cost accounting in identifying costs of non-church worker programs; and be it further



The Foresters of CTC, River Forest

Resolved, That the BHE be charged with preparing a systemwide model of higher education during the next biennium and that in the preparation of this model:

a. The Planning Committee of the BHE include consideration of the reports of the Task Force to Consider Restructuring the Synod's System of Higher Education and of the schools of the system; and

b. The BHE be directed to engage a consultant to be responsible to the Planning Committee of the BHE (see Bylaw 6.05 e); and

c. The Planning Committee of the BHE consider pertinent data from the Boards of Missions, Stewardship, and Parish Education insofar as it applies to the personnel and financial requirements of the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the BHE give endorsement to the 4-year status of other junior colleges during the next biennium in accord with *Handbook* 6.05 r only if the systemwide model warrants; and be it finally

Resolved, That the BHE share the report of the Planning Committee, together with actions and recommendations, with the Synod in the 1979 convention.

Action: Adopted (10).

(The convention declined to consider a substitute resolution offered by the Board for Higher Education. It also declined to delete the second resolve or to recommit. Since the resolution dealt essentially with two issues, the creation of a special planning committee to develop a systemwide model and the change of status for Portland from a 2-year to a 4-year college, each issue was discussed and voted on individually. The convention approved both, thereby adopting Res. 6-06A as presented.)

To Further Develop Christ College Irvine

RESOLUTION 6-07A

Overtures 6-76—6-77, 6-111U (CW, pp. 253—254, TB, pp. 18—19)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

has opened a new 4-year college in Irvine, Calif., on Sept. 26, 1976, to prepare pastors, teachers, and other church workers for our church, which has become a continuing cause of rejoicing for our congregations in the western states; and

WHEREAS, Christ College Irvine has been granted recognition by the state of California as a 4-year degree-granting institution and further has received "candidate" status for accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges; and

WHEREAS, Student recruitment efforts have indicated a Sept. 1977 enrollment of 106; therefore be it

Resolved, That we affirm the Anaheim Res. 6-08A, 7, to continue to develop Christ College Irvine; and be it further

Resolved, That we honor and uphold New Orleans Res. 6-31 by designating for Christ College Irvine \$750,000 from the remaining funds in the 125th Thankoffering not designated for other purposes by the donors, making a total of \$3,500,000 which the Synod will have invested in this project; and be it further

Resolved, That this action shall fully satisfy the requirements of New Orleans Res. 6-31; and be it further

Resolved, That the convention expect the fellow Christians of the Southern California District and the western states to raise an additional \$500,000, following the example of other Districts, so that the second building of this program can proceed; and be it finally

Resolved, That the approval of drawings and actual cost of the facilities and any funding for future requirements proceed through normal synodical channels.

Action: Adopted (10).

(Consideration began in Session 8. An amendment was offered to insert "from its supporters and its foundation" after "\$500,000" in the fourth resolve, and to have the final resolve begin with the words, "That the viability and future development of Christ College Irvine, including the approval. . . ." An amendment to the amendment in Session 10 asked for the addition of "and from borrowed funds" after "foundation." The delegates declined both the amendment to the amendment and the amendment and adopted the resolution as presented. In Session 14 it was reported that the Board of Directors had asked for an interpretation of the word "raise," since the convention had turned down several amendments which seemed to leave unanswered whether the \$500,000 to be "raised" by local supporters could include also borrowed funds. The delegates resolved that borrowing should be permitted under the concept of "raising" by declining an amendment which would have stated "from its supporters and its foundation and not from borrowed funds.")

To Retain Endorsement Procedures and to Expand Involvement in Placement Procedure

RESOLUTION 6-08

Overtures 6-36—6-40, 6-46—6-49, (CW, pp. 242—247)

WHEREAS, The faculties of the Synod's two seminaries and the Colloquy Board for the Pastoral Office have been conscientious in carrying out their

responsibilities to determine whether a given individual is indeed qualified in every respect for the ministry of Word and Sacrament; and

WHEREAS, It would be poor stewardship of time and effort to assign this responsibility to a new board or committee because of the excessive amount of time required of those serving on such a board or committee if the assignment is to be carried out in a responsible way and because the faculties are uniquely qualified to determine the fitness for ministry of candidates with whom they have had regular contact over a 4-year period; and

WHEREAS, There is valid concern for additional involvement by the Council of Presidents in placement procedures; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod make no changes in present procedures for endorsement (Bylaw 4.15 a, 1 and 2); and be it further

Resolved, That each member of the Board of Assignments be consulted regarding candidates being recommended for placement in his District, and that their suggestions and recommendations be a part of the final recommendation to the plenary Board of Assignments; and be it fully

Resolved, That the Commission on Constitutional Matters be directed to make the necessary changes in the synodical *Handbook* to reflect this change in procedure.

Action: Adopted (11).

(The delegates refused to consider Overture 6-46, CW, p. 245, as a substitute resolution.)

To Encourage Seminex Graduates to Seek Endorsement

RESOLUTION 6-09

Overtures 6-32—6-35, 6-41—6-45 (CW, pp. 241—242, 244—245)

WHEREAS, Concern continues to be expressed over the nonendorsement of Seminex graduates; and

WHEREAS, Special procedures in keeping with the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod were devised in the spring of 1974 for the 1974 graduates from Seminex and were extended to the 1975 graduates of Seminex; and

WHEREAS, The vast majority of Seminex graduates who availed themselves of this procedure were endorsed for the pastoral ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, In response to overtures to the 1975 convention, the delegates to the Anaheim convention adopted a procedure whereby Seminex graduates of 1974, 1975, and 1976 could be endorsed under colloquy procedures; and

WHEREAS, In establishing procedures for endorsement by colloquy the delegates provided a special

procedure for Seminex graduates whereby they are excused from some colloquy requirements; and

WHEREAS, Nearly all Seminex applicants who have applied under the colloquy procedure have been endorsed; and

WHEREAS, District Presidents and others of the candidates' choosing have been invited to participate and have in fact assisted the Colloquy Board in the interview process; and

WHEREAS, The Colloquy Board has, in exceptional cases and in the interest of pastoral care, excused some 1976 Seminex graduates from a major portion of the colloquy requirements (see 4.61 d); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention assembled once more indicate, in a spirit of mutual repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation, the fervent desire of the Synod to do whatever is possible in finding a God-pleasing solution that will enable these men to serve joyfully in the ministry of the LCMS and therefore invite the graduates of Seminex who have not been endorsed to follow the synodically adopted procedures of the covenant which the members of the Synod made with one another and to request admission to the pastoral ministry of the Synod by making their desire known to the Colloquy Board for the Pastoral Office; and be it further

Resolved, That the Colloquy Board be commended for and be encouraged to continue utilizing the assistance of qualified persons in conducting the oral examinations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Colloquy Board be encouraged to continue to use the flexibility of the present *Handbook* procedures in determining the length of the course of study required of 1976 and 1977 Seminex graduates; and be it finally

Resolved, That for Seminex graduates applying for colloquy after January 1, 1978, the exceptional procedures designed for them by the 1975 convention and by this resolution shall ordinarily be discontinued and the regular colloquy procedures observed.

Action: Adopted (11).

(Before adopting this resolution the convention declined the following amendments:

1. To change the 3rd resolve to read: "... course of study required, if any, of Seminex graduates and that any residency study previously and successfully completed at any one of the Synod's recognized seminaries be credited in the colloquy procedure."
2. To substitute "at the time of the convening of the 1979 synodical convention" for "after January 1, 1978," in the final resolve.
3. To delete from the first resolve the words, "in a spirit of mutual repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation."
4. To add a final resolve: "That the Colloquy Board, when dealing with Seminex graduates who have applied for colloquy, be called upon to include in its process, with vote, the following: the District President under whose supervision and pastoral concern the candidate has placed himself, and a pastor, teacher, or professor in good standing in the LCMS of the candidate's choosing."

During the debate a call for the question was declined once.)

To Decline Changes in Colloquy Procedures

RESOLUTION 6-10

Overtures 6-50, 6-52, 6-109 (CW, pp. 247, 262—263)

WHEREAS, The present *Handbook* provisions are adequate; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 6-50, 6-52, and 6-109 be respectfully declined.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Decline Investigation of Concordia, Seward

RESOLUTION 6-11A

Overtures 6-69—6-70 (CW, p. 252)

WHEREAS, The Board of Control, the administration, and the faculty of Concordia Teachers College, Seward, are meeting the concerns expressed in Overture 6-70 and will continue to deal with them; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Higher Education on Sept. 25, 1976, directed each Board of Control to deal with the concerns expressed in Overture 6-69; therefore be it

Resolved, That no further action be taken.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Study Deaconess Training Program

RESOLUTION 6-12

Overtures 6-92A—M, 6-94, 6-96 (CW, pp. 259—260)

WHEREAS, The ministry of deaconess is an important one in our Synod; and

WHEREAS, The deaconess should have the best possible training; and

WHEREAS, Concerns have been raised with the various aspects of the program; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education be directed to conduct a study to determine the best situation for the future training, colloquy, and placement of deaconesses; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education report to the 1979 synodical convention with concrete recommendations.

Action: Adopted as amended (14).

(This action was taken after declining to consider a substitute motion to establish a deaconess program at Ann Arbor or River Forest. The committee added "placement" and the convention "colloquy" by amendment.)

To Dispose of Oakland Campus

RESOLUTION 6-13

Overture 6-78 (CW, p. 255)

WHEREAS, Anaheim Res 6-08A (Resolve 7) states—

... we respectfully request that the Board of Directors of the Synod use the proceeds from any sale of surplus educational property (except for that property being used by Concordia High School in Oakland) in California for capital improvements at Christ College Irvine;

and

WHEREAS, The property used by Concordia High School in Oakland, Calif., is being used according to lease which is in effect until July 1, 1978; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Synod be respectfully requested to dispose of the Oakland campus in accord with Anaheim Res. 6-08A as soon as feasible; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Synod be authorized to discuss with the California and Nevada District Board of Directors their request for the educational building on the Oakland campus, with authority to take appropriate action.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Retain Present Eligibility Standards for Membership on Board of Control

RESOLUTION 6-14

Overture 6-25 (CW, p. 240)

WHEREAS, Bylaw 6.25 d stipulates that membership on Boards of Control "shall be broadly representative of the Synod"; and

WHEREAS, This time-honored custom has served the Synod well and enables Boards of Control to keep the best interests of the entire Synod foremost; therefore be it

Resolved, That the present eligibility standards for membership on Boards of Control be retained, and Overture 6-25 be respectfully declined.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Provide for Nonreappointment Notice

RESOLUTION 6-15

Overture 6-29 (CW, p. 241)

WHEREAS, Current academic procedure usually provides that notice of nonreappointment to the faculty of an educational institution be given no less than 12 months prior to the expiration of the individual's contract; and

WHEREAS, The Association of Theological Schools, the accrediting agency for the Synod's two seminaries, has modified its accepted practice to provide that "at least twelve months prior to the expiration of the last year of the probationary period notice should be given whether or not the faculty member is to be continued in service"; and

WHEREAS, It is highly desirable that the educational institutions of the Synod follow accepted academic practices in this regard; and

WHEREAS, It should be possible to protect the interest of the Synod as well as provide for the welfare of the faculty member involved by giving such notice a year in advance of the expiration of the individual's contract in cases in which he is nearing the end of his probationary period; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be revised as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

6.53 Appointment of Members of the Faculty

e. The Board of Control may decline to renew the appointment of a faculty member without tenure at its discretion and without formal statement of cause. If reappointment to the teaching staff is not contemplated, the Board of Control shall so notify the faculty member through the president of the institution at least 6 months prior to the expiration of the current appointment.

6.54 Permanent Tenure

b. If a faculty member has completed 5 years of creditable service (periods of leave are not included) as a member of the faculty of one or more educational institutions of the Synod of collegiate or seminary level, at least the last 2 years of which shall have been in the institution he is currently serving, and has not been granted permanent tenure, the president is obligated to take up the question of permanent tenure with the Board of Control. The Board of Control shall either carry forward the procedure for granting permanent tenure or inform the faculty member of its decision not to grant tenure and thus terminate his contract at least 6 months before the expiration of the 6th year of service. If the Board of Control does not take up the question of permanent tenure at least 9 months prior to the end of the 6th year of service, the faculty member shall petition the Board of Control to take up the question of permanent tenure. Tenure may be granted only by direct action of the Board of Control.

PROPOSED WORDING

6.53 Appointment of Members of the Faculty

e. The Board of Control may decline to renew the appointment of a faculty member without tenure at its discretion and without formal statement of cause. If reappointment to the teaching staff is not contemplated, the Board of Control shall so notify the faculty member through the president of the institution at least 6 months prior to the expiration of the current appointment. In the case of individuals under consideration for permanent tenure (6.54 b) such notice of nonreappointment shall be made at least 12 months before the expiration of the current appointment.

6.54 Permanent Tenure

b. If a faculty member has completed 5 years of creditable service (periods of leave are not included) as a member of the faculty of one or more educational institutions of the Synod of collegiate or seminary level, at least the last 2 years of which shall have been in the institution he is currently serving, and has not been granted permanent tenure, the president is obligated to take up the question of permanent tenure with the Board of Control. The Board of Control shall either carry forward the procedure for granting permanent tenure or inform the faculty member of its decision not to grant tenure and thus terminate his contract. In cases in which the decision is made to terminate the individual's contract, the contract shall be extended for one year beyond the time at which notice is given. If the Board of Control does not take up the question of permanent tenure at least 9 months prior to the end of the sixth year of service, the faculty member shall petition the Board of Control to take up the question of permanent tenure. Tenure may be granted only by direct action of the Board of Control.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Remove Overlap and Ambiguities of Section VI of *Handbook*

RESOLUTION 6-16

Overture 6-103 (CW, p. 261)

WHEREAS, There is considerable overlap and ambiguity in the responsibilities assigned to the Board for Higher Education, the Board of Control, and the faculties of synodical institutions in Section VI of the *Handbook*, particularly Bylaws 6.03, 6.05, 6.37, 6.39, 6.61, and 6.63; and

WHEREAS, Such overlap of responsibilities and ambiguities has sometimes created difficulties; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure is already at work; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure be directed to study carefully

Section VI of the *Handbook* to remove undesirable overlap of responsibilities and ambiguities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force be directed to consult with knowledgeable individuals, so that proposed changes do not jeopardize the accreditation of the synodical institutions.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Explore Sources of Funding for Training Future Faculty Members

RESOLUTION 6-17

Overture 6-28 (CW, pp. 240–241)

WHEREAS, A church body which expects to meet the challenging opportunities for greater service in the

future will give attention to the training of future faculty members for its colleges and seminaries; and

WHEREAS, There are potential candidates for such advance training among the graduates of our colleges and seminaries as well as among our professional church workers already in service; and

WHEREAS, The demands made upon the synodical treasury are such that it is highly unlikely that funds can be made available in the foreseeable future for each specialized training; therefore be it

Resolved, That the administrators of our colleges and seminaries, in cooperation with the Board for Higher Education and interested, qualified individuals, be encouraged to solicit fellowship or scholarship funds from other sources such as foundations and benevolent associations.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Recruit and Train Pastors to the Deaf

RESOLUTION 6-18

Overture 6-91 (CW, pp. 258—259)

WHEREAS, The Synod has recognized the outpouring of God's blessing for more than 80 years on the ministry to the deaf, resulting in 54 organized congregations and many related ministries; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has encouraged Districts to assume responsibility for administration of ministry to the deaf (1973 *Proceedings*, Res. 1-01); and

WHEREAS, It will be an impossible task for Districts to recruit and train pastors to fill vacancies in the deaf congregations and to expand into new areas; and

WHEREAS, The present methods of recruitment and training have not provided enough pastors to fill current vacancies in deaf congregations, nor are the Districts able to open new fields to reach more of the 400,000 deaf of the United States (1970 census); and

WHEREAS, The time has come for a more concerted effort to recruit and train pastors for ministry to the deaf at our synodical schools; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod recognize its continuing responsibility to recruit and train pastors for ministry to the deaf; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education, the Board for Missions, and the administration of the seminaries establish a more aggressive recruitment and training program at the seminary level with adequate funding and with qualified personnel.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Encourage but Not Require Parish Experience for College and Seminary Professors

RESOLUTION 6-19

Overture 6-31 (CW, p. 241)

WHEREAS, It is highly desirable for professors and

teachers in our colleges and seminaries to have the benefit of actual service in parishes; and

WHEREAS, The imposition of rigid regulations requiring a specified period of time of service in parish ministry in order to qualify for teaching in our synodical schools could sometimes become unduly burdensome and restrictive; therefore be it

Resolved, That the administrators and Boards of Control be encouraged to continue to give high priority to parish experiences when considering the qualifications of prospective candidates; and be it further

Resolved, That the imposition of the specific requirements spelled out in Overture 6-31 be respectfully declined.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Expand Continuing Education

RESOLUTION 6-20

Overtures 6-100—6-102 (CW, p. 261)

WHEREAS, The ministry of all professional church workers continues to change and become more complex; and

WHEREAS, Continuing professional education is a valuable asset in performing this ministry; and

WHEREAS, In the past such continuing education has been sought by only a small percentage of total number of church workers; and

WHEREAS, It is important that the Synod continue to provide a strong, sound theological leadership to the church, its pastors and teachers, all other professional workers, and the entire membership; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education through the synodical schools continue its efforts to make available a variety of educational programs for the church's professional workers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education be urged to plan a system of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and, if feasible, implement the plan through the synodical schools; and be it further

Resolved, That each District be requested through the Circuit Counselors to urge all congregations to make time and funds available to their full-time workers for continuing education; and be it further

Resolved, That the Districts, through the Circuit Counselors, encourage the church workers to take advantage of the programs of continuing education available to them; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Districts be asked to identify for the congregations the wealth of doctrinal materials available to them, and to encourage the members of the congregations to study these materials as well as new materials as they are made available.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Sponsor a Pastoral Education Sunday

RESOLUTION 6-21

Overture 6-108 (CW, p. 262)

WHEREAS, The congregations of the Synod entrust to their seminaries the task of training and preparing pastors for the proclamation of God's Word and the administration of the sacraments; and

WHEREAS, Increasing financial costs are making the execution of this trust in a full and adequate manner more and more difficult for the seminaries; and

WHEREAS, Increased student fees and tuition are producing hardships for many young men who wish to study for the holy ministry; and

WHEREAS, It is the obligation of the Synod's congregations to support the ongoing task entrusted to their seminaries of training future ministers; therefore be it

Resolved, That we request the Board for Higher Education and the development offices of the seminaries to develop a program for sponsoring a special Sunday for pastoral education, and that we suggest they utilize the resources of seminary students, recent graduates, and retired pastors to bring the message of recruitment and financial needs to the attention of our constituency.

Action: Declined (16).

To Define the Term "Church Worker"

RESOLUTION 6-22

Overture 6-84 (CW, p. 257)

WHEREAS, Over the years various categories have been added to the officially approved list of "church worker"; and

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention has instructed our educational institutions to give priority to recruiting church workers; and

WHEREAS, Synodical subsidy amounts are tied directly to the number of church workers; and

WHEREAS, No careful study has been made as to exactly what the term "church worker" does and should mean in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education give careful study to the matter of defining the term "church worker"; and be it further

Resolved, That they present their report to the 1979 convention of the Synod for approval; and be it finally

Resolved, That no further changes be made in our present usage of this term until that report is acted upon.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Decline Overture That Would Require All Faculty Members to Subscribe to "A Statement"

RESOLUTION 6-23

Overture 6-30 (CW, p. 241)

WHEREAS, It was not the intention of the Synod, in adopting "A Statement," to demand that individual members of the Synod sign a declaration in which they subscribe to "A Statement"; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has issued guidelines for use of "A Statement" which evangelically and pastorally safeguard the theological interests of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 6-30 be respectfully declined.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Amend Bylaw re Membership on Faculty Hearings Committee

RESOLUTION 6-24

Overture 6-105 (CW, pp. 261—262)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters has ruled that the president of a synodical college or seminary may not be a member of the standing hearings committee or of another standing committee to which the functions of such a committee have been assigned; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 6.91 d be amended to read:

PRESENT WORDING

6.91 Authority and Duties

d. He shall be the academic head of the faculty and preside at its meetings. He shall be an ex-officio member of the standing committees of the faculty and of its instructional divisions or departments.

PROPOSED WORDING

6.91 Authority and Duties

d. He shall be the academic head of the faculty and preside at its meetings. He shall be an ex-officio member of the standing committees of the faculty, with the exception of the standing hearings committee or of another standing committee to which the functions of such a committee have been assigned, and of its instructional divisions or departments.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Clarify Bylaw 6.80 (Removal from Office)

RESOLUTION 6-25

Overture 6-104 (CW, p. 261)

WHEREAS, Concern has been expressed that when a faculty member is removed from office under Bylaw 6.80, the Board of Control may not be informed of the reasons thereof; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following sentence be added at the end of Bylaw 6.80:

The written decisions of the Commission of Adjudication and the Board of Appeals required under Bylaw 5.37, including the finding of fact, the conclusions, and the reasons for such conclusions, shall be conveyed in writing to the Board of Control of the faculty member involved.

Action: *Adopted (16).*

To Redistribute High School Scholarships

RESOLUTION 6-26

Overtures 6-106—6-107 (CW, p. 262)

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention in 1953 established a program in which each male graduate of a Lutheran community high school who enrolled as a professional ministerial student at a synodical college would receive a \$100 per year scholarship for each year he attended a Lutheran high school; and

WHEREAS, At the time the \$100 figure was established, it represented a significant portion of student fees but now represents only a very token percentage; and

WHEREAS, Legal counsel indicates that federal regulations under Title IX require that females enrolled in a professional ministry program also be included in any such provision; and

WHEREAS, The student financial grants at all of our colleges and seminaries are based on need in an effort to make the best use possible of the limited funds available; therefore be it

Resolved, That the plan to automatically grant \$100 each year to each male graduate of a Lutheran community high school for the number of years enrolled in the high school be terminated; and be it further

Resolved, That the total amount available from the Synod each year for grants to graduates of our Lutheran high schools be distributed to the synodical schools according to the number of such graduates enrolled; and be it further

Resolved, That the individual synodical schools distribute these funds to both men and women

graduates of community Lutheran high schools who are enrolled in professional ministry programs according to need; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education develop the necessary plans for the new program, as well as the regulations needed during the transition period to provide for all Lutheran high school graduates currently enrolled under the program.

Action: *Adopted (16).*

To Encourage Utilizing Opportunities in Lutheran Lay Higher Education

RESOLUTION 6-27

Overture 7-50 (CW, p. 296)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has always advocated that its members be afforded the opportunity to receive a Christian education; and

WHEREAS, The synodical colleges and seminaries have offered programs of Christian education to its members and others who sought such an education; and

WHEREAS, Valparaiso University provides programs of Christian education; and

WHEREAS, Other Lutheran colleges also provide programs of Christian education; and

WHEREAS, Synodical departments have prepared and provided excellent materials for the promotion of Christian education; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod encourage congregations, lay leaders, pastors, and teachers to utilize the promotional and resource materials provided for the furtherance of Christian education; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage the congregations and their memberships to take the fullest advantage of the opportunities for Lutheran lay higher education available at the colleges and seminaries of the Synod, Valparaiso University, other Lutheran colleges and universities, and the programs provided by the various departments of the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (16).*

7. PARISH SERVICES

To Recognize with Gratitude and Provide Support to Volunteer Church School Workers

RESOLUTION 7-01

Report 7-01, X, Rec. 2, 3 (CW, p. 275)

WHEREAS, Thousands of volunteer church school workers in the Synod give freely of their time and talents, often with little recognition; and

WHEREAS, The effective service of volunteer teachers can be considerably enhanced and enriched through many experiences and printed resources; therefore be it

Resolved, That in an official publication the Synod express its gratitude for the unselfish ministry of our many volunteer church school workers; and be it further

Resolved, That every congregation of the Synod be encouraged to demonstrate in appropriate ways appreciation for its volunteer church school workers; and be it finally

Resolved, That every congregation of the Synod be encouraged to support the ministry of its volunteer teachers through in-service training events and subscriptions to *Interaction*.

Action: Adopted (3).

To Encourage Congregations to Support the "Year of the Sunday School"

RESOLUTION 7-02

Report 7-01, X, Rec. 1 (CW, p. 275); Overture 7-24 (CW, p. 290)

WHEREAS, The Christian community is called to nurture all of its baptized members; and

WHEREAS, In recent years fewer children of our churches are being nurtured in Christian faith and life through formal Christian education experiences; and

WHEREAS, Youth and adults also need opportunities to mature in their Christian faith and life in the Christian education settings of the church; and

WHEREAS, The growing non-Christian population of our country challenges our churches to be more earnest in our mission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people; and

WHEREAS, The Sunday school continues to be the primary agency for formal Christian education, and more adults, youth, and children of our Synod are enrolled in the Sunday school than in any other area of Christian education; and

WHEREAS, The Sunday school continues to be an important instrument for evangelism; therefore be it

Resolved, That all congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be encouraged to emphasize their Sunday school programs during the "Year of the

Sunday School" (Sept. 1977 to Aug. 1978); and be it further

Resolved, That every congregation during the "Year of the Sunday School" be encouraged to improve the quality of its Sunday school ministry and to intensify its outreach into its community; and be it finally

Resolved, That during the "Year of the Sunday School" every congregation be encouraged to enroll all its members, youth and adults as well as children, in formal Christian education experiences.

Action: Adopted (3).

To Encourage Participation at 1978 Convention of Church School Workers

RESOLUTION 7-03

Report 7-01, X, Rec. 14 (CW, p. 277)

WHEREAS, Volunteer church school workers derive many benefits from participation in gatherings of church school workers from the various parts of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Parish Education of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in cooperation with the Board of Parish Education of the Northern Illinois District, will conduct the seventh North American Lutheran Sunday School convention in Chicago, July 14—16, 1978; and

WHEREAS, This convention designed for all church school workers throughout the Synod forms a fitting climax to the "Year of the Sunday School"; and

WHEREAS, This convention will offer all church school workers inspiration for their ministry, opportunities to sharpen their skills, growth in their understanding of the Word, settings for sharing their insights, and fellowship with co-workers throughout the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That every District and congregation of the Synod encourage its church school workers to participate in this convention; and be it further

Resolved, That Districts and congregations be urged to provide financial assistance to enable their workers to attend.

Action: Adopted (3).

To Encourage Participation in Biblical and Confessional Studies "That We May Grow"

RESOLUTION 7-04

Report 7-01, Rec. 13 (CW, p. 276)

WHEREAS, Adult Christians in the congregations of the Synod are responding to the invitation of God's Spirit to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus

Christ and are exploring opportunities in group study to help them realize their desire for Christian competence; therefore be it

Resolved, That every congregation of the Synod be encouraged to provide small group sessions on Sunday and on weekdays to help adults study the Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, and current issues and that special attention be given the adult Biblical and confessional studies being published in the program "That We May Grow"; and be it further

Resolved, That District Presidents, District executives, and Circuit Counselors be urged to set up a system of personal contact to assist in implementing this program at the congregational level.

Action: *Adopted as amended (3).*

(Amendment: "to set up a system of personal contact.")

To Promote Early Childhood/Parent Education Programs

RESOLUTION 7-05

Report 7-01, X, Rec. 11 (CW, p. 276); Overture 7-22 (CW, p. 290)

WHEREAS, The church through the Sacrament of Baptism becomes a mother of all its members and has the responsibility to aid the home in nurturing and supporting the spiritual growth of young children; and

WHEREAS, Many congregations have adopted programs of early childhood Christian education as sincere attempts to serve young children; and

WHEREAS, Parent education adds strength to such programs through equipping parents to make positive contributions to the total growth and development of their children; and

WHEREAS, This responsibility brings with it a need for trained teachers to implement early childhood programs; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations of the Synod be urged to establish appropriate programs of early childhood education as part of their total educational ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations sponsoring early childhood programs be helped to incorporate parenthood education programs into their total early childhood Christian education ministry; and be it finally

Resolved, That local parishes be encouraged to look to the synodical teachers colleges for qualified teachers for all parish educational programs, including programs for young children.

Action: *Adopted (3).*

To Promote Evangelism Among Youth

RESOLUTION 7-06

Overture 2-10; Report 7-02, IV, C (CW, pp. 32, 280)

WHEREAS, The Great Commission must have a high

priority on all levels of church life, including the youth; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod urge the Board of Youth Ministry and the Board of Parish Education in conjunction with the Board for Evangelism to continue to develop and promote materials and learning experiences for the training of young people in evangelism; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod instruct the Board of Youth Ministry in conjunction with the Board for Evangelism to continue to encourage and promote:

1. Gospel Communication Clinics
2. Renewal Retreats—Growing and Sowing
3. Ambassadors for Christ
4. Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ

Action: *Adopted (3).*

To Affirm Youth Ministry Direction for the Future

RESOLUTION 7-07

Report 7-02, IV (CW, p. 279); Overtures 7-38A—C (CW, p. 293)

WHEREAS, The Board of Youth Ministry in its report to the Synod has outlined its direction for future planning and working, utilizing various task forces to accomplish these goals; and

WHEREAS, These directions indicate a genuine concern for the youth of our Synod and for providing assistance to the Districts and congregations of the Synod in their ministry to youth; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Youth Ministry be encouraged to proceed in carrying out these directions.

Action: *(Adopted (3)).*

To Develop Synodical Youth Organization

RESOLUTION 7-08

Report 7-02, IV, A (CW, pp. 279—280); Overtures 7-33, 7-34A—D, 7-39 (CW, pp. 292—293)

WHEREAS, Individuals, parishes, and Districts have expressed interest in the formation of an organization for youth of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Thorough study and research indicate that such a youth organization would be a valuable way of supporting youth in mission and ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That a youth organization be developed in the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod direct the Board of Youth Ministry to take the leadership role in the development of that organization; and be it further

Resolved, That a significant number of youth and young adults together with adults of the parishes and the Districts of the Synod be involved in the formation

and development of such an organization; and be it further

Resolved, That this youth organization be seen to complement and supplement other forms of ministry with young people currently carried out by the Board of Youth Ministry; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Directors make funds available immediately to the Board of Youth Ministry for the formation and development of this youth organization.

Action: Adopted (10).

(This was also discussed in Session 3.)

To Encourage Youth Board to Hold Synodical Youth Gathering

RESOLUTION 7-09

Report 7-02, IV, D (CW, pp. 280—281)

WHEREAS, Large Lutheran youth gatherings can provide experiences that are Christ-centered and spiritually rewarding; and

WHEREAS, The development of a synodical youth organization may make it necessary to have a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod youth gathering; and

WHEREAS, Districts and regions of the Synod have found youth gatherings a good setting for Christian youth and adults to share their unique gifts in ministry to one another within the Christian community; therefore be it

Resolved, That the youth and adults of the Synod be encouraged to participate in circuit, District, and regional gatherings and events sponsored by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Youth Ministry be encouraged to plan a synodical youth gathering in 1979 or 1980 to encourage youth, young adults, and adults in their commitment to the service of Jesus Christ in place of an All-Lutheran Youth/Adult gathering in 1979.

Action: Adopted (10).

(The floor committee changed the last resolved, which originally had merely called for the board to “consider” a gathering for 1979.)

To Give Direction to the Board of Youth Ministry with Respect to All-Lutheran Youth/Adult Gatherings

RESOLUTION 7-10

Report 7-02, F (CW, p. 278); Overtures 7-31, 7-35—7-37 (CW, pp. 292—93)

WHEREAS, Certain spiritual and social blessings do accrue to some who have participated in All-Lutheran Youth/Adult events; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans Res. 7-25 (*Proceedings*, p. 195) and Anaheim Res. 7-09 (p. 158) have encouraged participation in All-Lutheran Youth/Adult Gatherings

“where the Synod’s fellowship principles are observed”; and

WHEREAS, Certain problems have arisen in such gatherings in the areas of worship, Bible study, doctrine, and program; and

WHEREAS, The steering committee of the All-Lutheran Youth/Adult Gathering in New Orleans has recommended guidelines to avoid such difficulties at possible future events; and

WHEREAS, These guidelines include: that theological consensus be reached concerning development of theme and worship; that ground rules for worship be clarified among the cooperating churches; and that an attempt be made to relate the gatherings to the ongoing concerns and priorities for youth ministry in the church bodies; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Youth Ministry be directed to assure that all such guidelines have been followed before participating in any such future events; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Youth Ministry take steps to safeguard the synodical position on altar and pulpit fellowship as well as in all other areas of doctrine before any further participation; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Youth Ministry assure that the program to be presented be in keeping with our synodical position before any further participation in All-Lutheran Youth/Adult events.

Action: Adopted (14).

(Discussion was begun in Session 10. In Session 14 the convention declined to consider a substitute consisting of the three whereases and one resolve of Recommendation F of the Board of Youth Ministry, CW, p. 278, and adopted Res. 7-10.)

To Augment Bible Study Opportunities

RESOLUTION 7-11

Overtures 7-18B, 7-19, 7-27A—B (CW, pp. 289, 291)

WHEREAS, God has blessed our Synod with many persons who have a genuine desire to study God’s Word; and

WHEREAS, A wider variety of Bible study guides within the framework of the Lutheran Confessions would serve this renewed interest in the study of Holy Scripture; therefore be it

Resolved, That we continue to strive for involvement of more persons in the study of God’s Word; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod direct the Board of Parish Education and Concordia Publishing House to provide additional Bible study materials which reflect our Lutheran confessional stance with emphasis on the needs of contemporary society; and be it further

Resolved, That these materials be produced for all age groups within the church and especially in the areas of confirmation instruction and a variety of

Biblical studies for high school students and adults; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Parish Education seek out persons who can prepare, or have prepared, such materials in view of this God-given opportunity; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Parish Education be granted sufficient staff to produce these materials; and be it finally

Resolved, That these materials be continually revised and provided to local congregations at a reasonable cost.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Extend Marriage Enrichment Program 4 Years

RESOLUTION 7-12

Report 7-01, X, Rec. 10 (CW, p. 276); Overtures 7-21A—B (CW, pp. 289—290)

WHEREAS, In response to appeals from pastors in parishes for further training in marriage counseling, the Synod at its 1969 convention resolved to conduct a 4-year program in Marriage Education and Counseling, and its 1973 convention unanimously extended the program for four more years to March 1, 1978; and

WHEREAS, This program deals with both personal and professional needs of our pastors and other professional church workers, helping them to grow and equipping them to be more effective in their ministry to their people; and

WHEREAS, This program, augmented with additional counseling material, could further help equip our professional ministry in their task; therefore be it

Resolved, That under the administration of the Field Services Division of the Board of Parish Education this project be extended for an additional 4 years to March 1, 1982, offering to each District either or both of the seminars; and be it further

Resolved, That the program continue to be funded in part by the participants and the sponsoring District(s) and that the Synod aid in supporting the program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod and its congregations encourage pastors and other professional church workers to participate in this seminar program and that the congregations of the Synod be encouraged to assist their professional church workers with the financial costs of participation in the seminars; and be it finally

Resolved, That we express our gratitude to the professional people who have given of their time and skills to the successful conduct of each of the seminars in the past.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Improve Services to Persons with Handicaps

RESOLUTION 7-13

Reports 7-01, I, 12; 7-04 (CW, pp. 276, 282)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is recognized for its leadership role in its ministry with handicapped people through the Board of Parish Education, the Commission on Services to the Mentally Retarded, and other agencies; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod, through the above-mentioned agencies, renew its efforts and pledge its resources to a more complete ministry with handicapped people, providing them with the opportunity to study God's Word, to experience the fellowship of believers and the stewardship of personal God-given gifts and talents; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod continue to seek ways and means to implement an evangelical outreach through programs and materials to people who endure blindness, deafness, developmental and learning disabilities, and emotional problems; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod advise the Board of Parish Education to continue to produce materials in this area of handicapped persons and to provide staff to carry out this assignment; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage District parish education personnel to give wide publicity to the new film, "Sunday Morning with Mrs. Meyer," and filmstrip, "A Sunday School for the Mentally Retarded," produced by the Commission on Services to the Mentally Retarded and available through Concordia Publishing House; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage congregations to appoint parish advocates to highlight ministry and services available to persons with these special needs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage congregations to become concerned with the possibility of developing and supporting residential group homes or apartments to provide shelter for mentally retarded people and to help them adjust to normal community living and church participation; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod encourage the congregations to provide barrier-free access and handicap parking.

Action: *Adopted as amended (10).*

(Amendment: the final resolve.)

To Designate Reporter as an Official Periodical

RESOLUTION 7-14

Overture 7-46 (CW, p. 295)

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has caused to be established a new publication to serve the Synod; and

WHEREAS, This new publication, the *Reporter*, has been placed under the direction of the Editorial Commission for Official Periodicals; and

WHEREAS, The *Reporter* is published by the Synod to provide an authoritative and timely medium of news about the Synod and its work and to provide the

program guidance and helps formerly provided by *Advance* magazine; therefore be it

Resolved, That the *Reporter* be recognized as an official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the *Handbook* of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be revised as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

11.81 Official Periodicals

The Lutheran Witness shall be the official periodical of the Synod and shall include official reports and notices.

11.85 Editors

a. The editors of *The Lutheran Witness* shall be appointed by the Editorial Commission for Official Periodicals from a list approved by the Council of Presidents.

b. The editors shall be responsible to the Editorial Commission.

c. Members of the Editorial Commission shall be ineligible to serve as editors.

Omit Bylaws 11.131, 11.133, and 11.135, having to do with the purpose, the editorial commission, and the editor of *Advance*.

Omit from 2.05 d the words "An *Advance* Editorial Commission"; and be it finally

Resolved, That other references in the *Handbook* to

PROPOSED WORDING

11.81 Official Periodicals

The Lutheran Witness and the *Reporter* shall be the official periodicals of the Synod and shall include official reports and notices. The *Reporter*, with a section titled *Advance*, shall be published at regular intervals for the following purposes: The *Reporter* will provide current synodical news. The section called *Advance* will transmit to the congregations information from the official boards and commissions of the Synod concerning the Synod's work and programs, assist congregational leaders in developing coordinated programs, and serve as an exchange to enable congregations to share with one another successful methods of practical church work.

11.85 Editors

a. The editors of *The Lutheran Witness* and of the *Reporter* shall be appointed by the Editorial Commission for Official Periodicals from a list approved by the Council of Presidents.

b. (Same)

c. (Same)

d. The editor of the *Reporter* shall coordinate the content of the pages of *Advance* with the Synod's boards and commissions.

"the official periodical of the Synod" or to "the official synodical periodical" be changed to "*The Lutheran Witness*," "*the Reporter*," or "the official periodicals of the Synod," as may be most appropriate.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Participate in the LCUSA Office of Governmental Affairs

RESOLUTION 7-15

Report 4-04, III, H (CW, p. 137)

WHEREAS, There have been a number of recent examples of legislation before Congress about which The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod should have had advance notice in order to be able to work for the protection of its interests; and

WHEREAS, Such pieces of legislation are being introduced with increasing frequency before our national legislators; and

WHEREAS, An increasing number of actions taken by federal agencies also have a possible effect on the LCMS; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod again participate in the LCUSA Office of Governmental Affairs (Washington

office) at an approximate annual cost of \$40,000 with the provisions:

1. That the LCMS be allowed to exercise the option as to whether or not it shall participate with the other Lutheran bodies in any given response to, or communication with, the U.S. government; and

2. That in this and other ways it make provision for the preservation of its position in both doctrine and practice.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Revise Concordia Publishing House Fiscal Year

RESOLUTION 7-16

Overture 7-43 (CW, p. 294)

WHEREAS, The Synod's fiscal year begins on the first day of February in each year; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable to have the fiscal year of Concordia Publishing House coincide as closely as possible with the Synod's fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, The business cycle of Concordia Publishing House makes it most convenient to have the corporation's fiscal year begin on the first day of January; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 11.21 of the *Handbook* be amended to read as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

11.21 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of this corporation shall begin on the first day of May in each year.

PROPOSED WORDING

11.21 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of this corporation shall begin on the first day of January in each year.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Delete References to Walther League from Synodical *Handbook*

RESOLUTION 7-17

(Report 7-02, III, G (CW, p. 279); Overture 7-32 (CW, p. 292))

WHEREAS, The organization known as the international Walther League is no longer serving a significant number of the Synod's youth members; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod no longer recognize the Walther League as an auxiliary organization of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That all references to the Walther League in the synodical *Handbook* be deleted.

Action: Adopted (10).

To Initiate and Strengthen Lutheran Elementary and Secondary Schools

RESOLUTION 7-18

Report 7-01, X, Rec. 8 (CW, pp. 275-276); Overtures 7-25A-B, 7-26 (CW, pp. 290-291)

WHEREAS, The Synod continually attempts to increase its effectiveness in carrying out its mission and ministry through Christian nurture; and

WHEREAS, The *Handbook* (7.05) acknowledges the full-time Lutheran elementary and secondary schools as the best agencies for equipping God's people for ministry; and

WHEREAS, Research (Brekke, *How Different Are People Who Attended Lutheran Schools?*) has presented evidence that the Holy Spirit does work through Lutheran schools, so that they are very effective agencies for the development of spiritual and personal growth; and

WHEREAS, The 1976 Gallup Poll on Education, together with other indicators, provides evidence of a growing concern among parents for the development of the life-styles of their children and youth and a growing interest in the role of moral and spiritual education in that process; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures have declared parents responsible for their children's education, and parents are granted the freedom to choose the education they desire for their children, a choice which may include the free exercise of religion through the form of a religiously oriented education; and

WHEREAS, Various materials and human resources are available throughout the Synod to aid congregations in the development of early childhood, elementary, and junior and senior high school programs of Christian education; therefore be it

Resolved, That all congregations, singly or in association with other parishes, be requested seriously to explore the feasibility of initiating or of expanding and strengthening their programs of full-time Lutheran education, not in opposition to public education but as unique alternatives that promote the Christian faith.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Provide Multicultural Religious Materials

RESOLUTION 7-19

Report 7-01, X, Rec. 9 (CW, p. 276)

WHEREAS, The number of individuals from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds available for enrollment in all educational agencies of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is growing; and

WHEREAS, Persons of all cultures need the message of the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, Our heavenly Father has commanded His people to communicate the message of salvation to all people; and

WHEREAS, Effective instructional aids are needed to present the message of the Gospel to persons from diverse cultures; therefore be it

Resolved, That all agencies involved in the production, printing, and distribution of religious educational materials be urged to provide materials appropriate to and effective with individuals of differing cultural and ethnic backgrounds; and be it further

Resolved, That Concordia Publishing House be requested to attempt to obtain plates for *Culto Cristiano*, the Spanish Lutheran Hymnal, for the purposes of reprinting and distribution; and be it finally

Resolved, That Concordia Publishing House be requested to reprint *Luther's Small Catechism* in Spanish.

Action: Adopted as amended (14).

(Amendment: the last two resolves.)

To Commend American Bible Society and Others

RESOLUTION 7-20

Overture 7-30 (CW, pp. 291-292)

WHEREAS, The American Bible Society and other Bible societies are rendering a valuable ministry in making the Sacred Scriptures available to greater numbers of people in their respective languages; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod commend these societies for their service; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod urge all congregations to become better acquainted with the work of these organizations; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod urge all congregations to support this work with their prayers and with their gifts.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Encourage Members of Synod to Be Aware of Courses and Textbooks Used in Public Schools

RESOLUTION 7-21

Overture 7-29 (CW, p. 291)

WHEREAS, Our Synod has been supportive of quality education in our nation's public schools; and

WHEREAS, The majority of our Synod's children and youth receive their formal educational training in public schools; and

WHEREAS, It is becoming increasingly common to find many public schools using courses and textbooks containing material in stark contrast to what The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has historically taught in its confirmation classes; and

WHEREAS, Three main areas of concern are "evolution versus creationism," "humanistic value learning versus Biblical ethics," and courses under the guise of "literature of the Bible" taught from a historical-critical point of view; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States is undermined when only one side of these religious issues is presented in the public schools without permitting equal time to the opposing side; therefore be it

Resolved, That concerned parents be urged to examine courses and textbooks from which our young people are being taught in the public schools; and be it further

Resolved, That parents individually and collectively be urged to protest against public school systems that use school time to inculcate only one side of religious theories, beliefs, or value systems in opposition to Biblical revelation.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Develop Nondiscriminatory Policies

RESOLUTION 7-22

Report 7-01, X, Rec. 6 (CW, p. 275)

WHEREAS, Common call documents are used by the Synod's congregations and other calling agencies for calling male and female candidates into educational ministries; and

WHEREAS, Various public and legal guidelines are available for determining and eliminating discrimination according to sex; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Parish Education continue to provide encouragement, information, and guidelines for the development of policies and procedures that are nondiscriminatory according to sex and are in keeping with Christian principles and legal requirements; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations and other calling agencies be urged to take immediate action to determine and eliminate such sex discrimination as may now exist.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Appropriate Funds for Scholarly Research

RESOLUTION 7-23

Report 7-09 (CW, p. 287)

WHEREAS, The church is bound to deepen its study of the Word and to pass on the heritage of its gifted scholars to the present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has repeatedly requested that certain treasures of the past be preserved and published and new projects undertaken for the growth and welfare of the church; and

WHEREAS, Such research and development require substantial funds and if pursued without subsidy would result in prohibitive prices; and

WHEREAS, The Synod in the post-World War II period established the Scholarly Research Fund; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod authorize an annual appropriation of \$25,000 in addition to the amount set aside as the Scholarly Research Fund for the development and republishing of materials deemed necessary for the church by the Commission on Church Literature.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Be Thorough in Confirmation Instruction

RESOLUTION 7-24

Overture 7-23 (CW, p. 290)

WHEREAS, Confirmation instruction lays the groundwork for a thorough knowledge and practice of

the chief truths of the Christian faith on the basis of which the Christian life is to be lived; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention beseech all who instruct confirmands to give as thorough instruction as possible in the Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine as presented in *Luther's Small Catechism*.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Encourage Local Radio Ministry

RESOLUTION 7-25

Overture 7-49 (CW, p. 296)

WHEREAS, The medium of radio, a gift from God, is an effective tool in proclaiming the saving Gospel and in building up the body of Christ; and

WHEREAS, Radio time for localized radio ministry is widely accessible; and

WHEREAS, Many congregations have availed themselves of the opportunity to extend their ministries through radio; and

WHEREAS, Many other congregations have not done so for reasons including lack of information, resources, and technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through its Board for Lutheran Radio operates radio stations KFUE and KFUE-FM in St. Louis and therefore has a valuable radio resource; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod commend those congregations engaged in local radio ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That other congregations be encouraged to seek opportunities to initiate and expand local radio ministries; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Lutheran Radio through the staff and facilities of KFUE and KFUE-FM continue to provide encouragement and assistance to congregations in the development and production of local religious programming.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

RESOLUTION 7-26A

Action: *Declined (14). Reconsidered in Session 16, resulting in decision to postpone action indefinitely.*

To Decline Overtures 7-41A—B (CPH)

RESOLUTION 7-27

Overtures 7-41A—B (CW, pp. 293—294)

WHEREAS, The Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors receives monthly fiscal and other reports from management; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the Synod receives regular reports from the CPH Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, The questions raised by Overtures 7-41A—B imply conditions which are not consistent with realities; and

WHEREAS, An independent study of CPH is not warranted; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 7-41A—B be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Decline Overtures to Recommend *Missouri in Perspective* and to Acknowledge Service Rendered by *Christian News*

RESOLUTION 7-28

Overtures 7-47—7-48 (CW, pp. 295—296)

Resolved, That Overtures 7-47 and 7-48 be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

8. SOCIAL MINISTRY

To Direct Commission on Ministerial Health to Further Implement Ministerial Health Program

RESOLUTION 8-01

Report 8-02 (CW, p. 301)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has instructed the Commission on Ministerial Health to provide needed help to congregations and their professional church workers and families in instances of severe physical and mental disabilities (*Handbook* 2.111); and

WHEREAS, The commission is seeking to strengthen this program in each District; and

WHEREAS, The commission has expressed concern in the area of vocational redirection or guidance into a more suitable work situation (*Handbook* 2.111 b, 3); therefore be it

Resolved, That the commission establish guidelines for the evaluation of emotional stability of all applicants prior to the acceptance of their Declaration of Intent; and be it further

Resolved, That the commission review the entire ministerial health program for church workers in order to insure preventative, corrective, and vocational care with adequate funding to be provided; and be it finally

Resolved, That the establishment and activity of responsible District representatives be strongly encouraged in all these areas.

Action: *Adopted* (5).

To Support World Relief/World Hunger

RESOLUTION 8-02

Overtures 8-04, 8-05 (CW, pp. 301—302)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Board of Social Ministry and World Relief functions effectively as the Synod's arm through its World Relief/World Hunger programs; and

WHEREAS, Increasingly higher levels of giving to World Relief/World Hunger are essential to meet mounting needs of an expanding world population, economically depressed societies, and drought- and disaster-stricken areas with a minimum of special congregational appeals; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod express its appreciation to our congregations and individual members for the support given for self-help, development, and rehabilitation projects of World Relief/World Hunger; and be it further

Resolved, That we restate our concern for those who live under the stress of inequitable distribution of the necessities of life in our sinful world, seeing our

abundance as a gift from God to be shared with those in need; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations of the Synod encourage continued prayerful offerings for this Christian task of alleviating distress and eliminating hunger and starvation wherever possible; and be it finally

Resolved, That members of the Synod be urged to support this ongoing ministry for Christ by making "Faith Promise" pledges for World Relief/World Hunger annually and by redeeming those faith promises through regular contributions to World Relief/World Hunger.

Action: *Adopted* (5).

To Encourage More Effective Ministry to Alcoholics and Other Drug Abusers

RESOLUTION 8-03

Overture 8-15 (CW, pp. 304—305)

WHEREAS, Alcoholism is a disease which affects many within and outside our Synod; and

WHEREAS, Alcoholism has spiritual, mental, physical, and social implications; and

WHEREAS, Young people, as well as adults, are becoming more involved with alcohol problems; and

WHEREAS, Abuse of drugs other than alcohol remains a problem among both adults and young people; and

WHEREAS, The church is called to minister to the whole man, body, mind, and spirit; and

WHEREAS, Pastors, teachers, lay workers, and lay people in our Synod need to be alerted to the seriousness of the problem in our midst; and

WHEREAS, Church workers need more knowledge in regard to identification, treatment, and referral of alcohol and other drug problems; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Social Ministry and World Relief with financial assistance from Aid Association for Lutherans has developed a program of workshops for pastors and/or teachers conferences, created resource kits, and developed cassettes on pastoral care for alcohol and other drug dependent persons; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Districts and congregations of the Synod commit themselves to a fuller concern for and involvement with alcoholics and other drug abusers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief publish and/or distribute through the Districts drug-abuse materials for church workers and congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That the pastors', teachers', and other church workers' conferences of the Synod be strongly urged to consider the topic of ministry to alcoholics and

other drug abusers during the next biennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the terminal schools of the Synod be encouraged to require exposure in ministry to alcoholics and other drug abusers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod endorse the concept that 12 Districts during the next biennium conduct special workshops employing the expertise of our board's Committee on Alcohol and Drug Dependency; and be it further

Resolved, That District groups and congregations be encouraged to fund such workshops; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief report to the next convention in regard to the implementation of this motion and provide recommendations for the future.

Action: Adopted as amended (5).

(The committee added "alcoholics and other" in the third resolve. The convention amended the first whereas, which had read: "... is a problem which confronts many..." It declined to insert "spiritual" before "disease" in the first whereas.)

To Sponsor Serve-Your-Neighborhood Workshops

RESOLUTION 8-04

Overture 8-14 (CW, p. 304)

WHEREAS, The Scriptures strongly urge upon Christians a ministry of love to the neighbor in word and deed; and

WHEREAS, Many congregations recognize that their facilities built years ago are now located in neighborhoods where relatively few of their members reside; and

WHEREAS, Such neighborhoods continue to offer great opportunities for congregations to share the love of Christ; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Social Ministry and World Relief has asked the Lutheran Human Relations Association of America to design a workshop model for helping parishes to strategize for effective ministry to their neighborhoods, utilizing their own unique gifts, resources, and potential; and

WHEREAS, Such a model has now been developed and tested, and executives of the Synod have monitored it and recommend its use; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Social Ministry and World Relief has arranged to provide limited financial assistance to local groups of congregations in Districts to sponsor such workshops on a matching-fund basis; therefore be it

Resolved, That District boards and executives urge congregations that are threatened by declining membership and changing neighborhoods to sponsor such "Serve Your Neighborhood" workshops, utilizing the services of LHRAA and, where necessary, drawing on the support offered by the Synod's Board of Social Ministry and World Relief; and be it further

Resolved, That suburban and rural congregations

also be invited to these workshops, so that they might become sensitized to the needs of racially mixed congregations and thus be enabled to provide possible assistance and support; and be it finally

Resolved, That the monitoring of these workshops carried on by the LCMS Board of Social Ministry and World Relief and the parish commitments resulting from the workshops be shared with the Synod's administrative officers and the communication media of the church.

Action: Adopted (7).

(In Session 5 the delegates voted down a motion to recommit.)

To Advocate Adequate Housing

RESOLUTION 8-05A

Overture 8-11 (CW, pp. 303-304)

WHEREAS, Our Keys for Christ program, the Synod's concern and activities in behalf of adequate housing for low- and moderate-income families as well as aging people, has generated more than \$50 million worth of housing; and

WHEREAS, There continues to exist a desperate need for appropriate, adequate, and secure housing for many people in metropolitan centers as well as rural communities, for many who are from minority groups and many who are elderly; and

WHEREAS, There continues to be a need for us as Christians to communicate with the members of Congress, to encourage them to develop and support adequate legislation that will more effectively meet the housing needs of our cities and rural areas; therefore be it

Resolved, That the people of God accept the role of "advocate" in behalf of those who find it impossible to obtain adequate and decent housing because of race, poverty, or age; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief, after receiving approval of the Board of Directors (Bylaws 2.85 c, 2, and 9.73) and in consultation with the Board of Stewardship, together with each District's Social Ministry Committee, plan for a funding effort in behalf of housing concerns; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief shall administer these funds in accordance with guidelines presently operative.

Action: Adopted (11).

To Encourage Conservation of Energy

RESOLUTION 8-06

Report 8-01, V, 12 (CW, p. 300)

WHEREAS, The energy crisis is very real throughout the world and reminds Lutheran Christians of our stewardship of resources as directed in Scripture; and

WHEREAS, The lives of all people are intimately involved with this crisis, so that our style of living is unalterably changing; and

WHEREAS, This crisis will produce severe hardships especially to the disadvantaged people of our land; and

WHEREAS, Our children may find a devastating hardship placed upon them if energy is not conserved; therefore be it

Resolved, That the people of our Synod be urged to individually resolve to conserve our precious and limited physical resources; and be it further

Resolved, That each member be encouraged to determine to follow the suggestions of our local and national government in this critical area and also help distribute energy conservation information; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be strongly encouraged to show special concern for increased energy cost to the disadvantaged in their community and to those on fixed incomes; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to plan their activities in such a way that they conserve energy and cooperate with national energy conservation guidelines.

Action: Adopted (7).

("Be urged to," "be encouraged to," and "be strongly encouraged to" were added by mutual consent.)

To Expand Project Compassion

RESOLUTION 8-07

Overture 8-12 (CW, p. 304)

WHEREAS, Project Compassion has captured the imagination and inspired the enthusiastic support of a large segment of our membership; and

WHEREAS, Project Compassion has trained more than 20,000 volunteers since 1970, 12,000 of whom are ministering to persons in nursing homes, hospitals, and among the homebound; and

WHEREAS, The National Voluntary Organization for Independent Living for the Aging, through the National Council on Aging, has presented The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with a citation commending it for expanding its objectives to include those vulnerable older (beyond 85) persons most threatened by premature or unnecessary institutionalization; and

WHEREAS, This focus includes the creation of a supportive link between the community and older persons to be discharged from the hospital; and

WHEREAS, The creation of such linkage requires the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief to provide information for recruitment, training, and supervising volunteers with material which will include basic, minimal assistance for home visitations, information about referral to public and private helping agencies, and telephone reassurance for as long as needed; therefore be it

Resolved, That District Boards of Social Ministry challenge their parishes and auxiliaries to become involved with expanded opportunities for service offered through Project Compassion; and be it further

Resolved, That District Boards of Social Ministry urge their pastors to challenge more of their parishioners to participate in the Project Compassion training courses, which assure that "Every Project Compassion Volunteer Is a Trained Volunteer" equipped for meaningful Christian witness and service to the institutionalized or homebound; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod set as a goal 25,000 trained Project Compassion volunteers in the field by 1980.

Action: Adopted (7).

(The committee updated the figures in the second whereas.)

To Grow in Social Ministry

RESOLUTION 8-08

Overtures 8-13, 8-16, 3-109 (CW, pp. 301, 304—305, 101)

WHEREAS, The Sacred Scriptures clearly teach that we as Christians are to be concerned with the material needs of our fellowmen as well as their spiritual needs (Luke 10:25-37; James 2:14-17; 1 John 3:16-18); and

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ has included total concern for His people in the promise: "I am come that they might have life, life in all its fullness" (John 10:10); and

WHEREAS, The Synod has recognized Social Ministry and World Relief to be an integral and valid part of the work of the church at large and of the local congregation; and

WHEREAS, The implementation of these responsibilities on the District and congregational level can more effectively be accomplished where there is specific structure to manage and accomplish these functions on those levels; and

WHEREAS, There is a continuing necessity for growth in providing new insights into people's needs and the techniques that are helpful and beneficial for meeting these needs; and

WHEREAS, Workshops and other informational and educational opportunities sharpen the skills of the professional church workers and lay workers and provide new insights for meeting people's concerns; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Districts and congregations be strongly urged to establish a board or committee which shall be concerned with social ministry among its own people and people in the area it serves, and provide guidance and help which will enable the District and congregation to effectively meet these needs presented to them; and be it further

Resolved, That each congregation be encouraged to formalize these Social Ministry boards or committees in their constitution and bylaws; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod encourage its pastors, teachers, and other professional workers to investigate the opportunities offered in the public sector to become more sensitive to the human condition and to develop more fully the skills needed to help persons in their need.

Action: *Adopted* (7).

(The committee removed Overture 8-03 from the heading since that overture had been withdrawn.)

To Show Concern for the Unemployed and the Underpaid

RESOLUTION 8-09A

Overture 8-06 (CW, p. 302)

WHEREAS, There are people in many of our communities who cannot find work or who, if working, are paid so little that they cannot meet the expenses of basic human needs and for this reason are made to suffer deprivations; and

WHEREAS, Our Lord's example of caring urges on us an attitude of concern and a willingness to share with those less blessed; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage congregations to either establish crises-help centers, or affiliate with existing organizations which render assistance for food, rent, medical care, clothing, provide employment information, and other help to those who are unemployed or underpaid; and be it further

Resolved, That as responsible Christian citizens we serve as advocates in behalf of the unemployed and underpaid in the legislative process of government at all levels; and be it finally

Resolved, That our congregations and synodical institutions review the salary schedules of those who work for them that they themselves not be found guilty of underpaying their employees.

Action: *Adopted* (11).

To Encourage Concern for Criminal Justice and Prisoner Rehabilitation

RESOLUTION 8-10

Overtures 8-07A—B (CW, p. 302)

WHEREAS, The problem of major crime continues despite existing methods of arresting, convicting, sentencing, and incarcerating the law offender; and

WHEREAS, The church is vitally interested in the quality of life of the victims, those accused of crime but not yet tried, the staff of penal workers who deal daily with these offenders, and the convicted law offenders who need guidance, since most of them will be returning to their communities; and

WHEREAS, The New Orleans convention adopted a resolution that our church body show concern for this situation (Res. 9-13, 1973: "To Work Toward Prisoner Rehabilitation and Prison Reform"); and

WHEREAS, The Board of Social Ministry and World Relief has recently provided "Guidelines for Jail Ministry"; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm its previous statement on criminal justice, adding a concern for the victims of crimes; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief prepare and distribute appropriate guidelines and suggestions to Districts, congregations, and individuals for implementing those guidelines; and be it finally

Resolved, That the funds for this task be included in the operating budget of the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief.

Action: *Adopted* (7).

To Support Ongoing Work of Social Ministry

RESOLUTION 8-11

Report 8-01 (CW, pp. 297—301)

WHEREAS, The area of social ministry covers a wide and varied field of interests, concerns, and human needs; and

WHEREAS, The Synod's Board of Social Ministry and World Relief has approached its responsibility with vision, ingenuity, and creativity to serve these needs, as manifested in its report to the Synod; and

WHEREAS, It is important in the interest of efficiency, effectiveness, and economy to use avenues and structures available to implement its task; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod commend the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief for the stewardship of its task and the development of means and methods to enable our church to serve the important needs of people; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief to continue its efforts as outlined in its report.

Action: *Adopted* (7).

To Note LHRAA 25th Anniversary

RESOLUTION 8-12

Overture 8-17 (CW, p. 305)

WHEREAS, In past conventions The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has acknowledged with gratitude to God the ministry of the Lutheran Human Relations Association of America and has recommended that its Districts and congregations support it, pray for it, and utilize its services; and

WHEREAS, The association is now in its 25th year of ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod express gratitude to God for the blessings He has wrought through this ministry

and that we ask Him to continue to bless its concern for justice and compassion in the name and spirit of Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge the Synod's Districts, congregations, and members to continue to pray for, support, and utilize this ministry as a resource and complement of their own.

Action: Adopted (11).

To Stand with Persecuted Christians

RESOLUTION 8-13

Overtures 8-08—8-10 (CW, p. 303)

WHEREAS, As Christians we are concerned about injustice and oppression wherever these are to be found; but toward our fellow Christians we have a special obligation, particularly where they are experiencing oppression in severe form; since it is well known that Christians are being more severely persecuted in territories under Communistic rule; therefore be it

Resolved, That we solemnly declare our solidarity with the suffering, bleeding, yet confessing church under oppression (1 Cor. 12:16); and be it further

Resolved, That we praise God for the inspiring, victorious faith and love with which He has blest these our persecuted brethren; and be it further

Resolved, That we thank our gracious God for having hitherto preserved our nation and church from the scourge of terror and persecution; and be it finally

Resolved, That we call on all Christians who enjoy the privilege of political freedom to be well informed about the fate of Christians under oppression, to pray fervently for our persecuted fellow believers and for the conversion of their tormentors, to support these suffering Christians by every proper means, and to imitate humbly their great zeal and self-sacrifice in the service of the crucified and risen Savior; and be it further

Resolved, That we call on all church leaders to keep the cause of the oppressed Christians before world opinion and not by silence to aid and abet their persecution. We encourage them to use every proper means to do this: through the United Nations Organization, which has guaranteed the citizens basic human rights (Articles 18 and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights), urging these nations to take all steps possible to secure compliance with these declarations; through special national observances, such as Captive Nations Week; through personal leadership in their own areas to make people aware of the need for such intercession; and be it finally

Resolved, That we call on all Christians to pray for their fellow believers in the captive nations especially as a reminder to us of their needs and struggles, the same struggles with which we identify as fellow members of the body of Christ (James 5:16).

Action: The committee withdrew this resolution and added the overtures to Resolution B.

To Involve Board of Social Ministry and World Relief with Commission on Black Ministry

RESOLUTION 8-14

Report 8-01, III, 2 (CW, p. 298)

WHEREAS, The Board of Social Ministry and World Relief has been involved in efforts to combat racism for the past years; and

WHEREAS, The concern and experience of this board must not be lost by any new developments that occur in the church; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief be encouraged to continue its concern and to work together with the Commission on Black Ministry.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Encourage Congregations to Sponsor Refugee Families

RESOLUTION 8-15

Report 8-01, V (CW, p. 300)

WHEREAS, Many congregations of our Synod are among the 4,000 Lutheran churches which, in the spirit of Christ, have assisted in the resettlement in this country of more than 18,000 refugees from all over the world during the past 2 years; and

WHEREAS, There are still millions of refugees of many races and nations who need attention and assistance despite the heroic efforts of the past several years; and

WHEREAS, United States government officials predict that 17,000 refugees will be permitted to enter the country in 1977 and even more in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, a department of the Division of Mission and Ministry of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., is continuing to seek congregations willing to sponsor refugee families whose entry into the United States depends on having a sponsor; and

WHEREAS, No government agency can replace the warmth and compassion extended through the loving people of a Christian congregation; and

WHEREAS, Our gracious Lord has generously provided an abundance of spiritual and material resources to the congregations of our Synod that they may share with the less fortunate and thus fulfill the Savior's command to love one's neighbor; therefore be it

Resolved, That we heartily commend those congregations of the Synod who have extended the hand of Christian love through sponsorship of refugee families in the past; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage such congregations to consider sponsoring a second, third, or fourth family; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge congregations who have not as yet done so to consider sponsoring a refugee family

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singly or in cooperation with neighboring Lutheran parishes; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief continue to work together with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, a department of the

Division of Mission and Ministry of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., and communicate these concerns to the congregations of the Synod as soon as possible.

Action: Adopted (11).

9. SPECIAL AND SUNDRY MATTERS

To Establish Themes for 1979 and 1981 Synodical Conventions

RESOLUTION 9-01A

Overture 9-11U (TB, p. 19); Report 13-03, 1 (CW, p. 390)

WHEREAS, God in His grace continues to open doors for us in mission; and

WHEREAS, Continued growth in the awareness of mission opportunities and challenges is an ever present need of the church; and

WHEREAS, The need exists to inform, inspire, and motivate our people to even greater interest, zeal, involvement, and support of missions; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continues to be a church body very much involved in missions; and

WHEREAS, All our mission and ministry together as individuals, congregations, Districts, and the Synod are dependent on the Lord's blessing on our stewardship; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage the President of the Synod and others responsible for the planning of the 1979 synodical convention to select and implement a mission theme for that convention; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage the President of the Synod and others responsible for the planning of the 1981 synodical convention to select and implement a stewardship theme for that convention.

Action: Adopted (6).

To Revise Bylaw 15.25, "Military and Veterans Administration Chaplains"

RESOLUTION 9-02

Report 9-01 (CW, p. 307)

WHEREAS, Financial support for military chaplains being separated from active duty is now provided through government auspices and therefore has not been required from our Synod; and

WHEREAS, Counsel and assistance in other areas from the Armed Forces Commission of our Synod are still required; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 15.25 be revised as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

15.25 Military and Veterans Administration Chaplains

h. provide financial support for a reasonable length of time for chaplains who have been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces.

PROPOSED WORDING

15.25 Military and Veterans Administration Chaplains

h. provide counsel and assistance for chaplains retired, discharged, or released from extended active duty in the Armed Forces.

Action: Adopted (6).

To Support Ministry of Armed Forces Commission

RESOLUTION 9-03

Overture 9-04 (CW, p. 312)

WHEREAS, The mission of the Armed Forces Commission is to support the ministry to military members wherever they are assigned; and

WHEREAS, The continuing need exists to serve the civilian members of our church serving the government and/or industry overseas; and

WHEREAS, The church is dependent largely on the home congregation to make the names and locations of these people known; and

WHEREAS, The Armed Forces Commission forwards the names and addresses of civilian personnel to sister or partner churches of our Synod in order for them to minister to their needs; and

WHEREAS, The Armed Forces Commission is largely dependent for funds from its annual Mother's Day offering appeal, and less than 25% of our congregations have participated in this effort; therefore be it

Resolved,

1. That the church reaffirm its ministry to its members serving in the military and to overseas civilians;

2. That District Presidents encourage pastors and congregations to become aware of the services offered by the Armed Forces Commission and of the congregation's responsibility toward these members;

3. That pastors and congregations be encouraged to promptly notify the Armed Forces Commission of all members serving in the military wherever they are stationed, as well as those civilians overseas, and keep the commission informed of any change in status or location;

4. That all names and addresses be reported promptly to the Armed Forces Commission, Box 8934, Jefferson Memorial Station, St. Louis, MO 63102

5. That all congregations be strongly encouraged to participate in the annual Mother's Day offering in support of this vital ministry of the Armed Forces Commission.

Action: Adopted (6).

To Complete Addition to Historical Institute

RESOLUTION 9-04A

Report 9-02 (CW, pp. 307-311)

WHEREAS, The 1967 synodical convention resolved:

That the 125th Anniversary committee be empowered, among other anniversary projects, to arrange for sufficient funds (approximately \$500,000) to meet the expansion needs of Concordia Historical Institute (Res. 13-17, 1967 *Proceedings*, p. 162);

and

WHEREAS, \$316,000 has been allocated to begin an addition to its facilities; and

WHEREAS, The remaining \$200,000 is needed to make the building functional; and

WHEREAS, The synodical Board of Directors at its May meeting tentatively approved expenditure of these funds from the 125th Anniversary Thankoffering subject to the availability of funds; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod at its 1977 convention concur with this allocation; and be it further

Resolved, That if sufficient Thankoffering Funds are not available, the Board of Directors allocate other funds to make up the difference, even borrowing if necessary.

Action: Adopted (14).

(In Session 6 "tentatively" and "subject to the availability of funds" were inserted by common consent in the fourth whereas. The resolution was tabled with the understanding that it could be taken from the table when other Thankoffering matters were shared with the floor. This was done in Session 14. Thereupon the convention adopted the resolution.)

To Give Thanks to God Through Honor of Retired Church Workers

RESOLUTION 9-05

Overture 9-10 (CW, p. 313)

WHEREAS, The Synod in the past has sought to follow the implications of Holy Scripture (1 Tim. 5:17 and others) in the honor and respect it gives to its retired pastors and teachers; and

WHEREAS, Many of the retired pastors and teachers continue to serve the church; and

WHEREAS, Their knowledge, experience, advice, and counsel are not only valuable but continually and rightly sought; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention assembled thank God for the pastors, teachers, and other retired servants of God as gifts to the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod show its thanks and humble gratitude for the services of its retired pastors and teachers by sending free synodical mailings of such items as would assist them to continue to advise and serve the church as informed, intelligent servants of God; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Districts and circuits of the Synod and the various agencies and auxiliaries be

encouraged to consider and implement other ways by which we can give them due honor and recognition.

Action: Adopted (6).

To Promote and Support "Growth in Ministry" Program

RESOLUTION 9-06

Overture 9-07 (CW, p. 312)

WHEREAS, All Growth in Ministry resources are the direct result of input from the parish pastor, his spouse, and key leaders of the congregation; and

WHEREAS, There is an expressed need for such resources by the parish pastors; and

WHEREAS, All workshop resources have been carefully field tested with parish pastors; and

WHEREAS, The Growth in Ministry program provides resources heretofore not available to the parish pastor; therefore be it

Resolved, That each District actively promote Growth in Ministry resources among its parish pastors; and be it further

Resolved, That each District provide financial support to the Growth in Ministry resource activities; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations encourage their pastors' participation in Growth in Ministry resources; and be it finally

Resolved, That each congregation be encouraged to offer some financial assistance to enable its pastor to participate.

Action: Adopted (6).

To Study Equity Compensation for Pastors and Teachers

RESOLUTION 9-07

Overture 9-09 (CW, p. 313)

WHEREAS, The practice of many congregations of the Synod is to provide their pastors and teachers with a parsonage or teacherage; and

WHEREAS, Congregations tend to reduce pastors' and teachers' remuneration because they are providing housing; and

WHEREAS, The retiring pastor or teacher is thus often left with little or no savings or equity with which to purchase housing for his retirement years; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod recognize this to be a problem; and be it further

Resolved, That the Council of Presidents take this matter under advisement for guidance and direction.

Action: Adopted (6).

To Revise Requirement re Attendance at Conferences

RESOLUTION 9-08

Overture 9-05 (CW, p. 312)

WHEREAS, The principles and purposes of conferences, as outlined in Bylaw 4.121 (*Handbook*, p. 115) are desirable; and

WHEREAS, Some have nevertheless found some conference programs unworthy of their stewardship of time and money; therefore be it

Resolved, That conference programs be developed with specific attention to the fulfillment of the aims of Bylaw 4.121 of the *Handbook*; and be it further

Resolved, That those who feel that such official conferences do not meet the aims and purposes of conferences communicate such concern to both program committees and District officials; and be it finally

Resolved, That those not attending official conferences be dealt with in evangelical concern by Circuit Counselors and District Presidents.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Increase Objectivity of Pastoral Characterizations

RESOLUTION 9-09

Overture 9-06 (CW, p. 312)

WHEREAS, Vacant congregations customarily apply

to District Presidents for call lists and characterizations of candidates; and

WHEREAS, There are various methods being used in evaluating candidates and also congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Council of Presidents continue to develop standardized instruments and procedures for pastoral and congregational characterization which are fair and open in theological and practical matters.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

("Fair" replaced "honest" by common consent. An amendment calling for three evaluations was defeated.)

To Improve Nurture and Supervision of Clergy

RESOLUTION 9-10

Overtures 9-08A—D (CW, p. 313)

WHEREAS, Resolution 9-06 speaks to the concern for nurture of the clergy; and

WHEREAS, The synodical *Handbook* clearly delineates the duties of the synodical President, District Presidents, and the Circuit Counselors regarding the supervision of clergy and congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 9-08A—D be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

10. ETHNIC CONCERNS

To Establish Administration for Black Ministry

RESOLUTION 10-01A

Report 10-01, Rec. 1 (CW, p. 315)

WHEREAS, We are grateful for all that has been accomplished in the past 100 years of our church's Black ministry; and

WHEREAS, The church seeks to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ everywhere and in every way to the fullest possible extent; and

WHEREAS, We are confident that the Gospel can be advanced and should be advanced through Black ministry in the future; and

WHEREAS, Black ministry calls for renewed emphasis and special planning; therefore be it

Resolved, That a Commission on Black Ministry of at least nine members, composed of four pastors, one teacher, and four lay persons, be established to plan, to coordinate, and to expand Black ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That a convocation of Black congregations be convened, as soon as possible after this convention, to present a slate of candidates for appointment to the Commission on Black Ministry by the President of the Synod (5 for 2 years and 4 for 4 years); and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on Black Ministry meet at least four times each year and be responsible to the Board of Directors of the Synod and also subject to the regular constitutional supervision exercised by the President of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the Black Centennial Committee, the Black Mission Model Task Force, and the chairman of Committee 10 be authorized to recommend to the Board of Directors and the President candidates for the office of full-time executive and necessary staff, for a 4-year term, and with job description approved by the Board of Directors; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convocation of Black Congregations be convened every 2 years (prior to the convention of the Synod) to evaluate and to promote Black ministry and to present a slate of nominees for the Commission on Black Ministry to the President of the Synod for appointment to the commission for 4-year terms; and be it further

Resolved, That each District in the Synod which is involved in Black ministry shall work under the direction of its District and in cooperation with the Commission on Black Ministry of the Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Black Mission Models Task Force remain active after this convention to convene the first convocation.

Action: Adopted (4)



Bryant Clancy, Chairman of Committee 10

To Reaffirm Indian Ministry Commitments

RESOLUTION 10-02

Overture 10-14 (CW, p. 325)

WHEREAS, Scripture provides a foundation for the recognition, respect, and celebration of ethnic and racial diversity among all of God's created and redeemed peoples; and

WHEREAS, The one body of Jesus Christ is composed of many different members who are differently and uniquely gifted but equally important and valued; and

WHEREAS, Both certain peoples of the world and the church's work on earth have suffered from deliberate and inadvertent human failure to observe equality and justice for all because of differences we have despised; and

WHEREAS, The church's experience and the Spirit of Christ repeatedly have constrained us to repent of an amend all sinful ways; and

WHEREAS, Our church in recent years has acknowledged American Indians as one of numerous ethnic and racial communities despised, denied, and oppressed; and

WHEREAS, Our church has cooperated in attempts to change this through the Lutheran Church and Indian people, the National Indian Lutheran Board, the Lutheran Human Relations Association, a variety of local and regional Indian Ministry and Mission models, and most recently an LCMS Indian Ministries Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Our temptation always is to relax and retreat when the mission of Christ constrains us to be more energetic and determined than ever to do what is yet required; therefore be it

Resolved, That we reaffirm our Indian ministry

commitments and increase our Indian mission support in response to the guidance and counsel of the National Indian Lutheran Board, our Indian Ministries Task Force, the Lutheran Human Relations Association, and all others involved in this particular area of Christian mission; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions' Indian Ministries Task Force initiate in 1977 overdue and necessary steps in providing models for theological education extending into and particularly relevant to American Indian communities with a view of facilitating indigenous Indian expressions of faith and life in Christ; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Missions' Indian Ministries Task Force in 1978 provide for a national gathering of Indian Lutherans and others most personally involved in Indian ministry and mission, in order to effect greater solidarity and strengthen efforts to satisfy Indian ministry needs, achieve Indian mission goals, and capitalize on American Indian contributions to the diverse treasures stored and united in Christ by focusing themselves upon Christ and their growth in Him.

Action: *Adopted and amended (4).*

("Differently and uniquely" was substituted for "peculiarly," and "unfairly" was removed by common consent from the fifth whereas, "oppressed unfairly." By amendment the Task Force replaced "our church" in the second and third resolves.)

To Implement Hispanic Task Force Recommendations

RESOLUTION 10-03

Report 10-03; Overture 10-13 (CW, pp. 320—322, 324—325)

WHEREAS, The Hispanic Task Force has been dealing in areas which are vital to the improvement of ministry to Spanish-speaking people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force report offers to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod many recommendations for consideration; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Missions together with the Board for Higher Education implement a teacher-training program in bilingual, bicultural education at its teacher-training schools, in view of the fact that Hispanics will constitute the nation's largest minority group by 1980; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention encourage the BHE to explore with Concordia College, Milwaukee, the possibility of providing special lay training for Hispanics; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention support the first National Hispanic Workers Conference, planned to be held in Chicago Oct. 24—26, 1977; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions establish a Regional Advisory Council for Hispanic Ministry, consisting of Hispanics, which would meet quarterly to

provide counsel to Districts and the Synod with reference to Hispanic ministry; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Missions continue its consideration of other recommendations of the Task Force and that specific implementation be provided as God grants His blessings to the growth and development of Hispanic ministry.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Build Library Facility at Alabama Lutheran Academy and College

RESOLUTION 10-04

Overture 10-06 (CW, p. 323)

WHEREAS, Res. 6-23 of the New Orleans convention resolved to construct a library at Alabama Lutheran Academy and College: "That this convention urge the allotment of additional funds, during this biennium, for the construction of a combination library-student center"; and

WHEREAS, Res. 6-09 of the Anaheim convention also urged the Synod to act in this regard: "That the adequate library facility proposed for Alabama Lutheran Academy and College at Selma constitute the number-one priority in new construction within the synodical system of colleges and seminaries"; and

WHEREAS, The lack of an adequate library facility is a key hindrance to the accreditation of the college department of that institution; therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention reaffirm Res. 6-09 of the Anaheim convention; and be it further

Resolved, That this convention direct the Board of Directors and the Board for Higher Education to give highest priority to and proceed with the construction of the library facility at A.L.A.C. with synodical funds; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod commend Dr. Willis Wright and the entire A.L.A.C. community for their excellent performance during this past biennium.

Action: *Adopted as amended (10).*

(An amendment to the second resolve was introduced in Session 4 and further amended and adopted in Session 10. The original reading had been: "That this convention direct the BHE to construct the library facility at A.L.A.C. before it approves any other construction in the system.")

To Accelerate Support for Alabama Lutheran Academy and College at Selma

RESOLUTION 10-05

Overture 10-06 (CW, p. 323)

WHEREAS, Our Synod is currently reemphasizing its ministry to people of all cultures in the United States and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, The 1973 New Orleans convention Res. 6-

23, "To Increase Our Support of Alabama Lutheran Academy and College at Selma," has committed the Synod to the continued and increasing support of Alabama Lutheran Academy and College at Selma; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod accelerate its support of Alabama Lutheran Academy and College, continuing to make it an excellent integrated school especially for all LCMS students in the southeastern United States; and be it further

Resolved, That in support of this oft-neglected institution one Sunday out of the year be designated as Alabama Lutheran Academy and College Sunday, when congregations would be informed about this important segment of the Synod's ministry and offerings received in support of it.

Action: *Adopted (16).*

To Establish Recruitment Program for Blacks

RESOLUTION 10-06A

Report 10-01, Rec. 5; Overtures 2-19, 10-05 (CW, pp. 34, 317, 323)

WHEREAS, There is an acute need for Black church workers, especially pastors and teachers, to serve in Black communities where congregations of our Synod are located; and

WHEREAS, There are approximately 175 Black congregations in the Synod but only 47 Black pastors; 12 are either retired and working in their retirement or will be eligible for retirement in the next 5 years; and

WHEREAS, There are only two Black students presently enrolled in our seminaries, and we foresee a dramatic decrease from 47 to 36 Black pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the next 5 years; therefore be it

Resolved, That we challenge the Synod to set as its minimum goal for the next 10 years the recruitment of one Black pastor for each Black congregation in the Synod, or approximately 150 Black pastors; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod develop a program for recruiting Black young people for educational programs in specific synodical schools leading to church vocation, and develop a program of recruitment for Black adults for full-time church work through the colloquy programs of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That a full-time Black recruiter for Black ministry be given first priority among the next full-time persons to be employed by the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the recruiter shall establish a rapport with congregations to facilitate an effective recruitment program, visit congregations, day schools, Sunday schools, secondary schools, etc., develop an accurate updated listing of interested prospective students, be familiar with all sources and resources for

scholarships and grants in aid for funding Black educational programs; and be it finally

Resolved, That in the light of the critical shortage of Black workers existing in our Synod today, this program be implemented as soon as feasible after the Dallas convention.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Encourage Evangelism Among Blacks

RESOLUTION 10-07

Report 10-01, Rec. 3 (CW, pp. 316—317)

Resolved, That in the Black centennial year the congregations of the Synod that minister to Blacks make every effort to celebrate this event by establishing congregational evangelism boards to utilize existing evangelism programs and resources of the Synod and Districts, especially as they relate to the Sunday school and Christian day schools; and be it further

Resolved, That Black members be elected or appointed to synodical and District boards for evangelism to assist in relating these resources to congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage Districts to fund, develop, and/or utilize evangelism programs, efforts, resources, and personnel for congregations that either anticipate or are involved in racial transition in their communities.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

(An amendment that the full text of Dr. Dickenson's sermon be printed in the next morning's issue of *Today's Business* was declined.)

To Fund Evangelism Pilot Project in Changing Communities

RESOLUTION 10-08

Report 10-01, Rec. 3 D, Rec. 8 (CW, pp. 317—318)

Resolved, That the Synod's Board for Evangelism coordinate and adequately fund a 3-year pilot project that calls for a Black clergyman as pilot Project Director in a changing community congregation; and that he (a) familiarize himself with various facets of evangelism resources by research and by attending workshops, seminars, etc.; (b) develop and implement the evangelism program in the congregation, based on his experience and research; (c) conduct workshops for pastors and laymen from congregations in changing communities to share his findings and expertise; and (d) report in detail his 3-year findings and recommendations to the Synod's Board for Evangelism for further follow-up; and that a resource book on evangelism in the changing community be compiled.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Deal with Location Problem of Hispanic Seminary Extension

RESOLUTION 10-09A

Report 10-03 II; Overtures 10-10, 10-11A—E, 10-12 (CW, pp. 320, 324)

WHEREAS, The New Orleans convention called for the establishment of a training program for Hispanic workers; and

WHEREAS, The Anaheim convention reiterated the request for such a training program; and

WHEREAS, Such a program exists and is in part already implemented through the Fort Wayne Concordia Seminary; and

WHEREAS, The objective of the Hispanic Extension is to recruit and equip as thoroughly as possible workers for the ministry to all Hispanics; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago metropolitan area seems to present the widest variety of opportunity for diversified field experience; and

WHEREAS, Feasibility studies indicate that a Fort Wayne Seminary Extension in Austin, Tex., would probably not be possible for financial, academic, personnel, and logistic reasons; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention instruct Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., to locate a Hispanic Extension in the Chicago metropolitan area; and be it further

Resolved, That the full implementation of this program be carried out under the direction of the Board for Higher Education by the 1978—79 school year; and be it finally

Resolved, That the BHE take under consideration the curriculum suggestions as submitted by the Hispanic Task Force in implementing this program.

Action: Adopted (10).

(The delegates declined to consider a substitute which would have located the seminary extension program in Austin.)

To Open School for Training of Lay Hispanic Workers

RESOLUTION 10-10A

Report 10-03; Overture 10-12 (CW, pp. 320, 324)

WHEREAS, Ministry to Hispanic Americans, with a population estimate of 25-28 million, presents a great challenge to our church; and

WHEREAS, One of the difficulties in this ministry is our inability to recruit and train sufficient workers; and

WHEREAS, Some Districts have established a need and a pattern to proceed; and

WHEREAS, The Texas District has asked for and been encouraged by the Synod (Anaheim Res. 6-10) to establish such a school at Concordia College at Austin, Tex.; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS direct the Board for

Higher Education in consultation with the Hispanic Task Force to immediately establish a school for training Hispanic workers in Austin, Tex.; and be it further

Resolved, That the school be patterned after the Lay Training Institute in Milwaukee; and be it further

Resolved, That the BHE and the Hispanic Task Force give continuing study to future developments and needs for recruitment and ministerial training for Hispanic ministry; and be it finally

Resolved, That the In-Service Training Program be a part of this school under the direction of the BHE.

Action: Adopted (10).

To Support American Indian Concerns

RESOLUTION 10-11

Overtures 10-15, 10-17 (CW, pp. 325—326)

WHEREAS, The National Indian Lutheran Board at its annual meeting Feb. 26, 1977, has called attention to the decisions of our courts that have increasingly recognized the rights of Indians which had been secured in the treaties, and these decisions, while redressing life-damaging experiences suffered by Indians, may adversely affect some non-Indians who derive a livelihood from some situations that have deprived Indians of their rightful personhood and property; and

WHEREAS, The National Indian Lutheran Board commends and supports every pursuit of justice, especially those involving our nation's treaties with Indians; and

WHEREAS, The NILB encourages a genuine concern for non-Indians who experience personal loss or hurt when Indian claims are recognized and urges both public and private compensation similar to aid given to disaster victims; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS affirm the stand of the NILB in this respect and urge our congregations, institutions, and agencies to support and adopt as their own the provisions and commitment inherent in the views expressed and that we urge our members to express gratitude to God when justice, mercy, and truth prevail; and be it further

Resolved, That we participate in and support all endeavors to effect reconciliation, understanding, and cooperation between Indians and non-Indians in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ.

Action: Adopted (15).

To Include Evangelism in Changing Communities in Professional Curricula

RESOLUTION 10-12

Report 10-01, Rec. 2, A (CW, p. 315)

WHEREAS, Many parish day schools are 60% Black

in enrollment, and few if any Blacks belong to the sponsoring congregation; and

WHEREAS, The primary reason for the existence of parochial schools is to provide Christian as well as general education, with also the hope that some pupils will be motivated to commit themselves to full-time church work; and

WHEREAS, Parish day schools in which Black students are enrolled have been and still are strong mission arms reaching out into the community; therefore be it

Resolved, That required courses or workshops be inserted into teacher and pastor training institutions, tailored to sensitize trainees to the challenges of mission and evangelizing opportunities confronting them as they practice their profession, especially in changing communities and among Blacks.

Action: Adopted (15).

To Encourage Church Work Careers Among Blacks

RESOLUTION 10-13

Report 10-01, Rec. 2, B (CW, p. 315)

WHEREAS, Young Blacks who are qualified academically, spiritually, and emotionally are often discouraged from choosing to prepare for full-time church work in the LCMS because:

a) qualified Blacks are often limited to serving in small subsidized Black congregations;

b) Blacks are seldom called to serve in white congregations or institutions or to serve in foreign missions;

c) Blacks have not been and at present are not numerically adequately represented on all levels of synodical administration;

d) Black work is completely controlled by white structure; therefore be it

Resolved, That special and concerted efforts by officials, boards, and congregations of the Synod be made to change and correct this image for the young Blacks and that they be "positively" encouraged to pursue full-time church work careers in the LCMS.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Provide Scholarship for Hispanics

RESOLUTION 10-14

Overture 10-09 (CW, pp. 323-324)

WHEREAS, There is a great need for pastors to serve Hispanics; and

WHEREAS, It appears that Hispanics will be the largest ethnic minority by 1980; and

WHEREAS, The growing number of Hispanics in the United States offers a tremendous mission challenge to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention direct the Board of Directors to provide \$25,000 to make possible a program of scholarships to Hispanics who are enrolled in a pastoral training program at a synodical college or seminary.

Action: Adopted as amended (16).

(Originally the resolution had included Blacks. "\$25,000" was substituted for "funds" in the resolve, and "direct" for "request.")

To Recognize the Need for Training Students in Ethnic Ministries

RESOLUTION 10-15

Report 10-01, Rec. 2, C (CW, pp. 315-316)

WHEREAS, The closing of the predominantly Black terminal school (Immanuel Lutheran College, Greensboro, N.C.) was done as a gesture of elimination of racial segregation in the church; and

WHEREAS, Other existing LCMS terminal schools often do not take into consideration the special needs of Black students and the atmosphere within which they can easily relate to their peers and other requirements; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod recognize the need for training students for and in ethnic ministries, the largest of which is Black; and that required courses, workshops, and seminars to that end be inserted into the curricula of the schools of higher education and of some of the high school programs.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Provide Funding for Vicarage Program in Black Congregations

RESOLUTION 10-16

Overture 10-07 (CW, p. 323)

WHEREAS, In previous years the Synod provided special funding in order to train white vicars for future service in Black congregations; and

WHEREAS, This program has proved successful in the placing of men in Black ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod be asked to continue a funding for white or Black vicars in the form of subsidy for vicars; and be it further

Resolved, That the District place these vicars preferably under the supervision of Black pastors.

Action: Adopted (15).

(The committee struck a whereas which had stated, "this special funding has not been provided this past year," and substituted "continue" for "renew.")

To Support Ministry Among North American Indians

RESOLUTION 10-17

Overture 10-16 (CW, pp. 325-326)

WHEREAS, A task force to study ministry to the

North American Indians has been established by the synodical Board for Missions; and

WHEREAS, In the past the Districts of the Synod in which reservations and American Indian population are found have not been able to meet the needs for such ministry for lack of financial and other resources; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Indian Ministries and Studies at Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebr., was established by three Districts of the Synod (Montana, Wyoming, and Nebraska) as a means to assist in the entire area of Indian ministry; and

WHEREAS, CIMS (Center for Indian Ministry and Studies) has served as a valuable resource to these Districts and could for the entire Synod; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for trained Indian and non-Indian personnel for work among the native American people of our country; therefore be it

Resolved, That the synodical Task Force for Ministry to the American Indians receive the full support of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions support and assist those Districts presently involved in a ministry of Word and Sacrament to the American Indian, with financial assistance for such ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod recognize CIMS as a valuable resource for ministry to the American Indian people and that the Board for Missions together with the Board for Higher Education seriously consider CIMS as a synodical program to be supported financially by the Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod establish on one of the college campuses a program for training workers, Indian and non-Indian, for evangelism work among American Indians.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Make Every Effort to Eliminate Racism

RESOLUTION 10-18A

Overture 10-04 (CW, pp. 322—323)

WHEREAS, In our church body today clear evidence of racist practices continues to plague us, i.e., 40 Districts and no Blacks on the staff, no Blacks on the staff of our terminal institutions, and Black pastors are not called to white congregations; and

WHEREAS, The church is in mission and ministry to man in his totality; and

WHEREAS, Pastors are called into parishes to equip the church and its people through the Word for every work that is good; and

WHEREAS, Racism is a sin, completely contrary to God's Word; and

WHEREAS, Our Lord challenges His people to love one another even as He has loved us; and

WHEREAS, Many positive actions have been taken in the Synod and Districts and on local levels to sensitize

our members to continuing racist attitudes and behavior; and

WHEREAS, At New Orleans the Synod approved the promotion of an equal-opportunity policy which was to be implemented by an affirmative action effort in its employment and business practices in all its departments, its Districts, and all synodically controlled agencies and institutions; and

WHEREAS, In spite of all our Christian resolves and attempts to combat racism the church has fallen short of its objectives; therefore be it

Resolved, That we take to heart the reality of the situation and determine to make things happen in this area in the following manner:

1. That each pastor, teacher, and layman in the Synod search his heart and mind to determine his innate prejudices toward other races, especially since he may be unaware of his own racial attitudes;

2. That he confess this sin before God and seek His forgiveness and that under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit in his sermonizing and by leadership predicated on the Word he equip his people to affirm the worth and value of people of all races; and

3. That he himself, together with the equipped people of his parish, construct and implement Christ-centered creative interpersonal programs for attitudinal changes in an effort to banish racism from the church and society; and be it further

Resolved, That to the current budget of the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief there be added the sum of \$15,000 to provide materials, resources, and personnel for six regional workshops to equip pastors to effect attitudinal and programmatic changes in their parishes and communities that might bring healing to the "brokenness" of a church and secular society caught up in the sinfulness of its racial prejudice; and be it finally

Resolved, That we direct the Synod through its Office of Personnel to promote an equal-opportunity policy that would be implemented by an affirmative action effort in its total employment and business practices throughout the Synod, the Districts, and all synodically controlled agencies and institutions.

Action: Adopted as amended (15).

(Amendment: to change title from "To Eliminate Racism.")

To Continue Black Lutheran Centennial Committee

RESOLUTION 10-19A

Report 10-02 (CW, pp. 318—319)

WHEREAS, The Black Lutheran Centennial Committee has planned an elaborate and extensive synodical celebration to thank God for the centennial of the Black Mission Program of our beloved Synod; and

WHEREAS, The committee under the direction of Resolution 9-01A of the Anaheim convention has planned and is promoting a proposed thankoffering in

connection with the celebration to establish a fund to aid in the education of Black students for the Black ministry; and

WHEREAS, the centennial year celebration begins with this convention and extends for a full year thereafter; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod adopt a goal of recruiting and educating 150 Black pastors in the next 10 years; and be it further

Resolved, That a fund to assist in such training of future Black pastors be established with a goal of at least \$1,500,000; and be it further

Resolved, That this goal be collected in stages beginning with the Centennial Thankoffering on June 18, 1978; and be it further

Resolved, That the principal amount of funds received be retained and that interest be used for aiding Black students preparing for pastoral ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the fund be administered by the Synod's Board of Directors in consultation with the Commission on Black Ministry while the educational aspects of this fund be handled by the Board for Higher Education with the approval of the Commission on Black Ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Stewardship in consultation with the Black Centennial Committee be authorized and empowered to prepare and provide materials and counsel for this fund-raising effort and that the Black Centennial Committee be continued until the next convention, as stipulated, in order that it might promote and monitor the synodical celebration and thankoffering; and be it finally

Resolved, That we urge prayers throughout the Synod for this challenging endeavor.

Action: Adopted (15).

To Review Colloquy Requirements for Teachers

RESOLUTION 10-20

Report 10-01, Rec. 2, D (CW, p. 316)

WHEREAS, There exists an acute shortage of Black Lutheran teachers for Lutheran schools; and

WHEREAS, The present colloquy route requires at least one additional academic year for graduates of

nonsynodical schools; and

WHEREAS, Many Black teachers enter into teaching in Lutheran schools from public institutions; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod review the requirements for the colloquy program with the purpose of qualifying public college graduates for teaching ministry through correspondence courses, etc., establishing a program in the field, in-service training, and extension courses.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Encourage Inclusion of Blacks in Youth Ministry

RESOLUTION 10-21

Report 10-01, Rec. 9 (CW, p. 318)

WHEREAS, Many of the Black youth in the LCMS have been chronically neglected and suffer from inadequate guidance and counseling; and

WHEREAS, The Black youth are members of the church of today, as well as tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, The Black youth of the Synod need a positive image of themselves; and

WHEREAS, Better communications among Black youth is a desirable goal; and

WHEREAS, There is a lack of communication among Black youth of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Black youth be represented on the synodical Board of Youth Ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage Districts and congregations to use youth and youth advisers in all phases of District and congregational services.

Action: Adopted (16).

To Decline Overture 10-08 (Hymnody Appropriate to Black Congregations)

RESOLUTION 10-22

Overture 10-08 (CW, p. 323)

Resolved, That Overture 10-08 be declined.

Action: Adopted (16).

(At the conclusion of this committee's report in Session 16 a motion from the floor commended by a rising vote the committee and the Black Mission Model Task Force.)

11. NOMINATIONS

The report of the Committee for Convention Nominations (see *Workbook*, pp. 327—334) was presented and adopted with several additions and changes. Other names were placed in nomination from the floor. See Minutes, Sessions 2 and 6.

12. ELECTIONS

The complete results of the elections held during the convention are appended to the Minutes.

13. PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Preamble

The resolutions presented to the convention by the Committee on Program Implementation have their origin in the reports and overtures assigned to Committee 13 in the *Workbook*. But they have a far deeper basis. These resolutions are rooted in the facts and feelings that came from listening to many of the Synod's leaders in areas of mission, ministerial education, parish services, stewardship, and others. But ultimately they are rooted in the living words of our living Lord: "Ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

The committee heard of much work accomplished but also much more work left undone because funds were not available. The committee saw visions of doors wide open for the preaching of the Gospel but also of budgets crippled because giving for our joint work in the Synod has fallen short. The situation is seen to be far more serious when one considers the effect of inflation.

Committee 13 in its resolutions asks that we all collectively open our eyes to God's material blessings and to the fact that, nonetheless, only a small fraction of our giving is for our collective outreach into the world. The resolutions come as a call to lift up our eyes and to truly walk together in our giving for the Lord. They speak of ways by means of which we can better equip ourselves to do that which will bring joy to God,

the angels in heaven, and ourselves because of sheep brought into the fold.

Committee 13 is composed of representatives of every North American District of the Synod. The resolutions speak of our faith in God and in each other as we respond to the Spirit, who still comes to His people. In offering our resolutions to the synodical delegates at Dallas, we personally pledge our support of the Synod in word and deed. We ask all of our brothers and sisters in the Synod to join us in this personal commitment. Together, powered by the Spirit, we can do great things for the kingdom of Him who died and rose again and who sits even now on the right hand of the Father.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Cor. 15, 58)

To Provide an Ongoing Stewardship Program and to Prioritize Budgets on Basis of Great Commission

RESOLUTION 13-01

Overtures 13-06—13-08, 13-10, 13-11 (CW, pp. 395—396)

WHEREAS, One of the purposes of the Synod is to



Chairman Paul Zimmermann, Committee 13

extend the kingdom of God by the joint proclamation of the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, This task is accomplished through personal commitment leading to financial support by all member congregations; and

WHEREAS, The percentage division of "mission dollars" remitted by congregations through their Districts has decreased steadily since the mid-1960s with congregations sharing their means with the church at large (District and the Synod) decreasing from 18% in 1965 to 12% in 1976 and Districts sharing with the Synod decreasing from 60% in 1965 to 46% in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Instead of expanding its work, the Synod has found it necessary to cut back on its program of world mission as well as other programs; therefore be it

Resolved, That we rededicate ourselves to the joint proclamation of the Gospel; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention exhort every congregation, District, and the Synod itself to prioritize current and future budgets on the basis of the Great Commission; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod's Board of Stewardship be directed to implement through its Districts and congregations an ongoing churchwide Kingdom awareness program; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Stewardship be directed to approach its task of implementing a Kingdom

awareness program through the Scripturally based "Firstfruits—Percentage Giving" principle beginning with the communicant members of our congregations in their giving, followed by the congregation itself, the respective Districts, and finally the Synod in their apportioning of the offerings received.

Action: Adopted (6).

To Implement Circuit Counselors Conference

RESOLUTION 13-02

Report 13-03 (CW, pp. 389—391)

WHEREAS, Our Circuit Counselors have a leadership responsibility to the pastors and congregations in their respective areas; and

WHEREAS, Many of our Circuit Counselors have never had the privilege of attending a Circuit Counselor conference such as was held at St. Paul and Valparaiso, to receive assistance for their task in the way of guidelines, motivations, information, as well as various suggestions; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Synod be charged to arrange such a conference in 1978 following the District conventions; and be it further

Resolved, That the President's office and three members of the Council of Presidents, together with the Mission Department, the Stewardship Department, and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations prepare a program of Bible studies, mission information, stewardship training, and guidelines for the use of Circuit Counselors; and be it further

Resolved, That in this process of stewardship training the members of the conference spend time together to share synodical concerns and to discuss in brotherly love their need for supporting one another in applying these stewardship principles to their ministry and lives in a practical way; and be it further

Resolved, That the synodical Stewardship Department develop a format whereby each member of the conference may evaluate his present level of personal financial commitment, with the intent of establishing a new personal financial commitment as well as of establishing a new personal goal for *future* growth under the guidance of the Holy Spirit; and be it further

Resolved, That subsequent to the conference, all Circuit Counselors visit each congregation in the circuit to apply the principles learned and to discuss with them the work of the Synod and the congregation's responsibility; and be it finally

Resolved, That the travel cost of this conference be placed into the 1978 synodical budget, the cost of meals and lodging to be assumed by the Districts.

Action: Declined (6)

(This action was taken after also declining to amend the first resolve.)

To Promote God-Pleasing Proportionate Giving Through Stewardship Workshops

RESOLUTION 13-03

Report 13-03, Rec. 3 (CW, p. 390)

WHEREAS, God has entrusted to us the stewardship of human and financial resources so that we can carry out His purposes; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Lord is carried on through the proclamation of the Word of God, the administration of the sacraments, and the many services rendered by God's people; and

WHEREAS, God's Word establishes guidelines for Christian people concerning their stewardship of life; and

WHEREAS, These Scriptural guidelines challenge Christians to give sacrificially and proportionately of the gifts that God has entrusted to them; and

WHEREAS, God blesses those who lovingly apply His precepts on proportionate giving and sharing; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod direct the Stewardship Department to offer stewardship workshops or institutes to each District for pastors and lay leaders of each congregation, for the purpose of aiding God's people to grow in the grace of proportionate giving; and be it further

Resolved, That those attending these workshops be encouraged to return to their congregations and present to their members the challenge of raising their level of proportionate giving.

Action: *Adopted as amended (6).*

(Amendment: addition of "or institutes.")

To Promote Mission Education in our Church

RESOLUTION 13-04A

Report 13-03 (CW, pp. 389—391)

WHEREAS, Christ has given to His church on earth the command to go into all the world and preach the Gospel (Matt. 28:19); and

WHEREAS, The Holy Spirit has opened doors of opportunity and challenge for our church in areas and ways never before dreamed of; and

WHEREAS, Our people, when informed of our mission work, needs, and challenges of new opportunities, such as we have now open to us in West Africa, have responded joyously and freely in the past; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Districts of our Synod become more actively involved in mission promotion, receiving from the Synod and passing on to congregations information concerning the mission work and opportunities for our church, that will help each member to identify with the work of our missions and to be aware

of opportunities for missions in our world; and be it further

Resolved, That circuit meetings of pastors and lay people be held annually with District staff to promote the mission work of our church, utilizing synodical personnel, if necessary, and materials prepared by our Synod's Stewardship Department; and utilizing expatriate, missionaries, former missionaries, and national church leaders under the Missionary Lecture Bureau of the Board for Missions; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be urged to promote missions through every means possible such as mission fairs, mission festivals and/or periodic Mission Promotion Sundays throughout the year to enlighten and challenge their people to the need and opportunities to fulfill Christ's command to preach the Gospel in all the world; and be it finally

Resolved, That this synodical convention encourage the President of the Synod to invite the host leaders of the partner churches for the 1979 convention and make adequate arrangements for these partner church leaders to visit and share their story with Districts, circuits, and congregations.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Reestablish Synodical Sunday

RESOLUTION 13-05

Report 13-03 (CW, p. 389)

WHEREAS, Paul in 1 Cor. 12 tells us we are all one body working together to fulfill the Great Commission to go, teach, and make disciples; and

WHEREAS, We established the Synod under the guidance of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to do those things we as individuals or as individual congregations cannot do; and

WHEREAS, As the Synod we are able to witness by word and deed to areas inaccessible to the individual congregations; and

WHEREAS, As the Synod we are able to establish and maintain schools to train pastors, teachers, and lay workers for service in the Evangelical Lutheran Church; and

WHEREAS, As the Synod we are able to conserve the unity of the true faith among our members; and

WHEREAS, As the Synod we are able to assist our pastors, teachers, and other professional workers and their families in the event of disability, retirement, death, or special need; and

WHEREAS, As the Synod we are able to provide means through which our members may express their Christian love and compassion in meeting human needs; therefore be it

Resolved, That beginning in 1978 and each year thereafter the Board of Directors designate a "Synodical Sunday" in the congregations of the LCMS; and be it further

Resolved, That the many blessings derived from our joining together as a Synod be the theme of this day; and be it further

Resolved, That the special offerings on this day be designated for the use of the Synod to embrace the programs of the Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Stewardship coordinate the activities of this Sunday and offer its services supported by District stewardship leaders.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Accept Reports of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer/Acting Controller

RESOLUTION 13-06

Report 13-01 (CW, pp. 337—356)

Resolved, That we accept the reports of Milton Carpenter, Treasurer, and Norman Sell, Assistant Treasurer and Acting Controller, as audited by Ernst and Ernst, and that we thank them and their office staffs for their efficient service.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

(Discussion was started in Session 6).

To Help Toward the Goal of a Balanced 1977 Budget

RESOLUTION 13-07

Report 13-02 (CW, pp. 357—388)

The Lord of the church has said to all of us, "You are My witnesses." It is not only an honor to be called witnesses but places upon us a responsibility which requires our best resources of people and money.

The opportunities to bear witness have come in a multitude of ways. In addition to the opening of many doors for mission work in overseas fields, there are the crying needs of our Higher Education Department, the needs of our Parish Education Department, and the unfulfilled needs of the other ongoing ministries.

WHEREAS, Total requests from synodical departments came to over \$31 million; and

WHEREAS, These requests exceeded District pledges and other anticipated income by some \$6,500,000; and

WHEREAS, After prayerful deliberation, this total request was cut to a budget of \$27,255,000 by the Board of Directors, a figure supported by the Fiscal Conference but still exceeding anticipated income by \$2,750,000; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors was led to adopt this budget which exceeds anticipated income because of the pressing opportunities for mission and ministry which the Lord of the church has set before the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The conferees attending the Fiscal Conference and all officers, boards, and commissions of the Synod are committed to reach the \$27,255,000

income goal; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following two-part program be approved to achieve this end:

1. All Districts be requested to develop and conduct Circuit Counselor Conferences designed to bring congregational giving up to the congregation's existing pledge level or higher; and

2. Nov. 6, 1977, be designated as Synodical Sunday, with services of thanksgiving for the manifold blessings which the Lord of the harvest has showered upon us and also with a special offering to enable congregations to gather additional funds for the synodical programs to help toward the goal of a balanced 1977 budget; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Department of Stewardship coordinate both activities and make available its services as well as those of the Board of Directors and of stewardship leaders within the Synod to any District desiring them.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

(An amendment was defeated to change the first resolve to read: "... conduct circuit conferences using the pastoral and lay delegates of this convention to bring . . .")

To Establish 1978—79 Work Program

RESOLUTION 13-08A

Report 13-02 (CW, pp. 357-388)

WHEREAS, The members of the Synod have agreed to walk together in developing programs of mission and ministry in order more effectively to respond to the commission of our Lord; and

WHEREAS, The material blessings showered on our members by a gracious and loving Father have far surpassed our personal needs; and

WHEREAS, Inflation in the U.S. and abroad has diminished the ability of our monetary gifts to carry on programs which the members of the Synod in years gone by agreed to undertake; and

WHEREAS, It has become necessary to provide orderly procedures for dealing with the distribution of gifts which have been shared; and

WHEREAS, The Ad Hoc Committee to Revise Bylaws for Budget Preparation has studied this concern since 1973 and has made recommendations to effect changes in the process of communicating needs and of establishing priorities of work within the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the recommended 1978 budget amount of \$30,057,306 and the recommended 1979 budget amount of \$32,921,269 for general synodical work, which provide for the continuance of present programs and activities, with necessary adjustments for inflation, be adopted; and be it further

Resolved, That such recommended budgets as concern individual departments be considered as tentative, so that necessary flexibility is retained to

adjust for unforeseen changes during the biennium; and be it further

Resolved, That, with regard to any resolutions adopted at this convention which involve the expenditure of funds for current expenses and which are not included in the work program for 1978 and 1979 or the adopted budget for 1977, such activities shall be carried out only if it is determined by the Board of Directors that income, excluding borrowed funds, will be available beyond that necessary for the previously authorized activities and projects or if the affected boards of the Synod in consultation with the Board of Directors deem it wise to reallocate funds from previously authorized projects or activities to these newly designated projects and that these changes be communicated to the delegates to the Dallas convention; and be it finally

Resolved, That we ask God's forgiveness for not doing all that He has given us the ability to accomplish in His name and that we pray for a full measure of the Holy Spirit to give us the wisdom to do only that which is acceptable in His sight.

Action: Adopted as amended (14).

(Two amendments were adopted:

1. To increase by \$200,000 the amount designated for Board for Missions both in 1978 and 1979, thereby also raising the totals in the first resolve and in the accompanying tabulation.

2. To add the final words of the 3rd resolve: "and that these changes . . .")

**1977 Budget and 1978-79
Work Program Summary**

	'77 Budget	'78 Recommend	'79 Recommend
Board for Missions	\$ 9,709,636	\$10,222,375 1)	\$10,391,381 1)
Council for Christian Medical Work	30,800	35,000 2)	35,000 2)
Black Mission Model Task Force	15,000	—	—
Board for Evangelism	173,560	173,560	173,560
Armed Forces Commission	162,972	160,752	160,752
Social Ministry & World Relief ..	263,956	292,456 3)	292,456 3)
Total Division of Missions and Ministry	\$10,355,924	\$10,884,143	\$11,053,149
Board for Higher Education	\$10,229,812	\$11,129,812 4)	\$12,029,812 4)
Colloquy Board	3,050	3,050	3,050
Commission on Lay Higher Edu- cation	1,000	1,000	1,000
Board for Lay Ministers	6,420	6,420	6,420
Total Division of Higher Education	\$10,240,282	\$11,140,282	\$12,040,282
Board for Parish Education	\$ 652,625	\$ 682,625 5)	\$ 692,625 5)
Board of Youth Ministry	218,282	218,282	218,282
Commission on Services to the Mentally Retarded	41,177	41,177	41,177
Commission on Architecture	9,710	9,710	9,710
Total Division of Parish Services	\$ 921,794	\$ 951,794	\$ 961,794
Board of Stewardship	\$ 331,043	\$ 331,043	\$ 331,043
Public Relations	\$ 165,504	\$ 200,000 6)	\$ 200,000 6)
Reporter	269,000	269,000	269,000
Advance	500	500	500
Lutheran Television	200,000	100,000	—
Total Division of Communi- cation	\$ 635,004	\$ 569,500	\$ 469,500
Commission on Theology and Church Relations	\$ 155,737	\$ 155,737	\$ 155,737
Commission on Worship	78,494	78,494	78,494
Commission on Organizations	29,768	28,738	29,568
Total Division of Theology and Church Relations ..	\$ 263,999	\$ 262,969	\$ 263,799
Council of Presidents	\$ 55,600	\$ 55,600	\$ 55,600
Concordia Historical Institute ..	88,605	88,605	88,605
Board of Appeals	6,400	6,400	6,400

Commission on Constitutional Matters	8,050	6,550	8,050
Committee on Convention Nomi- nations	12,840	12,840	12,840
Synodical Service Commission ..	1,135	1,135	1,135
Board of Doctrinal Review	1,070	1,070	1,070
Commission on Adjudication	2,140	2,140	2,140
Total Division of Church Government	\$ 175,840	\$ 174,340	\$ 175,840
Personnel and Statistics	\$ 200,028	\$ 200,038	\$ 200,038
Research and Planning	39,929	39,154	39,929
Systems and Procedures	15,000	15,000	15,000
Legal Services	40,000	30,000	20,000
Occupancy of Headquarters	232,427	237,427	242,427
Purchasing & General Services ..	23,448	23,448	23,448
Lutheran Council USA	582,893	582,893	582,893
Lutheran Council—Canada	40,275	40,275	40,275
Total Service Units	\$ 1,174,010	\$ 1,168,235	\$ 1,164,010
Internal and Outside Audits	\$ 181,250	\$ 181,250	\$ 181,250
Controller's Department	254,030	252,380	252,380
Treasurer's Department	251,291	266,091	266,091
Total Financial Units	\$ 686,571	\$ 699,721	\$ 699,721
Board of Directors	\$ 78,345	\$ 88,545	\$ 78,345
President	149,319	148,769	144,819
First Vice-President	57,128	56,578	57,128
Other Vice-Presidents	50,600	47,600	50,600
Secretary	52,998	52,128	52,908
Administrative Officer	60,124	59,524	60,124
Council of Administrators	2,140	2,140	2,140
Total Administration	\$ 450,654	\$ 455,284	\$ 446,064
Supplemental Retirement Benefits	\$ 1,456,729	\$ 1,347,579	\$ 1,304,699
Grants & Special Endeavors	104,250	110,250	90,250
Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws and Structure	90,000	90,000	83,500
Special Research and Information Program	\$ 100,000	\$ —	\$ —
Contingency Reserve	50,000	250,000	250,000
Total Before Convention	\$27,036,100	\$28,435,140	\$29,333,651
Convention	218,900	—	218,900
Total Before Inflation	\$27,255,000	\$28,435,140	\$29,552,551
Estimated Inflation @ 6%			
1978		\$ 1,622,166 *	\$ 1,635,300 *
1979			\$ 1,733,418 *
Total Budgets and Requests ..		\$30,057,306	\$32,921,269
Estimated Income Based on Past Experience	\$24,500,000	\$24,500,000	\$24,500,000
Deficit	\$ 2,755,000	\$ 5,557,306	\$ 8,421,269
Per Communicant	\$1.32	\$2.56	\$3.92
Accumulated Deficit	\$ 2,799,000	\$ 8,356,306	\$16,577,575

- 1) BFM—Increase reflects full-year cost of new missionaries sent throughout 1977.
- 2) CCMW—Reduce to eliminate full-time executive.
- 3) SMWR—Add LSSS for \$28,500.
- 4) BHE—Add \$200,000 each year for plant funds for repairs of \$100,000,000 in property. Only \$20,000 included in 1977. Add \$700,000 each year for catch-up on salaries.
- 5) BPE—Add \$30,000 in 1978 and \$40,000 in 1979 for funding in budget of Elementary Schools (both presently funded by grants which run out).
- 6) PR—Add \$35,000 for District Convention Program in 1978 and Synodical Convention Program in 1979.

* Computation does not take into consideration the additional \$200,000 voted for Board for Missions. Some of the figures which follow therefore also need to be adjusted, unless the inflation factor is figured at somewhat less than 6%.

**To Enable Budgeted Work and Other
Authorized Work to Be Carried Out**

RESOLUTION 13-09B

Report 13-02 (CW, pp. 357-388)

WHEREAS, The budget being followed as a spending guide by synodical departments in 1977 exceeds present projections of anticipated income; and

WHEREAS, The projected budgets for 1978 and 1979 may also exceed income for those years; and

WHEREAS, Resolutions may be passed at this convention authorizing work involving the expenditure of funds in addition to budgeted work; and

WHEREAS, The opportunities for mission in these years are exceptional; therefore be it

Resolved, That every member of the Synod be encouraged to pray and work for the success of stewardship education efforts and special offerings in

raising income to meet or exceed these needs; and be it further

Resolved, That beginning with the delegates assembled here in convention we challenge each member of our Synod to respond to Christ's total claim on our lives with committing ourselves to the Scriptural principle of Christian stewardship: "firstfruit, percentage giving"; and be it further

Resolved, That each resolution adopted at this or any previous convention which does or may involve the expenditure of funds in 1977, 1978, and 1979, excluding expenditures for capital purposes for which borrowing may have been specifically authorized, shall be interpreted and carried out as being mandatory only to the extent that there are current revenues, excluding borrowed funds, available in those years for those purposes. If such revenues are insufficient, the Board of Directors is hereby authorized, in addition to other procedures available to it, to borrow such sums as it might determine to apply against the deficit, not to exceed in each of those years a sum equal to five percent of the finalized budget for such year. This is intended and shall only be construed to grant authority to borrow, exercisable or not as the Board of Directors may determine and, if so exercised, only in such amounts (subject to the maximum stated above), at such times, and on such terms and conditions as the board may determine; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Bylaws, including Bylaw 2.85 a, 3, are construed by the convention as not absolutely

requiring the balancing of income and operating expenditures on a yearly basis but as permitting borrowing to the extent authorized by this resolution.

Action: Adopted (14).

(The only substantive change from Res. 13-09A offered by the committee seems to have been in enlarging the phrase in the third resolve, which had originally merely read: "... 1979, excluding for capital purposes, shall be interpreted and ...")

To Revise Bylaw 9.01 et seq. (Budget-Setting Procedure)

RESOLUTION 13-10A

Report 13-05 (CW, pp. 392-395)

WHEREAS, The New Orleans convention established an ad-hoc committee to revise Bylaws for budget preparation; and

WHEREAS, The Anaheim convention received this report, adopted certain Bylaw changes, and asked the committee to continue to review the budgetary process and propose any necessary Bylaw changes to the 1977 convention; and

WHEREAS, The committee has proposed a Bylaw revision which has been endorsed in principle by the Synod's Board of Directors, Board of Stewardship, Council of Administrators, and Fiscal Review Commission; therefore be it

Resolved, That a revised budget-setting procedure be adopted by implementation of the following revision of Bylaw 9.01 et seq.:

PRESENT WORDING

IX. FINANCES

A. BUDGET AND WORK PROGRAMS

9.01 Budgeting Procedure

a. The Council of Administrators shall prepare and submit biennially to the Board of Directors a challenging work program for each of the Synod's boards and commissions with accompanying cost estimates.

b. The Board of Directors shall receive for review plans and policies which the boards and commissions of the Synod intend to submit to the synodical convention. Any board or commission shall have the right to take its recommendations directly to the synodical convention for final decision, even if these recommendations lack the approval of the Board of Directors, provided, however, that the views

PROPOSED WORDING

IX. FINANCES

A. BUDGET AND WORK PROGRAMS

9.01 General

Stewardship is the management of the total resources God has given His people individually and collectively to carry out His mission and ministry. Therefore it follows that the budgeting process and the spending budget itself shall be designed to capitalize on the opportunities for mission and ministry challenging the Synod. A spending budget for the two fiscal years beginning the February 1 following the synodical convention, together with a proposed work program for the following two fiscal years, shall be adopted by each convention. The Board of Directors of the Synod may adjust the adopted spending budget as hereinafter provided.

9.02 Budget Adoption Procedure

a. By November 30 of each year preceding the biennial delegate convention every board, commission, and operating department of the Synod shall submit to the Board of Directors through the Council of Administrators its proposed spending budget for the next fiscal biennium together with its proposed work program for the following biennium. The request shall be submitted on a current dollar basis in the format and under the timetable prescribed by the Board of Directors. All programs shall show total costs and each agency's total financial support, including local, synodical, and any other support. The Council of Administrators shall review the

of the Board of Directors and the reasons for its dissent shall be reported to the convention.

c. At the synodical convention a special floor committee is to receive the assignment to review and to report on the recommended synodical work program as submitted by the Board of Directors to the convention.

d. The biennial delegate conventions of the Synod shall adopt a 2-year comprehensive synodical work program.

e. After adoption of the synodical work program by the convention, the Board of Directors shall communicate to all the synodical Districts the synodical work program for each fiscal year in the adopted 2-year work program.

f. After commitments for each year have been received from congregations and have been transmitted by the Districts to the synodical Board of Directors, that board shall set the synodical budget after consultation with the Council of Administrators and the Council of Presidents.

proposed spending budget and work program and make recommendations thereon to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall make adjustments for the effects of inflation and changes in the value of the U.S. dollar.

b. By January 31 of each year each District President or his designated representative shall confirm to the Synod the adjusted District commitment for the new fiscal year. He will also report the estimated total income from congregations and other sources to be available for District and synodical ministry for each of the next 4 years. At the same time each District will also inform the Synod of the amount and percent designated for ministry within the District and that which will be available for ministry at the synodical level for the same 4-year period. A report in which the District forecasts continuous and new work for the 4-year period is to be shared with the Synod in order that the Synod and District may coordinate and plan for a more effective program of ministry.

c. By February 15 of the year of each biennial delegate convention the Board of Directors shall review the estimated income and spending budget and work program information submitted; make such fiscal adjustments as it considers necessary; advise the respective boards, commissions, and operating departments of the proposed adjustments; solicit their support concerning such adjustments; and then propose to the synodical convention a total budget for the next biennium, reflecting the mission, ministry, and stewardship performance and potential of the Synod.

d. Any board, commission, or District that disagrees with the Board of Directors budget or work program proposals has the right to appeal such recommendations by March 31 to the Board of Directors. If the petitioning body and the Board of Directors are unable to resolve the differences, the appealing body shall submit its concern to the synodical convention.

e. The President of the Synod, after consultation with the respective District Presidents, shall appoint a floor committee on program implementation (hereafter called floor committee) consisting of a representative from each District, plus at least one board and one staff adviser from the synodical Board of Directors and Board of Stewardship. Prior to the convention the floor committee shall meet to review the current fiscal biennium and to review the recommended budget and work program as submitted by the Board of Directors, together with any proposed adjustments submitted by appealing bodies. The floor committee shall then prepare its recommendations to the convention based on the mission, ministry, and stewardship performance and potential of the Synod.

f. Prior to the convention, the individual member of the floor committee in consultation with the District's stewardship department or its equivalent will endeavor to inform the District's delegates of the synodical program, finances, and floor committee recommendations. The Department of Stewardship shall provide assistance in this process, including resource people, if requested.

g. Overtures and recommendations that will greatly affect the budget shall be accompanied by objectives and anticipated results, cost projections, and source of funding for the next four fiscal years. Each proposed resolution from other floor committees involving expenditures, prior to its consideration on the floor of the convention, shall be presented to the floor committee, which in consultation with the representatives of the Accounting Department and the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors shall attach to the recommended resolution its observation regarding the estimated benefits and costs. All new work so proposed shall be

B. FISCAL REVIEW COMMISSION

9.11 Membership and Organization

a. The Fiscal Review Commission shall be composed of the President of each District (or his representative), one layman not in the employ of the District who is knowledgeable in financial planning and fiscal management, and one of the following: the District Treasurer, the District Stewardship Chairman, the District Stewardship Executive. The layman and his alternate shall be appointed by the District Board of Directors for a term identical with that of the District President. The District may at its expense send additional nonvoting representatives to the Fiscal Review Commission meetings. The President, the Vice-Presidents, and the members of the Board of Directors of the Synod shall be voting members of the commission. The Administrative Officer of the Board of Directors, the Controller, and the Stewardship Counselor of the Synod shall be advisory members of the commission.

b. The Fiscal Review Commission shall biennially elect a chairman and a secretary from its midst who shall serve until their successors qualify. The names of the members of the commission and their addresses, the list of officers, and a copy of all minutes shall be filed with the Secretary of the Synod.

c. Responsibility for establishing the agenda, determining procedures of the meeting, and carrying out the duties and functions of the commission shall be that of the elected officers of the commission.

9.13 Meetings

a. The commission shall meet annually.

b. Each District President shall send the names and addresses of the commission members from his District to the chairman of the commission immediately after their election.

c. The Fiscal Review Commission chairman shall convene a meeting of the commission by June 1 of each year, to consider the proposed budget for the following fiscal year and to share ideas on objectives, programs, forecasts, priorities, and communication devised for the Synod and District boards of directors for their consideration in future fiscal and programmatic planning and fund raising.

9.15 Duties and Functions

a. In the light of the synodically approved 2-year work program the commission shall review the annual synodical income-and-expenditure budgets and examine programs. It shall receive budget proposals from the Board of Directors, review them, and establish the annual budget.

b. After the annual budget has been established by the commission, the Board of Directors shall provide for its implementation.

considered on a priority basis in relation to existing programs and other proposed programs.

h. The biennial delegate convention of the Synod shall adopt a 2-year comprehensive spending budget for the next fiscal biennium beginning February 1 following the synodical convention which reflects the mission, ministry, and stewardship performance and potential of the Synod.

i. Following the convention, delegates in cooperation with District stewardship departments and circuit officials are encouraged to visit each congregation in the electoral circuit to report and discuss the program of the Synod, emphasizing the congregational responsibility toward synodical and District programs. Materials to assist with the communication of the adopted spending budget and work program shall be provided by the stewardship department.

9.03 Budget Confirmation Procedure

a. It is the responsibility of the Districts to provide information to its congregations concerning the spending budget and work program of the District and the Synod prior to the congregational budget-setting meeting. The congregations are encouraged to use synodical convention delegates, District convention delegates, and/or District staff personnel in this communication process. District and synodical stewardship boards shall provide materials to assist in the process of communicating the adopted spending budgets and work programs of the District and the Synod, as well as receive information and suggestions for consideration by the respective Boards of Directors and conventions. Such materials shall be coordinated with the provisions of Bylaw 15.07.

b. The spending budget adopted by the convention shall be changed only to reflect unanticipated circumstances. Necessary changes shall be proposed by November 30 of each year and submitted in the format and under the timetable prescribed by the Board of Directors. The Council of Administrators shall review the proposed changes and make recommendations thereon to the Board of Directors.

c. By January 31 of each year the procedure outlined in 9.02 b will be followed.

d. By February 15 of each year the Board of Directors of the Synod shall review the commitments from Districts and any proposed changes to the spending budget together with the Council of Administrators recommendations thereon. The board shall then adopt a final budget for the next fiscal year provided such spending budget does not exceed the total amount authorized by convention as adjusted for inflation.

e. In the event commitments from Districts will not support the total spending authorized by the delegate convention as adjusted for inflation, the Board of Directors may convene a meeting of the floor committee and the District Presidents and Council of Administrators, who together with the board will review the synodical program and discuss the total ministry being affected by the Synod and its Districts so as to decide upon a course of action to resolve the imbalance.

c. The commission shall suggest methods for improving the financial situation of the Synod.

9.17 Expenses

The meeting expenses of the commission shall be paid by the Synod; expenses of additional nonvoting representatives from the Districts shall be paid by their respective Districts.

9.04 Budget and Work Program Preparation

a. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for coordinating the preparation of the budget and work program as defined in Bylaw 2.85.

b. In preparation of the annual District budget and/or work program, representatives of the Board of Directors and/or Board of Stewardship of the Synod shall meet with the appropriate officials in each District, including the representative on the floor committee, to share information and plans concerning the total ministry of the District and the Synod.

9.06 District Conventions

a. Each District shall arrange for adequate time at its convention for a report on the budget and work program of the Synod. Such report shall be made by the District representatives on the floor committee at the prior year's convention and a representative of the Synod's Board of Directors and/or Board of Stewardship in cooperation with the District Board of Stewardship.

b. The responsible District floor committees shall discuss the Synod and District spending budgets and work programs and provide suggestions for consideration by the respective boards of directors.

Summary of Proposed Budget-Setting Process

- | | | |
|------|-------------|--|
| 1978 | Nov. 30 | Boards submit to Board of Directors (through Council of Administrators) proposed 2-year spending budget (1980—81) and proposed work program (1982—83). |
| 1979 | Jan. 31 | District President (or his designee) confirms percentage and amount allocated for 1979 and forecasts income and percentage allocations for District/Synod (1980—83). |
| | Feb. 15 | Board of Directors reviews estimated income/expenditures-making adjustments as necessary. |
| | Mar. 31 | Appeals (by boards), if any, to Board of Directors. |
| | May | Convention floor committees meet (including the floor committee on program implementation). |
| | June, July | Delegates report to their District delegation. Stewardship Department provides assistance. |
| | July | CONVENTION
Adopts 2-year spending budget (1980—81) plus 2-year work program (1982—83). |
| 1979 | Aug., Sept. | Delegates are encouraged to visit each congregation in their electoral circuit to present and discuss budget and work program. |
| | | BUDGET ADJUSTMENT |
| | Nov. 30 | Deadline for necessary changes. Council of Administrators reviews/recommends to Board of Directors. |
| 1980 | by Jan. 31 | District President (or his designee) confirms percentage and amount allocated for 1980 and forecasts income and percentage allocations for District/Synod (1981—84). |
| | by Feb. 15 | Board of Directors adopts finalized budget. If necessary, Board of Directors may convene a meeting of the convention floor committee on finance, together with the District Presidents and Council of Administrators and Board of Directors, to resolve the imbalance. |
| | Jan.—July | Reports at conventions of the Synod and Districts; discussion and suggestion to their respective boards of directors and convention. |
| | Nov. 30 | Boards submit to Board of Directors (through Council of Administrators) proposed 2-year budget (1982—83) and work program for 1984—85. |
| | Note: | (And the process continues as indicated above.) |

Action: *Adopted (13).*

(An amendment to insert "if they so desire to do this" at the end of the first sentence of 9.03 a failed.)

To Recognize and Thank Dr. Milton Carpenter for Service as Treasurer

RESOLUTION 13-11A

Report 13-01 (CW, p. 337)

WHEREAS, Milton Carpenter has provided valuable service to our Lord and to His church on practically a full-time basis and without compensation as Treasurer of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for 15 years; and

WHEREAS, His expertise in finance has been accompanied through these years by an optimistic faith and a confident spirit that has been a source of blessing to the church as a body and to its leaders as individuals; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in convention assembled, offer thanks and praise to the Lord of the church for continuing to supply us with His gifts of men and women whom He equips with special talents and with the needed faith and love to utilize them for the common good of His people; and be it further

Resolved, That we extend our sincere congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Dr. Carpenter for His willing effort and helpful insight in carrying out the duties of his office over the years and thank him for the encouraging words with which he bids us to look to the future of our Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That we commend him and his wife to the gracious care and loving guidance of our heavenly Father, for health in body, soul, and spirit, as he enjoys his retirement and continues to serve His Lord as he is led.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Continue Synodical Subsidy and Development Resources for Educational Institutions

RESOLUTION 13-12

Overture 13-09 (CW, pp. 395—396)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod maintains educational institutions to equip people for ministry in the church; and

WHEREAS, The Synod recognizes its responsibility for generous support and direction for the educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, The costs of operating these educational institutions have been rapidly escalating in these inflationary days, forcing the educational institutions to secure increasingly large sums of money for operating purposes both by raising fees and through development programs of their own; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod recognize the present need of educational institutions to raise increasingly larger amounts of money by their own efforts in development; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod provide at least the

present percentage level of subsidy (including current inflationary trends) for its educational institutions; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education in consultation with the Board of Directors and the Board of Stewardship of the Synod be directed by the Synod to explore the coordination of fund-raising efforts of the educational institutions for the purpose of ascertaining the most desirable and economic means of raising development funds and report to the 1979 convention.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Accept Report of LCMS Foundation and Encourage Use of Its Resources

RESOLUTION 13-13

Report 13-04 (CW, p. 391)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation exists to assist the Synod and its members in the prudent management of resources; and

WHEREAS, The need for financial support for the work of God's kingdom is always great; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Foundation has been blessed by the Lord and will continue to be a blessing to the church; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Foundation could become a major source of income for the synodical operation; and

WHEREAS, The Foundation serves the church by soliciting, receiving, and investing gifts, bequests, and trusts from, for, and in behalf of individuals, congregations, agencies, Districts, and institutions, as well as assisting the membership of the Synod in the understanding of and commitment to the making of Christian wills; therefore be it

Resolved, That we receive and accept the report of the Foundation with thanks; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod give thanks to the Lord for His gifts and the ability to use them to His glory and the welfare of His church; and be it further

Resolved, That the official boards of all Districts, synodical schools, affiliated agencies, and congregations make themselves aware of and be encouraged to utilize the LCMS Foundation's various services, and, where feasible, use the Foundation in establishing their own endowment funds.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Establish Required Course in Stewardship at Our Seminaries

RESOLUTION 13-14A

Report 13-03 (CW, p. 389)

WHEREAS, The Growth in Ministry research indicates that the parish pastors feel a real need for training which will help them in their personal planning as well as congregational planning; and

WHEREAS, Many pastors indicate that they have had little or no stewardship training in their preparation for the ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That faculties of the two seminaries, in consultation with the Board of Stewardship and the Synod's Growth in Ministry representatives, be strongly encouraged to develop a one-quarter required course for seminary students in areas of stewardship and financial planning, to be introduced in the 1978-79 school year.

Action: Adopted (13).

(Discussion began in Session 9. The words "be strongly encouraged to" were added by common consent.)

Operating and/or Capital Expenditures For Proposed Convention Resolutions

Dallas Convention

Bylaw 1.27 h (*Handbook*, p. 32) provides that Floor Committee 13 shall attach to resolutions presented to the convention information on estimated cost on an annual basis or on a project basis, as the case may be. Rather than submitting the estimated cost of each resolution on a piecemeal basis, the committee herewith submits a composite table of the cost of various projects and programs included in resolutions to be submitted to the convention. The following table includes funds in proposed operating budgets, increases in operating budgets if proposed resolutions are adopted, and synodical capital outlays required in addition to budgeted items if proposed resolutions are adopted.

Resolution Number and Title	Board or Commission Affected	Funds included in present or requested Oper. Budgets for years:			Potential Operating Budget Increased for years:			Estimated Total Capital Requirement 1977-79	Synodical Capital Funds necessary during years:		
		1977	1978	1979	1977	1978	1979		1977	1978	1979
2-01 New Work in West Africa	Missions	\$ 99,218	\$ 270,000	\$ 459,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
2-06 Support Inner City Ministry	Missions	0	0	0	5,000	10,000	5,000	0	0	0	0
2-08 Staff Person for Medical Work	Missions	13,000	26,140	27,750	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-09 Necessary Staff for Medical Work	Missions	0	0	0	4,000	10,000	12,000	0	0	0	0
2-20 Add. Staff Person for Evangelism	Evangelism	0	0	0	0	20,000	20,000	0	0	0	0
2-22 Mission Interpretation & Prom.	Missions	4,000	12,800	14,080	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-25 To Serve Scattered Lutherans	Missions	0	0	0	750	1,000	1,500	0	0	0	0
2-27 Evangelism Among the Jews	Evangelism	3,779	4,700	4,700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3-13 To Warn Against TM/SCI	Frat. Org.	0	0	0	0	4,000	0	0	0	0	0
6-02 Adequate Faculty Salaries	BHE	0	700,000	700,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6-05 Oper. of Conc. College, Edmonton ¹	BHE	175,000	125,000	100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6-06 Expansion of Colleges, Portland	BHE	325,000	325,000	325,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6-06 Expansion of Colleges, Winfield	BHE	381,000	381,000	381,000	0	39,000	65,000	0	0	0	0
6-06 Expansion of Colleges, Austin	BHE	285,000	285,000	285,000	0	25,000	55,000	0	0	0	0
6-06 Expansion of Colleges, Milwaukee	BHE	430,000	430,000	430,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6-07 Dev. of Christ College, Irvine ^{2,3}	BHE	170,000	170,000	170,000	0	87,000	170,000	1,625,000	750,000	250,000	625,000
7-03 Convention of Ch. School Work	BPE	10,000	10,250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7-08 Synodical Youth Organization ⁴	BYM	1,350	5,350	3,500	30,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
7-12 Train. in Marriage Counseling	BPE	0	0	0	0	40,000	40,000	0	0	0	0
7-15 LCUSA Office of Gov. Affairs	PR	0	0	0	20,000	40,000	40,000	0	0	0	0
7-23 Funds for Scholarly Research	Ch. Lit.	0	0	0	25,000	25,000	25,000	0	0	0	0
8-05 To Advocate Adequate Housing	Soc. Min.	3,750	3,500	3,750	0	5,000	7,500	0	0	0	0
8-10 Crim. Justice & Pris. Rehab.	Soc. Min.	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	0
9-04 Addition to Historical Inst. ⁵	CHI	0	0	0	0	0	0	200,000	0	200,000	0
9-05 Honor of Retired Ch. Workers	PR	8,000	8,000	8,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-01 Admin. of Black Ministry	Black T.F.	0	0	0	88,000	108,000	48,000	0	0	0	0
10-02 Indian Ministry Commitment	Missions	24,880	24,880	0	0	11,000	0	0	0	0	0
10-03 Hispanic Task Force	Missions	12,500	15,000	15,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-04 Library Facility, Selma	BHE	0	0	0	0	0	0	400,000	0	250,000	150,000
10-05 Support for Selma	BHE	260,000	260,000	260,000	0	30,000	50,000	0	0	0	0
10-06 Recruit. Program for Blacks	Black T.F.	0	0	0	25,000	40,000	40,000	0	0	0	0
10-08 Evang. Prog. in Chang. Commun.	Evangelism	0	0	0	13,200	17,700	22,000	0	0	0	0
10-09 Hispanic Seminary Extension	BHE	0	0	0	0	7,500	10,000	0	0	0	0
10-10 Hispanic Workers Trng., Austin	BHE	0	0	0	0	25,000	40,000	0	0	0	0
10-16 Vicarage in Black Cong.	B/D	0	0	0	0	48,000	48,000	0	0	0	0
10-17 Min. Among American Indians	Various	13,600	13,600	13,600	0	15,000	15,000	0	0	0	0
10-18 To Eliminate Racism	Soc. Min.	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	15,000	15,000	0	0	0	0
10-18 To Eliminate Racism	Black T.F.	0	0	0	25,000	40,000	40,000	0	0	0	0
13-02 Circuit Counselors Conf. ^{6,7}	Steward.	0	0	0	0	130,375	0	0	0	0	0
13-03 Proport. Giving, Stew. Work	Steward.	0	0	0	0	10,000	10,000	0	0	0	0
13-04 Mission Education	Steward.	148,000	148,000	148,000	60,000	60,000	90,000	0	0	0	0
13-05 Synodical Sunday	Steward.	0	0	0	20,000	35,000	35,000	0	0	0	0
Totals		\$2,368,077	\$3,228,220	\$3,358,380	\$330,950	\$903,575	\$909,000	\$7,275,000	\$750,000	\$700,000	\$775,000

1. Cost Reduction

2. The 1962 Cleveland convention authorized \$6,850,000 for the construction of Christ College Irvine, plus the costs of a suitable site and faculty housing. To date \$1,048,000 of synodical funds has been applied toward the cost of the first building. Additional buildings requiring \$1,875,000 of synodical funds are planned for the years 1977-81. No detailed estimates are available for future construction for a 4-year institution; however, estimates range from \$5,000,000 to \$15,000,000 at today's costs with funds to be provided from both the Synod and local sources.

3. \$750,000 125th Ann. Fd.

4. Expansion Fd.

5. 125th Ann. Fd.

6. It is anticipated that income generated from these special stewardship activities will more than offset the expenses involved.

7. \$130,375 Trans. and Conf.—\$150,000 Dist. cost for meals and lodging

The Committee on Program Implementation expresses its concern to the convention and urges discretion in the adoption of resolutions:

a) which would add expenditure items to the recommended 1977, 1978, and 1979 spending levels as

found in the 1977 budget and 1978 and 1979 work programs (Res. 13-08, *TB*, p. 176, and Report 13-02, *CW*, pp. 357-388);

b) which add indirect costs to the Synod, some of which are understandable, or which have impact on the

potential income of the Synod and its Districts, or which may adversely affect existing programs of the Synod;

c) which have a heavy impact on future operational

budgets and/or capital funding requirements of the Synod.

(Note: The accompanying table is printed for historical purposes. Actions taken by the convention influence certain figures.)

14. REFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

(Floor committees availed themselves of the opportunity to refer petitioners to certain boards and commissions before bringing their concerns to a convention of the Synod [Resolution A] or to refer them to actions already taken by previous conventions [Resolution B]. Both of these composite resolutions were considered by the convention as part of the agenda-setting process. At that time the convention had the opportunity of amending both resolutions by referring specific items back to a floor committee for their further consideration.)

RESOLUTION A

WHEREAS, The Synod has created many offices, boards, commissions, and departments; and

WHEREAS, It would seem proper that proposals involving such units should ordinarily be directed to them; therefore be it

Resolved, That in the following instances the petitioners direct their concern or proposal as indicated below before bringing them to a convention of the Synod:

Overture or Report	Subject	Board or Commission
Ov. 2-11A—C	Project Philip	Bd. for Missions
Ov. 2-27	Baja Mission	Bd. for Missions
Ov. 2-30A—B	Commendation	Bd. for Missions
Ov. 3-93A—B	"The Church"	CTCR
Ov. 3-94A—B	Study Eschatology	CTCR
Ov. 3-95	"Israel" and "Millennium"	CTCR
Ov. 3-99	New Mission Affirmations	CTCR
Ov. 3-100	Reaff. Mission Affirmations	CTCR
Ov. 3-101	New Social Affirmations	CTCR
Ov. 3-102	Discard Both Affirmations	CTCR
Ov. 3-104	Ordination, Call Procedures, Nomenclature	CTCR
Ov. 3-105	Declare Women Teachers Ministers	CTCR
Ov. 3-106	Study Various Concerns	CTCR
Ov. 3-111	Terminate All-Lutheran Gatherings	CTCR
Ov. 3-199	Roman Catholic Dialog	CTCR (Report, p. 46)
Ov. 4-29	Merge English District	Task Force, Const., Bylaws, Structure
Ov. 4-31	Frequency of Conventions	Task Force
Ov. 4-32A—D	Triennial Conventions	Task Force
Ov. 4-33	Conventions Every 4 Years	Task Force
Ov. 4-34	Conventions Every 5 Years	Task Force
Ov. 4-41	Selection of Convention Committees	Task Force
Ov. 4-42	Teacher Representation on Convention Committees	Task Force
Ov. 4-43	Floor Com. Distribution	Task Force
Ov. 4-44A—C	Limit to Two Terms	Task Force
Ov. 4-45	Sixth and Seventh Vice-Pres.	Task Force
Ov. 4-46	Alternate Officers	Task Force
Ov. 4-58	LCUSA Div. Campus Ministry & Educ. Serv.	Bd. for Missions
Ov. 4-59	Dept. of Campus Ministry, LCUSA	Bd. for Missions
Ov. 4-65A—B	Survey of Youth Ministry	Bd. of Youth Ministry
Ov. 5-07	Certification, Pastor Heimsoth	Colloquy Bd.
Ov. 5-08	Certification, Pastor Stender	Colloquy Bd.
Ov. 5-114	Policy Congress	Task Force
Ov. 6-26	Size of Bds. of Control	BHE
Ov. 6-58A—B, 2nd		
Resolve of 6-62	2nd Chair, Saskatoon	BHE
Ov. 6-74, 6-75	Relocate Austin	BHE
Ov. 6-81	4-Year Programs	BHE
Ov. 6-83, Rec. 7		
of Report 2-01	Lay Evangelism	BHE
Ov. 6-85A—B	Brazil District Control of Schools	BHE
Ov. 6-86	Combine Brazil Schools	BHE
Ov. 6-87	Married Student Hsing, St. Louis	BHE
Ov. 6-88	Evangelism Training	BHE
Ov. 6-97	Courses on Social Ministry	BHE
Ov. 6-98	Faculty for Early Childhood Ed.	BHE
Ov. 6-99	Ministry to Learning Society	BHE
Ov. 7-20	"Year of the Catechism"	Council of Adm.
Ov. 7-28	Publishing of Cassette Studies	CPH
Ov. 7-40	Public Relations	Public Relations
Ov. 7-45	Publication of Sunday Bulletins	CPH
Rep. 13-03, 2	World Consultation on Stewardship	Bd. for Missions
Ov. 13-13	Support of Welfare Agencies	Bd. of Directors

Action: Adopted as amended (2)

(Amendment: Rep. 13-03, 2 was added to the list, and Ov. 2-26, Lamp Mission, was referred back to Committee 2. Motions to refer the following back to committee were declined: Ov. 3-100, Ov. 3-105, Ov. 4-31, Ov. 6-58A and B, 6-62, second resolved.)

RESOLUTION B

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention has already spoken to certain proposals addressed to this convention; and

WHEREAS, There seems to be no compelling reason to amplify or to revise that previous convention action; therefore be it

Resolved, That in the following instances the petitioners be referred to previous convention action as indicated:

Overture or Report	Subject	Reference
Ov. 2-05	Forward in Mission	Anaheim Res. 2-01A and 2-03
Ov. 2-06	Honor Commitment	Anaheim Res. 2-01A, Resolves 9 and 12
Ov. 3-107	Universalism	N. O. Res. 3-01
Ov. 3-108	Papacy and the Antichrist	Smalcald Articles
Ov. 3-193—3-198	LWF, NCC, and WCC Involvement	
	1) LWF	N. O. Res. 2-11
		Anaheim Res. 3-26
		Denver Res. 3-14
	2) NCC	N. O. Res. 2-10
		Milwaukee Res. 3-07
		Detroit Res. 3-03
		Denver Res. 3-04
	3) WCC	
Ov. 3-57A—B,		
3-187A—B, 3-188	Unionism	Denver Res. 3-18
Ov. 4-70	Request Resignations	Anaheim Res. 2-02A, 2-20A
		3-03A, 3-06, 5-05, 5-06, 5-07, 6-02, 6-04, 6-05, 6-06, 6-27, 12-01, and 12-04
Ov. 5-34A—E,		
5-35A—B, 5-36	ELIM Membership	Anaheim Res. 3-06
Ov. 5-11, 5-12,		
5-16, 5-39—5-41	Congregations and Eligible Pastors	Anaheim Res. 5-06, 6-05
Ov. 5-97	Rescind Anaheim Res. 5-02	Anaheim Res. 5-08
Ov. 5-13, 5-14	Status of Seminex Personnel	Anaheim Res. 5-07
Ov. 5-09A—D	Herman Otten Certification	Anaheim Res. 9-10
Ov. 5-105—5-108	Binding Nature of CCM Opinions	Anaheim Res. 5-09
Ov. 6-51	Delegate Colloquy Interviews	Bylaw 4.61 e
Ov. 6-53	Recognize Seminex	Anaheim Res. 6-02
Ov. 6-54	Inappropriateness of Seminex Support	Anaheim Res. 6-02
Ov. 6-55	Dealing with Seminex	Anaheim Res. 6-02, 6-07A, 3-06
Ov. 6-56	Support Synodical Schools	Anaheim Res. 6-07A
Ov. 7-16—7-18A		
7-42A—B	Published Materials	Anaheim Res. 7-14
Ov. 7-44A—E	Use of AAT in Educational Materials	Anaheim Res. 7-20
Ov. 8-08—8-10	Persecuted Christians	Anaheim Res. 8-05
Ov. 13-12	Use of Springfield Proceeds as Endowment	Anaheim Res. 6-08A

Action: Adopted as amended (2).

(Ov. 8-08—8-10 were added to the list. A motion to refer Ov. 5-97 back to the committee failed.)

LATE REPORTS AND OVERTURES ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION

(Bylaw 1.27 b)

4-84U

To Transfer Holy Comforter, Mt. Vernon, N.Y.

This request for a transfer from the English District to the SELC District has the approval of both District Presidents.

Al Marcis, *SELC*
George Bornemann, *English*

5-116UA

To Require Eastern District to Recognize Acting Pres. Albert Bahr

WHEREAS, The majority of the Board of Trustees of the Eastern District has refused to comply with the removal of Dr. Herman Frincke as President of the Eastern District by duly constituted synodical authority; and

WHEREAS, The majority of the Board of Trustees of the Eastern District has allowed and encouraged Dr. Herman Frincke to continue to function as the President of the Eastern District; and

WHEREAS, The majority of the Board of Trustees of the Eastern District has refused to recognize the office of Acting President Albert Bahr or to cooperate with President Bahr in the activities of his office; and

WHEREAS, The majority of the Board of Trustees of the Eastern District has consistently failed to heed patient brotherly advice and admonition from the President of the Synod and the synodical Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, The position of the majority of the Board of Trustees of the Eastern District has resulted in division and discord among the congregations of the Eastern District, hindering the work of mission and ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of the Board of Trustees of the Eastern District be directed to uphold and abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the Board of Trustees of the Eastern District be directed to recognize the office of Acting President Albert Bahr and to cooperate with him in all of the activities of his office; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the Board of Trustees of the Eastern District be directed to disassociate former President Herman Frincke from the activities and prerogatives of the office of District President; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the Board of Trustees of the Eastern District be directed to in-

dividually state their willingness to comply with the terms of this resolution to the Synod's Board of Directors within 30 days of the conclusion of this convention; and be it further

Resolved, That if a member of the Board of Trustees of the Eastern District cannot in good conscience comply with the terms of this resolution, he shall resign from the Board of Trustees of the Eastern District; and be it further

Resolved, That if such stated compliance or resignation is not forthcoming within the period specified, the offices of those individuals who have refused to comply or resign shall be declared vacant by the Synod's Board of Directors; and be it finally

Resolved, That the acting President of the Eastern District be directed to appoint individuals from the appropriate regions within the District to fill any such vacancies on the Board of Trustees.

Martin Luther Church
Punxsutawney, Pa.
Douglas Ward, *Pastor*

5-116UB

A similar overture was also received from St. Luke's, Hannahstown, Pa., Larry G. Greenway, Secretary.

5-117U

To Receive Ascension, Corunna, Ont., into Membership

We, the undersigned, being appointed to represent our congregation in this matter, respectfully request that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod accept this church, "Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church," into its membership at the regular synodical convention in Dallas, Tex.

In accord with the appropriate regulations, the constitution of this congregation has been submitted to the District Constitutions Committee and has received its full approval. This application for membership is accompanied with the approval of the administration of the Ontario District.

Ascension Ev. Lutheran Church
Corunna, Ont.
Donald R. Schiemann, *Pastor*
Fred Kendel, *Chairman*
Golda Lucas, *Secretary*

5-118U

To Replace Albert Bahr with Herman Frincke in Convention Rolls

WHEREAS, The congregations of the Eastern District, LCMS, have, through their official represen-

tatives (delegates) in convention duly assembled, elected Rev. Dr. Herman R. Frincke as District President; and

WHEREAS, The unwarranted exclusion of their selection from his rightful role on advisory councils and convention floor committees, worse yet, the appointment of an illegal substitute, is a disenfranchisement of District rights; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the Eastern District vigorously protest these injustices to the Synod in convention in Dallas and to the highest levels of the synodical administration; and be it further

Resolved, That the Dallas convention Committee on Credentials be petitioned to disallow any claims of the "appointed," "acting," and illegal "substitute" President to be the representative of the Eastern District.

The following negative vote asked to be registered: Mr. Fred Heintz.

Board of Trustees
Eastern District
Richard L.J. Hoemann, *Secretary*

5-119U

To Receive Concord, Shawnee Mission, Kans., into Membership

WHEREAS, On Oct. 30, 1976, Concord Lutheran Church of Shawnee Mission, Kans., Inc., was organized and incorporated under the laws of the State of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution Committee of the Kansas District, as evidenced by their letter dated April 22, 1977, directed to Mr. Kerwin Meinert, Elder, Concord Lutheran Church, states in their last paragraph, "We stand ready to approve your constitution after receiving the suggested revisions." Therefore, in the letter dated May 9, 1977, directed to Mr. Leland Teuscher, chairman, Kansas District Constitution Committee, we have agreed and filed the suggested changes in our amended constitution. We therefore consider our constitution now to carry the approval of the Kansas District on or about May 15, 1977; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in its convention at Dallas, July 1977, receive Concord Lutheran Church of Shawnee Mission, Kans., Inc., into membership.

Concord Lutheran Church
Shawnee Mission, Kans.
George P. Hoenk

5-120U

To Receive Several Texas Congregations

WHEREAS, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Centerville, Tex.; Christ Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Tex.; and our Savior Lutheran Church, Whitney, Tex., are newly organized congregations; and

WHEREAS, These congregations have submitted constitutions to the Texas District Committee on Constitutions; and

WHEREAS, These constitutions have been found to be acceptable and in agreement with the confessional position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, These organizations have passed formal resolutions requesting membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully request The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to accept Our Savior Lutheran Church, Centerville, Tex.; Christ Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Tex.; and Our Savior Lutheran Church, Whitney, Tex., into membership with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Board of Directors
Texas District
Carl A. Heckmann, *President*

5-121U

To Receive Shepherd of the Hills, McMinnville, Tenn.

WHEREAS, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, McMinnville, Tenn., is a newly organized congregation in the Mid-South District; and

WHEREAS, The congregation has been duly organized under the guidelines for mission congregations of the District; and

WHEREAS, The congregation has submitted its constitution to the Constitution Review Committee of the Mid-South District and has received its approval for membership in the District; and

WHEREAS, Shepherd of the Hills has passed a formal resolution requesting membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention in Dallas, Texas, July 1977, receive Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, McMinnville, Tenn., Inc., into the membership of the Synod.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
McMinnville, Tenn.
Orville Granade, *Chairman*
Alan H. Bachert, *Interim Pastor*

5-122U

To Receive Messiah, Salem, Oreg., into Membership

WHEREAS, Messiah Lutheran Church of Salem, Oreg., has been a faithful follower of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its Bylaws and approves of all its recent amendments, herewith submit our application to become affiliated with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and herewith submit that we will honor and obey the

Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Messiah Lutheran Church of Salem, Oreg., petitions the convention assembled in Dallas, Tex., July 15 to 22, 1977, for membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Messiah Lutheran Church
Salem, Oreg.

Robert S. Kuenzli, *President*
Edwin A. Zerbst, *Secretary*

(The constitution has been approved by the District Constitution Committee, and the congregation has accepted the suggested changes.)

6-111U

To Declare that N.O. Res. 6-31 Grants \$3 Million Instead of \$2 Million to Irvine

WHEREAS, The ruling of the Commission on Constitutional Matters, "Opinion re Appropriation for Irvine," No. 4, says: "The commission holds that the \$2,000,000 referred to in that resolution [N.O. Res. 6-31] includes the advance of \$1,000,000 mentioned in the first resolve, so that the total voted upon by the New Orleans convention is not \$3,000,000 but \$2,000,000; and

WHEREAS, The intent of Committee 6, which presented the resolution, had in mind a total of \$3,000,000 to meet the projected needs proposed by Christ college Irvine for the erection of the planned library-administration building and residential unit; and

WHEREAS, Press releases at the New Orleans convention interpreted the resolution in terms of \$3,000,000; and

WHEREAS, The face language of the resolution indicates a total of \$3,000,000; therefore be it

Resolved, That we petition the Dallas convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to restore the original interpretation of \$3,000,000.

Board of Directors
Southern California District
Arnold G. Kuntz, *President*

9-11U

To Establish Mission Theme for 1979 Synodical Convention

WHEREAS, God in His grace continues to open doors for us in missions; and

WHEREAS, Continued growth in the awareness of mission opportunities and challenges is an ever present need of the church; and

WHEREAS, The need exists to inform, inspire, and motivate our people towards even greater interest, zeal, involvement, and support of missions; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continues to be a church body very much involved in mission; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage the President of the

Synod and others responsible for the planning of the 1979 synodical convention to select and implement a mission theme for that convention.

Board for Missions
Alvin Barry, *Executive Secretary*

3-01UX

Addendum to Report of CTCR (Mistakenly Omitted from Workbook)

D. Germany

(Selbstaendige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche)

On June 25, 1972, three Lutheran free churches in Germany participated in a merger which resulted in the formation of the Selbstaendige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche (Independent Lutheran Church). The commission extended greetings to the new church and expressed the hope that the necessary steps could be taken immediately for a formal declaration of fellowship. Leadership in the new church sent its constitution and other pertinent documents, which the commission examined and found to be in agreement with the doctrinal position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In 1973 and again in 1975 the CTCR recommended that the Synod officially declare itself to be in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Selbstaendige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche. Unfortunately the press of other business made it impossible for the Synod to take action on this matter in 1973 and 1975. Therefore the commission once again *recommends*:

6. That the Synod in gratitude to God officially declare itself to be in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Selbstaendige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche, thereby continuing the fellowship it has enjoyed for many years with the member bodies.

E. Lutheran Church of Australia

The Lutheran Church of Australia was formed in 1965. In its 1975 report to the Anaheim convention the CTCR reviewed the contacts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with the Lutheran Church of Australia since that time. Already in 1969 the Synod in convention authorized the President "to initiate discussions with the Lutheran Church of Australia (at a mutually accepted time) to the end of establishing altar and pulpit fellowship" (1969 Res. 3-03). In 1975 the Synod affirmed "its continued desire to establish altar and pulpit fellowship with the Lutheran Church of Australia (1975 Res. 3-02). President J.A.O. Preus visited Australia in January 1977. He brought greetings from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to the Lutheran Church of Australia's Commission on Theology and Inter-Church Relations and met with President Grope. The possibility of confessional discussions, suggested during President's Grope's 1974 visit with Dr. Preus in St. Louis, was once again discussed. The commission continues to cherish the warm and fraternal relationship which it enjoys with the Lutheran Church of Australia and hopes that God will richly bless our mutual efforts to develop a closer relationship in the future.

REPORTS AND OVERTURES CORRELATED WITH RESOLUTIONS

Rep. or Overt.	Res. No.	Rep. or Overt.	Res. No.	Rep. or Overt.	Res. No.	Rep. or Overt.	Res. No.	Rep. or Overt.	Res. No.	Rep. or Overt.	Res. No.
1-01	1-01		3-30	3-107	Res. B	4-50	4-12	5-76	5-32	6-71A—	6-06
			3-34	3-108	Res. B	4-51—	4-01A	5-77	5-21	6-73E	
2-01	2-01A	3-01A	3-28	3-109	8-08	4-52		5-78	5-11	6-74—	Res. A
	2-02	3-01UX	3-09	3-110	3-36	4-53	4-15	5-79A—	5-28	6-75	
	2-03	3-02	3-04A	3-111	Res. A	4-54—	4-20	5-82		6-76—	6-06A
	2-07	3-03	3-13A	3-112A—C	3-32	4-55		5-83—	5-30	6-77	6-07A
	2-08	3-04	3-03A	3-113	3-13A	4-56A—B	4-17	5-84		6-78	6-13
	2-09	3-05	3-02A	3-114A—	3-27	4-57	4-22	5-85—	5-03A	6-79A—	6-06
	2-16	3-06	3-07	3-115		4-58—	Res. A	5-86		6-82	
	2-17	3-11—	3-01	3-116	3-02A	4-59		5-87	5-31	6-81	Res. A
	2-18	3-20C			3-03A	4-60	4-11	5-88	5-37	6-83	Res. A
	2-19	3-16—	3-07		3-04A	4-61	4-18	5-89—	5-10	6-84	6-22
	2-21A	3-17D		3-117A—B	3-35	4-62	4-32	5-91		6-85A—	Res. A
	2-22	3-21—	3-17	3-118	3-18	4-63	4-30	5-92	5-07	6-88	
	2-28	3-22B		3-121A—	3-03A	4-64	4-19	5-93A—	5-18	6-89—	6-01
	2-29	3-23—	3-01	3-133B		4-65A—B	Res. A	5-96		6-90	
	2-30	3-27		3-134	3-37	4-66	4-27	5-97	Res. B	6-91	6-18
	2-31A	3-23—	3-07	3-136A—	3-02A	4-67	4-16	5-98A—C	5-26	6-92A—	6-12
	2-37	3-37		3-161		4-68	4-04	5-99	5-27	6-96	
2-01Mn	2-16	3-29A—	3-01	3-161	3-16	4-69	4-13	5-100	5-35	6-97—	Res. A
2-02	2-04	3-31B		3-162	5-01	4-70	Res. B	5-101	5-24	6-99	
	2-05A	3-33	3-01	3-163—	3-16	4-71	4-14	5-102A—	5-23	6-100—	6-20
	2-12	3-47		3-170		4-74		5-103		6-102	
	2-13	3-37A—B	3-27	3-171	5-01	4-75	4-28	5-104	5-12	6-103	6-16
	2-20	3-40	3-07	3-172A—	3-20	4-76—	4-24	5-105—	Res. B	6-104	6-25
	2-24	3-42—	3-07	3-178		4-79		5-108		6-105	6-24
	2-26	3-45		3-179A—B	3-15	4-80	4-26	5-109A—	5-07	6-106—	6-26
	2-27	3-47—	3-07		3-02A	4-81	4-31	5-110		6-107	
2-03	2-10	3-48		3-180—	3-20	4-82	4-25	5-111	5-38	6-108	6-21
	2-11	3-49A—	3-01	3-182E		4-83	4-29	5-112	5-25	6-109	6-10
2-04	2-09	3-51C		3-183A—	3-02A	4-84U	4-06	5-113	5-29	6-110	2-35
2-05	Res. B	3-52—	3-12	3-186				5-114	Res. A	6-111U	6-06A
2-06	10-06A	3-53B		3-187A—B	Res. B			5-115	5-36		6-07A
	Res. B	3-54	3-04A	3-188A—B	3-02A	5-01	5-06	5-116U,	4-09A		
2-07	2-25	3-55—	3-12	3-189—	3-24A	5-02	5-04	A—B			
2-08A—B	2-27	3-56C		3-190		5-04—	5-02A	5-117U	5-02A	7-01	7-01
2-09	2-12	3-57A—B	Res. B	3-191—	3-14	5-06		5-118U	4-09A		7-02
2-10	7-06	3-58—	3-12	3-192		5-07—	Res. A	5-119U—	5-02A		7-03
2-11A—C	Res. A	3-59C		3-193—	Res. B	5-08		5-122U			7-04
2-12	2-20	3-60—	3-11	3-198		5-09A—D	Res. B				7-05
2-13—	2-05A	3-61		3-199	Res. A	5-10	5-01	6-25	6-14		7-12
2-14		3-62—	3-10A	3-201—	3-04A	5-11—	Res. B	6-26	Res. A		7-13
2-15—	2-23A	3-67B		3-228		5-12		6-27A—D	6-02		7-18
2-17		3-68A—	3-08	3-229	3-31	5-13—	Res. B	6-28	6-17		7-19
2-18	6-18	3-73		3-230	3-33	5-14		6-29	6-15		7-22
2-19	10-06A	3-74A—B	3-30			5-15	5-01	6-30	6-23	7-02	7-06
2-20	2-21A	3-75—	3-15	4-04	7-15	5-16	Res. B	6-31	6-19		7-07
2-21—	2-31A	3-80		4-11—	4-08	5-17—	5-01	6-32—	6-09		7-08
2-22		3-81A—C	3-02A	4-12		5-31D		6-35			7-09
2-23	2-32A	3-82—	3-15	4-13	4-05	5-31A—	1-01	6-36—	6-08		7-10
2-24A—B	2-33A	3-83B		4-15		5-33		6-40			7-17
2-25A—B	2-14	3-84A—	3-06	4-16	4-06	5-34A—	Res. B	6-41—	6-09	7-04	7-13
2-26	2-36	3-86E		4-17	4-07A	5-36		6-45		7-09	7-23
2-27	Res. A	3-87	3-34	4-18—	4-05	5-37—	5-05A	6-46—	6-08	7-15	4-23
2-28	2-34	3-88	3-15	4-19		5-38		6-49		7-16—	Res. B
2-29	2-15A	3-89—	3-29	4-23	4-21	5-39—	Res. B	6-50	6-10	7-18A	
2-30A—B	Res. A	3-91		4-29	Res. A	5-41		6-51	Res. B	7-18B—	7-11
		3-92	3-21			5-42—	5-20	6-52	6-10	7-19	
3-01	3-01	3-93A—B	Res. A	4-31—	Res. A	5-44		6-53—	Res. B		
	3-02A	3-94A—B	Res. A	4-34		5-45	5-08	6-56		7-20	Res. A
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1977 Convention Workbook Corrections

Page 81—Overture 3-41 was submitted by the Northwest District, not by the congregation in Millersburg, Iowa.

*Page 85, column 2, line 8—*In Overture 3-54 an entire manuscript line which ended on the same word was omitted. Please insert after the word "sacrament" the following: "and that no prayers or other actions are necessary to make this sacrament".

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