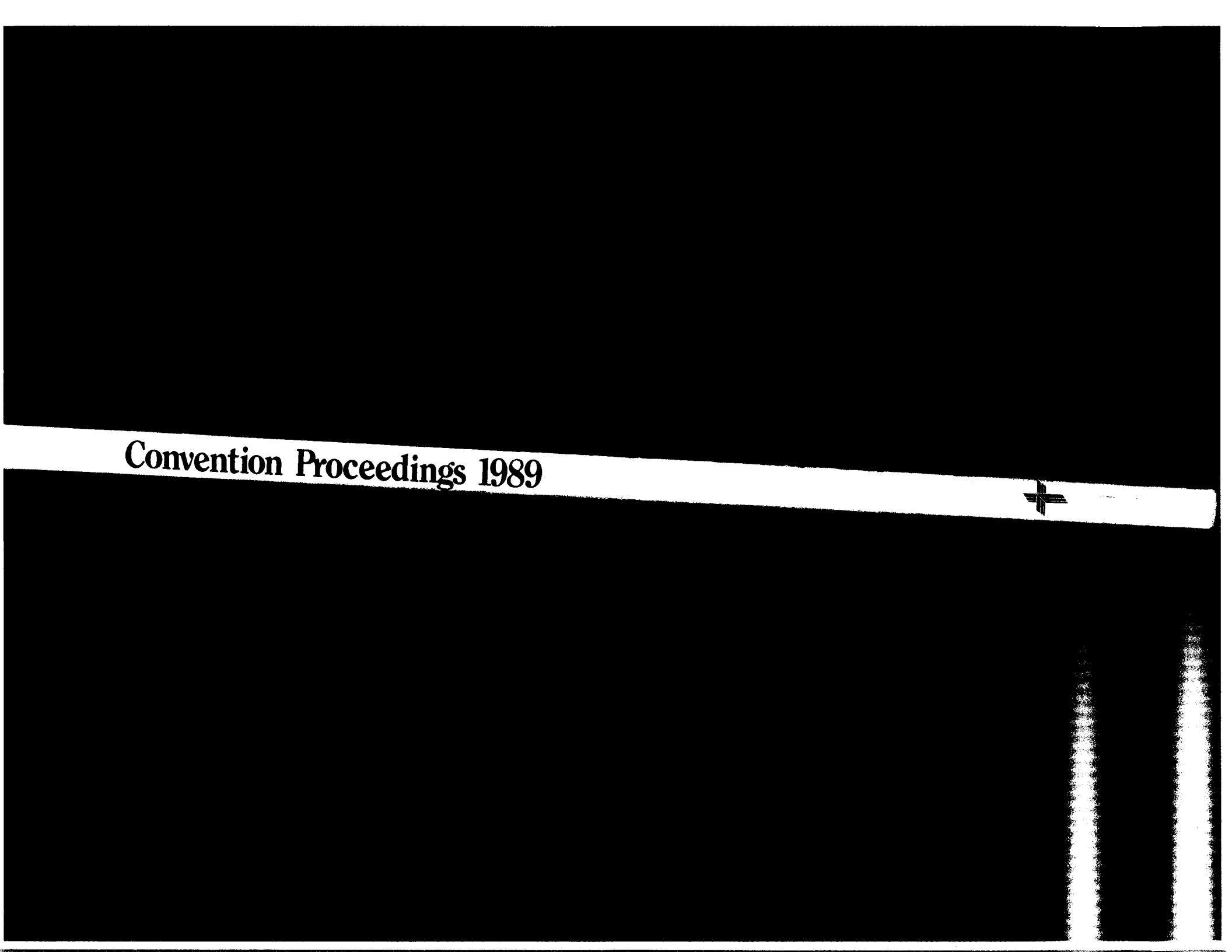
TELL EVERYONE

What HE Has Done

Convention Proceedings

57th Regular Convention
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
Wichita, Kansas, July 7–14, 1989

Convention Proceedings 1989



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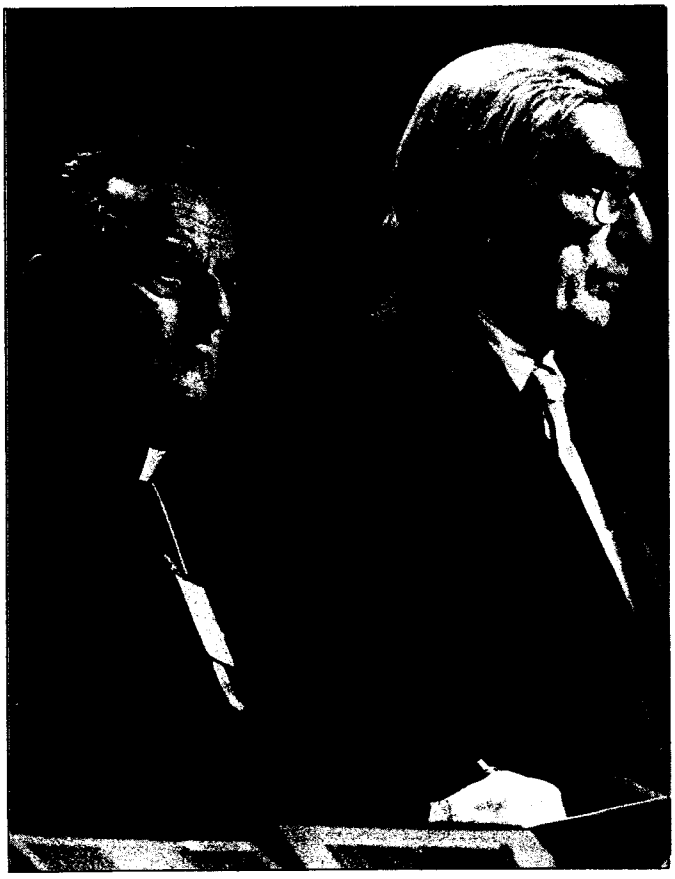

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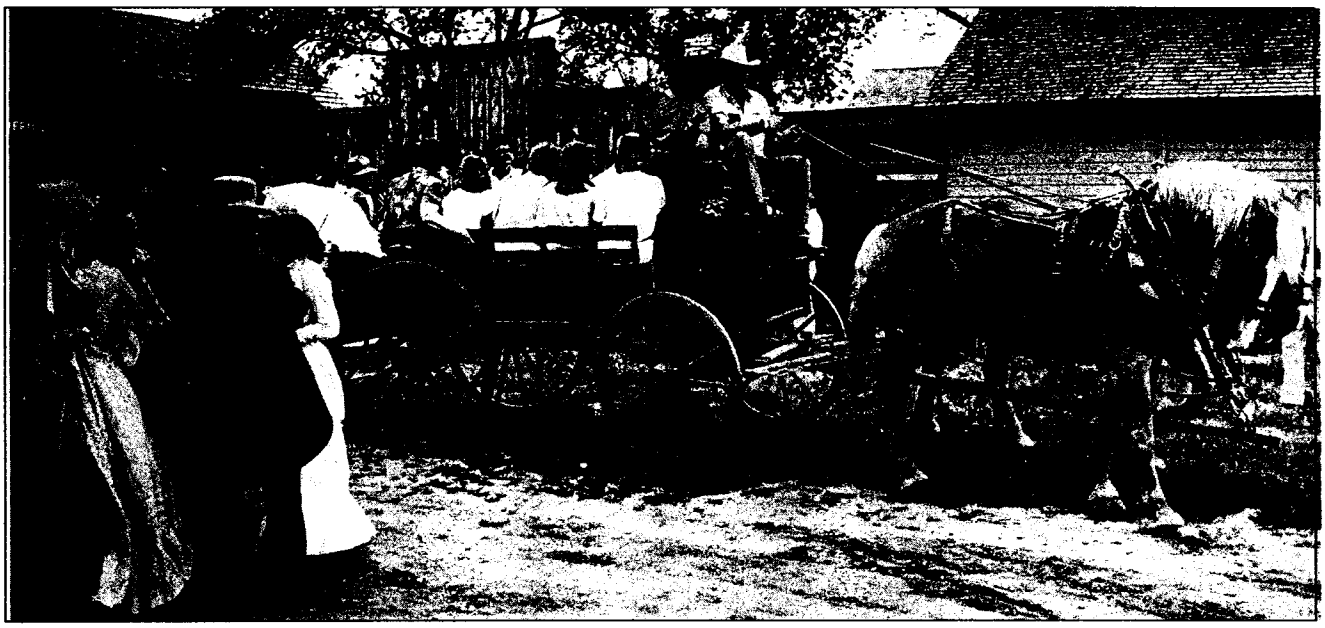

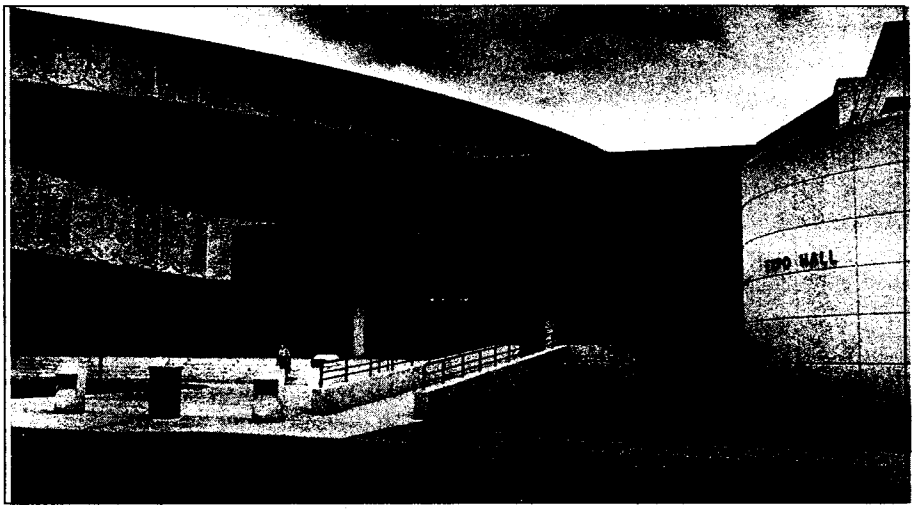
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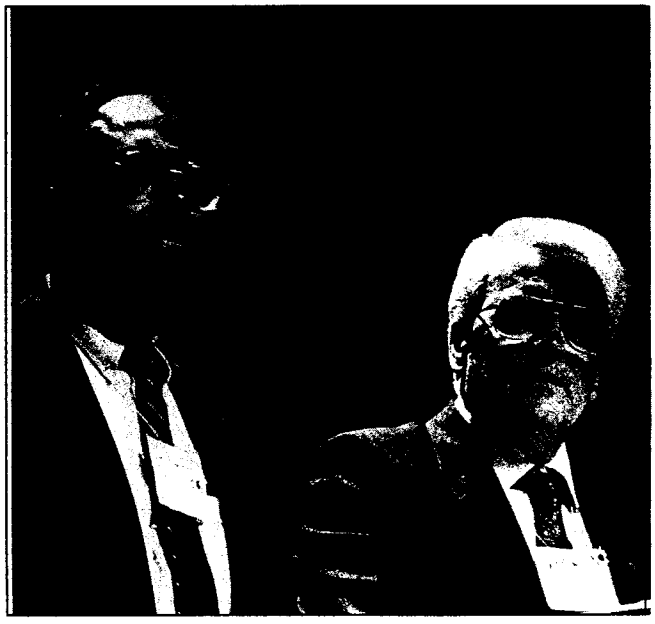

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PREFACE

Tell Everyone What *HE* Has Done

That is the mission—a mission to which the Synod committed itself once again as delegates adopted a resolution identifying this task as its highest priority. While the delegates read and heard reports of activities of the boards, commissions, and other entities of the Synod and recognized various accomplishments, the emphasis throughout the session was not on what *we* have done but rather on what *HE* has done for us and for the whole world. In worship, in Bible study, and in the resolutions adopted, the convention again and again expressed its faith and its determination under the blessing of the Triune God to exercise the privilege and carry out the responsibility of witnessing to His goodness and grace.

A new feature was again added to this 57th regular convention. While the feature of Table Talks, small group discussion, was not used as it had been in the previous convention, delegates did have the opportunity for such small group Bible study as the new LifeLight Bible study was introduced. The new feature that appeared at the 1989 convention was the use of an electronic response system for voting during certain elections and for the voting on many resolutions. Since the results of each such vote appeared on the large screen informing the delegates of the exact number of pro and con votes as well as the percentage, there was never a need to call for a division of the house in contrast to other years when much convention time was consumed by manual counting for that purpose. In reality, each such vote provided for a division of the house. As a result of the time saved, delegates were able to respond to all the resolutions prepared by the floor committees for their deliberation.

The convention was not all work. In addition to the opportunities for worship, delegates received greetings from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Lutheran Church—Canada, the International Lutheran Conference, and others. They witnessed presentations and ceremonies throughout the convention that gave special recognition to certain groups and individuals. Featured at one of the sessions was a worship service recognizing the anniversary of Lutheran immigration and the 150th anniversary of Concordia Seminary.

Much of the work of the convention could not have been accomplished without the dedicated assistance of many individuals and groups. Included among them was the local convention committee, those whose many hours of work were responsible for the daily productions of *Today's Business,* Dr. D. Ray Halm, who served as assistant secretary, convention manager Marvin Siebels, meeting planner Marie Biesenthal, and many others.

* * *

In order to enable readers to make fullest use of the *Proceedings*, the following explanation is offered.

Some resolutions have an A or B attached to their identifying number. This means that the resolution originally prepared by the floor committee was later revised by the committee, usually in answer to reactions received before the opening of the convention.

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

The abbreviation *CW* refers to the *Convention Workbook*, the 344-page book of reports and overtures to the convention. *TB* stands for *Today's Business*, a publication that contained the text of the proposed resolutions prepared by the floor committees. The first issue was sent to all congregations and delegates prior to the convention and contained practically all resolutions. The daily issues distributed at the convention brought the revised versions to the attention of the delegates.

* * *

The convention is now history, His story. But that story continues to be written as God empowers His people to carry out the many resolutions adopted, thereby telling what HE has done. May each member be filled with the Spirit, to praise Him for what He has done for personal life, salvation, and hope and for that of the world in which every Christian is called to witness by word and action.

OFFICERS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

President
Rev. Ralph A. Bohlmann, Ph.D., D.D., St. Louis, MO

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Rev. August T. Mennicke, D.D., Litt.D., St. Louis, MO

Second Vice-President
Rev. George Wollenburg, D.D., Billings, MT

Third Vice-President
Rev. Robert King, Ph.D., Jefferson City, MO

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Rev. Guido A. Merkens, D.D., San Antonio, TX

Secretary
Rev. Walter L. Rosin, Th.D., Ballwin, MO

Treasurer
Mr. Norman D. Sell, LL.D., St. Louis, MO

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Mrs. Betty Powers, *Convention Manager Assistant*
Dr. James Brauer, *Worship*
Rev. Paul Devantier, *Public Relations*
Mrs. Marie Biesenthal, *Registration*

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Marge Luedders
Linh Milfelt
Fern Ruth
Karen Schrader
Judy Winker

REGISTERED DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES

A. Voting and Advisory Delegates

Atlantic District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Downing, Arthur, Schenectady, NY
2. Behling, Paul, Albany, NY
3. Scheich, Jeffrey, Fishkill, NY
4. Zwernemann, James, Bronxville, NY
5. Meritt, Kelly-Ray, Bronx, NY
6. Benke, David, Brooklyn, NY
7. Miles, Donald, Glendale, NY
8. Gillespie, Arthur, College Point, NY
9. Demera, David, Rego Park, NY
10. Rapp, Victor, New Hyde Park, NY
11. Froehlich, Charles, Dix Hills, NY
12. Saatkamp, Ronald, Center Moriches, NY

B. Voting Laypersons

1. DeViddio, Dominick, Latham, NY
2. Frank, Arthur, Elizaville, NY
3. Henderson, John, Hopewell Junction, NY
4. Jacobson, David, Tuckahoe, NY
5. Edwards, Emma, New York, NY
6. McKinley, Linda, Brooklyn, NY
7. Mazer, Peter, Rego Park, NY
8. Knight, Ronald, Port Washington, NY
9. McIntyre, Joanne, Laurelton, NY
10. Meyer, Marie, Garden City, NY
11. Kletecka, William, Lake Ronkonkoma, NY
12. Koepchen, Louise, Setauket, NY

C. Advisory Pastor

Doering, Martin, Tuckahoe, NY

D. Advisory Teachers

Maschke, Samuel, Mt. Vernon, NY
Frank, Theodore, Glendale, NY
Kramer, Stanley, Hicksville, NY

California-Nevada-Hawaii District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Stennfeld, Fred, San Francisco, CA
2. Holt, Paul, Oakland, CA
3. Youngdale, Ronald, Turlock, CA
4. Haas, Mark, Sacramento, CA
5. Poganski, David, Terra Bella, CA
6. Thierfelder, David, Vacaville, CA
7. Mueller, James, Concord, CA
8. Taddey, Martin, Palo Alto, CA
9. Poganski, Donald, San Luis Obispo, CA
10. Kliewer, Mark, Winnemuca, NV
11. Fricke, Milton, Kahului, HI
12. Rice, Richard, Artois, CA
13. Zelt, Thomas, Crescent City, CA
15. Young, Gregory, Fresno, CA
16. Zimmermann, James, Soquel, CA
18. Arnold, Ronald, San Jose, CA
19. Degner, Kurt, Citrus Heights, CA

B. Voting Laypersons

2. Weise, Edwin, San Leandro, CA
3. Albright, Herbert, Plymouth, CA
4. Riepe, Howard, Elk Grove, CA
5. Glendening, Dale, Taft, CA
6. Friedemann, Ewald, Novato, CA
7. Brewer, Bernita, Pleasant Hill, CA
8. Pohlmeyer, Alfred, Sunnyvale, CA
9. Hoener, William, Santa Maria, CA
10. Hone, Douglas, Minden, NV
11. Engelken, Ralph, Aiea, HI
12. Shuey, Roy, Chico, CA
14. Hall, Holly, Lakeport, CA
15. Simon, Jack, Visalia, CA
16. Prange, Janis, Monterey, CA
17. Dehn, Carl, El Cerrito, CA
18. Olsen, Melvin, San Jose, CA
19. Schwermann, Robert, Rocklin, CA

C. Advisory Pastors

Tsang, James, Cupertino, CA
Meyer, John, Rocklin, CA

D. Advisory Teachers

Paulus, John, Napa, CA
Broyles, Bobby, Wahiawa, HI
Kuefner, Marla, Hayward, CA

Central Illinois District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Loesche, Richard, Altamont, IL
2. Behmlander, Daniel, Washburn, IL
3. Hackler, Robert, Charleston, IL
4. Scheunemann, Paul, Thawville, IL
5. Weseloh, Melvin, Decatur, IL
6. Wilson, Richard, Louisville, IL
7. Bruer, Robert, Rushville, IL
8. Gage, Raymond, Manito, IL
9. Rockemann, Larry, Peoria, IL
10. Disbro, Roger, Golden, IL
11. Lubben, Henry, Rock Island, IL
12. Stuenkel, James, Sherman, IL
13. Bueltmann, David, Cantrall, IL
14. Gall, Theodore, Morton, IL
15. McGhghy, Paul, Sullivan, IL

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Schultz, Arnold, Altamont, IL
2. Sauder, Jim, Roanoke, IL
3. Bundy, S. E., Champaign, IL
4. Johnson, Allen, Loda, IL
5. Beals, Raymond, Mt. Zion, IL
6. Worman, David, Effingham, IL
7. Krohe, Floyd, Arenzville, IL
8. Yagow, Raymond, Mt. Pulaski, IL
9. Erdman, Ken, Peoria, IL
10. Jud, Robert, Bowen, IL
11. Kemmis, Sidney, Prophetstown, IL
12. Ernst, Vernon, Springfield, IL
13. Eckhoff, Dale, Chatham, IL
14. Glick, Merle, Pekin, IL
15. Pfeiffer, Robert, Windsor, IL

C. Advisory Pastor

Borcherding, Alan, Atlanta, IL

D. Advisory Teachers

Hohlfeld, Elizabeth, Peoria, IL
Urban, Lawrence, St. Peter, IL

Eastern District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Green, Lowell, Cheektowaga, NY
2. Kuehn, Gilbert, West Seneca, NY
3. Kassen, John, Lockport, NY
4. Oravec, Ronald, North Tonawanda, NY
5. Kerstner, Sheldon, Little Valley, NY
6. Wagner, Ainslie, Fredonia, NY
7. Avery, Arthur F., Cohocton, NY
8. Buckert, Mark, Fairport, NY
9. Kohlmeier, Theodore, Rochester, NY
10. Hansell, George, Oneida, NY
11. Block, Thomas, Cortland, NY
12. Pelsue, David, Glenshaw, PA
13. Kampia, Rudolf, Pittsburgh, PA
14. Lindner, Ernest, Accident, MD
15. Krieger, Herbert, Pittsburgh, PA
16. Brunner, John, Downingtown, PA
17. Fairchild, Joseph, Easton, PA

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Burton, Troy, Buffalo, NY
2. Clinard, Kenneth, Lancaster, NY
3. Hendricks, Suanne, Lockport, NY
4. Muck, David, North Tonawanda, NY
5. Gaston, John, Allegany, NY
6. Schmittendorf, Earl, Silver Creek, NY
7. Smink, Beatrice, Romulus, NY
8. Chambers, Donald, West Henrietta, NY
9. Lowitzer, Edwin, Rochester, NY
10. Rabeler, Charles, Potsdam, NY
11. Thompson, Michael, Ithaca, NY
12. Schwalm, Horst, Cabot, PA
13. Currao, Marilyn, Beaver, PA
14. Abel, John, Murrysville, PA
15. Schmidt, Larry, Pittsburgh, PA
16. Dufendach, Howard, Levittown, PA
17. Helgemo, William, Dallas, PA

C. Advisory Pastor

Oldsen, Gilbert, Batavia, NY

D. Advisory Teacher

Meissner, Herbert, North Tonawanda, NY

English District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Tauscher, Robert, Jr., Palisades Park, NJ
2. Kraft, Philip, Warminster, PA
3. Mirtschin, Neville, Pittsburgh, PA
5. Kirk, Raymond, Scarborough, ON
7. Goldberger, Arthur, Akron, OH
8. Fitzpatrick, Robert, North Olmsted, OH
9. Farah, Ronald, Birmingham, MI
10. Fabry, Joseph, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI
11. Gartner, Allen, Grand Rapids, MI
13. Burke, Robert, Oak Park, IL
14. Smith, Donald, Chicago, IL
15. Spahn, Thomas, Janesville, WI
16. Hilsabeck, Howard, St. Peters, MO
17. Etzold, Herman, Payson, AZ
19. Ernst, Michael, El Cajon, CA
20. Beyer, Donald, Sherman Oaks, CA

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Edwards, Mono, Oklawaha, FL
2. Boris, Doris, Rocksborough, PA
3. Dexheimer, Milton, Tonawanda, NY
5. Bruer, Armin E., Mississauga, ON
7. Ramsey, James, Macedonia, OH
8. Murany, Al, Parma, OH
9. Hughes, George, Rochester Hills, MI
10. Osborne, Michael, Toledo, OH
11. Baldwin, Janet, Lansing, MI
12. Anderson, Robert, Markham, IL
13. Graves, Clarence, Elmhurst, IL
14. Miller, Thomas, Chicago, IL
15. Bienert, Lyndon, Hales Corners, WI
16. Vorthmann, Kenneth, St. Louis, MO
17. McCullough, Johen, Tucson, AZ
19. —
20. Zellhart, Jim, Danville, CA

C. Advisory Pastor

Welke, Orland, London, ON

D. Advisory Teachers

Sonstroem, Rolland, New Berlin, WI
Frese, Arthur, San Bruno, CA
Reuter, John, Chicago, IL

Florida-Georgia District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Strickert, Robert, Dunwoody, GA
2. Marshall, Frank, Jacksonville, FL
3. Schultz, Gerald, Windemere, FL
4. Glock, Delmar, Daytona Beach, FL
5. Fuqua, Kent, Lake Wales, FL
6. Abel, Louis, Fort Lauderdale, FL
7. Frerking, John, North Palm Beach, FL
9. Vogel, Daniel, Miami, FL
10. Mennicke, Victor, Sarasota, FL
11. Lidbom, Roy, New Port Richey, FL
12. Elsner, Robert, Tampa, FL
13. Steffens, Earl, Tifton, GA
14. Armstrong, R. Richard, Woodstock, GA
15. Fiene, Leonard, Lake City, FL
16. Neagley, Richard, Fort Myers, FL
17. Dunker, Karl, Augusta, GA
18. Mueller, Marvin, Apopka, FL

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Burrus, William, Stone Mountain, GA
2. Marshall, Rebecca, Jacksonville, FL
3. Carr, Mary Gene, Orlando, FL
4. —
5. Holsten, Art, Lakeland, FL
6. List, John, Delray Beach, FL
7. Miller, Albert, Boynton Beach, FL
8. Kociuba, Joseph, Miami, FL
10. Stenson, Andrew, Port Charlotte, FL
11. —
12. Hansen, Ruth, Tampa, FL
13. Hager, Carl, Havana, FL
14. Bode, Jim, College Park, GA
15. McLaughlin, Harold, Old Town, FL
16. Sommerfield, Gloria, Naples, FL
17. Riley, Charles, Milledgeville, GA
18. Muller, Bob, Longwood, FL

C. Advisory Pastor

Hauser, Joseph, Fort Lauderdale, FL

D. Advisory Teachers

Brink, Mark, Marietta, GA
Behrens, Floyd, Winter Haven, FL
Herman, Debra, Orlando, FL
Oestmann, Marvin, Stuart, FL

Indiana District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Rastl, Marvin, Cedar Lake, IN
2. Ramirez, Gregg, Lake Station, IN
3. Andersen, Neil, Kouts, IN
4. Poppe, John, North Judson, IN
5. Gard, Daniel, Mishawaka, IN
6. —
7. Radtke, Richard, Fort Wayne, IN

8. Eickmann, Robert, Fort Wayne, IN
9. Black, George, Fort Wayne, IN
10. Brege, William, Ossian, IN
11. Scholz, Michael, Rensselaer, IN
12. Kleinfelter, James, Arcadia, IN
13. Schaper, Gary, Indianapolis, IN
14. Barber, Alan, Greencastle, IN
15. Munz, Jerold, Indianapolis, IN
16. Going, Thomas, Columbus, IN
17. Schumpe, Wayne, Brownstown, IN
18. Christian, Douglas, Aurora, IN
19. Filbert, Bernhard, Louisville, KY
20. Hallmann, Gerhardt, Evanston, IN
21. Muench, Herbert, Evansville, IN

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Piske, Roland, Lowell, IN
2. Hill, Wayne, Portage, IN
3. Reiser, Ann, Valparaiso, IN
4. Tanger, Philip, LaPorte, IN
5. Grotrian, Lester, Goshen, IN
6. —
7. Leitz, Herman, Fort Wayne, IN
8. Schroeder, Norman, Ft. Wayne, IN
9. Dinkel, William, Fort Wayne, IN
10. Krause, Kenneth, Decatur, IN
11. Klosterman, Marvin, Peru, IN
12. North, Paul, Tipton, IN
13. Hartman, Robert, Indianapolis, IN
14. Crockett, Robert, Indianapolis, IN
15. Roesener, Gerald, Greenwood, IN
16. Holstein, Curt, Morgantown, IN
17. Stuckwisch, Roy, Seymour, IN
18. Burg, Thomas, Madison, IN
19. Garber, Philip, New Albany, IN
20. Kahre, Gil, Evansville, IN
21. Temme, Kenneth, Evansville, IN

C. Advisory Pastors

Rees, James, Crown Point, IN
Zimmermann, E. H., Fort Wayne, IN

D. Advisory Teachers

Timm, Margaret, Fort Wayne, IN
Doehrmann, Loren, Evansville, IN
Johnson, Paul, Indianapolis, IN
Bultemeyer, Richard, Ft. Wayne, IN
Wills, Herman, Crown Point, IN

Iowa East District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Johnson, Lee, Belle Plaine, IA
2. Bailey, Robert, Iowa City, IA
3. Goodsman, Ronald, DeWitt, IA
4. Ognoskie, Daniel, Bennett, IA
5. Sohns, Stephen, Manchester, IA
6. Klieve, John, Hubbard, IA
7. Kirk, James, Grinnell, IA
8. Moermond, Curtis, Wilton, IA
9. Wood, Frederick, Mason City, IA
10. Barth, Gregory J., Waterloo, IA
11. Kuehner, Ronald, Readlyn, IA
12. Clausen, George, Conroy, IA

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Krutzfeldt, David, Keystone, IA
2. Henderson, Norm, Center Point, IA
3. Kroemer, Edwin, Lowden, IA
4. Henry, Walter, Bettendorf, IA
5. McCorkle, John, Dubuque, IA
6. Wharton, Ronald, Hampton, IA
7. Meyer, Ron, State Center, IA
8. Leimkuehler, Ken, Muscatine, IA
9. Jacot, Robert, St. Ansgar, IA
10. Mixdorf, Daniel, Waterloo, IA
11. Rathe, Dallas, Lamont, IA
12. Dahlke, W., Williamsburg, IA

C. Advisory Pastor

Mueller, Randolph, Marion, IA

D. Advisory Teacher

Sandersfeld, Lavonne, Williamsburg, IA

Iowa West District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Bohmer, Glenn, Adair, IA
2. Krengel, George, Ogden, IA
3. Stork, Steven, Arcadia, IA
4. Turner, Steven, Marcus, IA
5. Eisinger, Alan, Honey Creek, IA
6. Hafner, Hilmer, Kiron, IA
7. Boeck, Richard, Des Moines, IA
8. Wilcken, Rob, Ames, IA
9. Meyer, Richard, Fenton, IA
10. Buchhop, Mark, Webster City, IA
11. Rutz, Kurt, Fort Dodge, IA
12. Carnahan, Mark, Ireton, IA
13. Kimball, Leslie, Mapleton, IA
14. Dehnke, Gary, Algona, IA
15. Postel, William, Rock Rapids, IA
16. Carlisle, Roger, Wall Lake, IA
17. Flentgen, Ronald, Sioux City, IA
18. Harman, Michael, Corning, IA
19. Rengstorf, Dwight, Shenandoah, IA
20. Krueger, H. Allan, Spirit Lake, IA
21. Smelser, Todd, Galva, IA

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Faga, Connie, Exira, IA
2. Moeller, Gary, Boone, IA
3. Hansen, Robert, Audubon, IA
4. Nelson, Roger, Marcus, IA
5. Nelson, Lou, Council Bluffs, IA
6. Joens, Art, Manilla, IA
7. Meints, Cliff, Indianola, IA
8. Martens, Fred, Winterset, IA
9. Clausen, Hans, Havelock, IA
10. Henrichsen, Rolland, Fort Dodge, IA
11. Mack, Paul, Rockwell City, IA
12. Saunders, Stan, Hinton, IA
13. Spiegel, Martin, Charter Oak, IA
14. Jacobs, Wayne, Garner, IA
15. Chrisman, Scott, Sanborn, IA
16. Mack, George, Jolley, IA
17. Petersen, Richard, Sioux City, IA
18. Behrends, Bruno, Atlantic, IA
19. Buesing, David, Clarinda, IA
20. Bernardy, Brad, Spencer, IA
21. Sievers, Stanley, Newell, IA

C. Advisory Pastor

Mueller, Paul, Sioux City, IA

D. Advisory Teacher

Kading, Douglas, Spencer, IA

Kansas District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Harmon, Thomas, Sabetha, KS
2. Stohs, Eugene, Shawnee Mission, KS
3. Peck, Jerome, Gardner, KS
4. Grimm, Robert, Westphalia, KS
5. Koch, Danny, Hepler, KS
6. Rath, John, Topeka, KS
7. Gruoner, David, Linn, KS
8. Kellogg, Christopher, Alma, KS
9. Troup, Antonin, Herrington, KS
10. Deterding, Darold, Andover, KS
11. Boyer, Richard, Derby, KS
12. Robinson, Geoffrey, Haven, KS
13. Mehl, John, Lincoln, KS
14. Goebel, Velmer, Medicine Lodge, KS
15. Roten, William, Atwood, KS
16. Koschmann, Paul, Bazine, KS

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Duesing, Wesley, Powhattan, KS
2. Brown, Hubert, Kansas City, KS
3. Wehmeier, Robert, Paola, KS
4. Constable, Claude, Garnett, KS
5. Miller, Jeff, Fort Scott, KS
6. Friedrichs, Waldemar, Topeka, KS
7. Lohse, Norman, Marysville, KS
8. Stigge, Norbert, Manhattan, KS
9. Johnson, Richard, Marion, KS
10. Twichell, Harvey, Wichita, KS
11. Ostgren, Stan, Argonia, KS
12. Greenwood, Keith, McPherson, KS
13. Obermueller, Louis, Lincoln, KS
14. Bitter, Hary, Hoisington, KS
15. Hiesterman, Herman, Quinter, KS
16. Holt, Robert, Dodge City, KS

C. Advisory Pastor

Bruns, Arlen, Topeka, KS

D. Advisory Teacher

Brueggemann, Milton, Shawnee, KS

Michigan District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Sattelmeier, Glenn, Lewiston, MI
2. Morris, William, Engadine, MI
3. Etzel, Lenhart, Brooklyn, MI
4. Riske, John, Ann Arbor, MI
5. Heil, Thomas, Battle Creek, MI
6. Rauh, John, Bay City, MI
7. Kolzow, Calvin, Arcadia, MI
8. Hoese, Terry, Lansing, MI
9. Fischer, Ralph, Westland, MI
10. Eberhard, David, Detroit, MI
11. Hillenbrand, Richard, Detroit, MI
12. Avers, Harold, Detroit, MI
13. Campbell, Philip, Detroit, MI
14. Ramthun, Marvin, Lapeer, MI
15. White, Harry, Birch Run, MI
16. Schinkel, John, Holly, MI
17. Buckhahn, Charles, Greenville, MI
18. Blain, James, Grand Rapids, MI
19. Gerke, Robert, Caledonia, MI
20. Kopper, Glenn, Redford, MI
21. Ulm, David, New Baltimore, MI
22. Messmann, John, Utica, MI
23. Helms, Steven, Richmond, MI
24. Allen, David, East Detroit, MI
25. Hakes, David, Auburn, MI
26. Richert, Paul, Monroe, MI
27. Becerra, Roberto, Shelby, MI
28. Dostert, William, Grand Rapids, MI
29. Gewecke, Stephen, Hazel Park, MI
30. VanDellen, James, Lake Orion, MI
31. Dodge, Christopher, Walled Lake, MI
32. Hoesman, C. William, Frankenmuth, MI
33. Schultz, Robert, Hemlock, MI
34. Quardokus, Philip, St. Joseph, MI
35. Lehenbauer, Joel, Hillsdale, MI
36. Hagenow, Martin, Sebewaing, MI
37. Bahr, Albert, Port Hope, MI
38. Bening, Virgil, Sterling, MI
39. Piller, Robert, Charlevoix, MI
40. Brillinger, Otto, Cedar, MI
41. Prouty, Albert, Allen Park, MI

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Weismantel, Paul, Hillman, MI
2. Schwiesow, Frank, Millersburg, MI
3. Bell, James, Jackson, MI
4. Zill, Lloyd, Hamburg, MI
5. Roekle, Philip, Kalamazoo, MI
6. Schmidt, Ken, Bay City, MI
7. Peterson, Norman, Big Rapids, MI
8. Bearup, Richard, Charlotte, MI
9. Polkinghorne, Doug, Canton, MI
10. Platts, Ruth, Detroit, MI
11. Swan, Shirley, Detroit, MI
12. Edwards, Fred, Canton, MI
13. Anchell, Theodore, Allen Park, MI
14. See, Walter, Attica, MI
15. Stuendel, Robert, Flint, MI
16. Holdorf, Gerald, Fenton, MI
17. Kayser, Walter, Stanwood, MI
18. Greer, Glenn, Grand Rapids, MI
19. Bierwagen, Daniel, Holland, MI
20. Castle, Richard, Livonia, MI
21. Essenberg, Steven, New Baltimore, MI
22. —
23. Opper, Leonard, Algonac, MI
24. Beck, Ronald, East Detroit, MI
25. Zalud, Charles, Mt. Pleasant, MI
26. Krug, Robert, Carleton, MI
27. Peters, John, Fremont, MI
28. Bogema, Donald, Muskegon, MI
29. Drum, Glory, Berkley, MI
30. Lind, Henry, Rochester, MI
31. Fink, Kenneth, Union Lake, MI
32. Reinbold, Stuart, Saginaw, MI
33. LaGorin, Earl, Saginaw, MI
34. Marske, Ray, St. Joseph, MI
35. Hile, Robert, Sturgis, MI
36. Reed, Robert, Caseville, MI
37. Buehler, Elmer, Bad Axe, MI
38. Lazar, Jack, Whittemore, MI
39. Atkinson, Patty, Mancelona, MI
40. Gibeson, Richard, Lake Leelanau, MI
41. Kaiser, William, Grosse Ile, MI

C. Advisory Pastor

Krauss, Edward, Ann Arbor, MI

D. Advisory Teachers

Beethe, Ivan, Hemlock, MI
Otto, Terry, Westland, MI
Matzke, Mark, St. Joseph, MI
Schultz, Patricia, Detroit, MI
Balzer, James, Saginaw, MI
Schultz, Lloyd, Detroit, MI
Schroeder, Elwin, Utica, MI
Pfeiffer, Thomas, Westland, MI
Mills, Paul, Reed City, MI
Schlicker, David, Dearborn, MI
Krone, Walter, Detroit, MI
Schmidt, Adolph, Canton, MI
Graebner, Winfried, Utica, MI
Scheiwe, Warren, Bay City, MI
Laabs, Jonathan, Frankenmuth, MI

Mid-South District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Powell, Chris, Nashville, TN
2. Vogelsang, William, Mountain Home, AR
3. Ringhardt, Wesley, London, AR
4. Schulz, J. P., Knoxville, TN
5. Helmich, Clarence, Murray, KY
7. Trinklein, Jonathan, Little Rock, AR
8. Sheets, Chris, Searcy, AR
9. Boysen, Albert, Memphis, TN
12. Lehenbauer, Walter, El Dorado, AR

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Beam, Charles, Dayton, TN

2. Johnson, Carl, Springdale, AR
3. Fellwock, Lou, Fort Smith, AR
4. Lisle, Forest, Bristol, TN
5. Steffen, Gaylord, Horseshoe Bend, AR
7. Eckert, Ken, Little Rock, AR
8. Knight, Felix, Little Rock, AR
9. Wallace, Rose, Memphis, TN
12. Smith, Phil, Stuttgart, AR

C. Advisory Pastor

Griesse, Wilbert, Germantown, TN

D. Advisory Teacher

Becker, Connie, Little Rock, AR

Minnesota North District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Meichsner, James, Fisher, MN
2. Rutter, Steven, Blackduck, MN
3. Laufer, Ralph, Osage, MN
4. Berekland, Marvin, Dent, MN
5. Moe, John, Bertha, MN
6. Erickson, John, Staples, MN
7. Schoesson, Dave, Babbitt, MN
8. Lehenbauer, John, Cloquet, MN
9. Thompson, Arlan, Isle, MN
10. Bernau, Wayne, Royalton, MN
11. Brill, Walter, Elk River, MN
12. Kaiser, John, St. Cloud, MN
13. Norwick, Robert, Villard, MN
14. Lutz, Bernhard, Moorhead, MN
15. Grein, John, Swanville, MN
16. Hasbargen, Roy, Dumont, MN
17. Schmidt, Steve, Odessa, MN
18. Bauer, Steven, New London, MN

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Edwards, Craig, Ada, MN
2. Kuhrke, Lloyd, Memidji, MN
3. Hayes, Jim, Akeley, MN
4. Flatau, Rodney, Frazee, MN
5. Meyer, Brian, Perham, MN
6. Hall, Jeff, Aitkin, MN
7. Mowrey, Dave, Virginia, MN
8. Mueller, David, Cloquet, MN
9. Hanson, Eugene, Moose Lake, MN
10. Gottschalk, Elmer, Sauk Rapids, MN
11. Paulson, Leonard, Milaca, MN
12. Schmidt, Michael, South Haven, MN
13. Brogaard, Allen, Alexandria, MN
14. Lubben, Wallace, Fergus Falls, MN
15. Kolstad, Gordon, Long Prairie, MN
16. Aune, Robert, Wendell, MN
17. Linser, Donald, Morris, MN
18. Gibson, Dennis, Montevideo, MN

C. Advisory Pastor

Brill, Paul, Long Prairie, MN

D. Advisory Teacher

Wegner, Marie, Mora, MN

Minnesota South District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Krogen, Richard, Coon Rapids, MN
2. Bonine, Kevin, St. Paul, MN
3. Braun, Al, Roseville, MN
4. Stockman, William, Farmington, MN
5. Briel, Steven, Corcoran, MN
6. Franzen, Roger, Minneapolis, MN
7. Nadasdy, Dean, Eden Prairie, MN
8. Delzer, Steven, Northfield, MN
9. Moeller, William, Mound, MN
10. Winter, David, Watertown, MN
11. Kath, Harvey, Glencoe, MN
12. Vaudt, Steven, Lester Prairie, MN
13. Maurer, Rudolph, Atwater, MN
14. Schnakenberg, Roger, Elgin, MN
15. Bahn, Eldon, Rushford, MN
16. Yunker, Art, Rochester, MN
17. Asmus, Aaron, Claremont, MN
18. Trinklein, Robert, Dodge Center, MN
19. Russert, Lyle, Waldorf, MN
20. Speerbrecker, Paul, Amboy, MN
21. Mackie, Roger, Good Thunder, MN
22. Hafeman, Greg, Trimont, MN
23. Janetzke, Douglas, Fairmont, MN
24. Andrix, Don, Hardwick, MN
25. Mueller, Bart, Lake Park, IA
26. Baaso, Dennis, Lakefield, MN

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Berner, Gene, Spring Lake Park, MN
2. Hobbs, David, Newport, MN
3. Blakeman, Marie, Hudson, WI
4. Neujahr, Robert, Hastings, MN
5. Preus, Christian, Plymouth, MN
6. Bock, Richard, Richfield, MN
7. Foster, Robert, Jr., Minneapolis, MN
8. Feldkamp, Ray, Burnsville, MN
9. Manzey, Bruce, Eden Prairie, MN
10. Rathert, Mark, Young America, MN
11. Asmus, Edgar, Gaylord, MN
12. Debner, Allan, Winsted, MN
13. Walburn, Lloyd, Annandale, MN
14. Knudtsen, Roger, Red Wing, MN
15. Marin, Jerry, Rushford, MN
16. Eickhoff, Donald, Wykoff, MN
17. Whitney, John, Kenyon, MN
18. Strub, Tom, Albert Lea, MN
19. Menk, Archie, Janesville, MN
20. Zielske, Elmer, Winnebago, MN
21. Krosch, Kevin, Good Thunder, MN
22. Baumhoefner, Herbert, Trimont, MN
23. Hagen, Reinold, Dunnell, MN
24. Kimmel, Kim, Magnolia, MN
25. Hohenstein, David, Marshall, MN
26. Grams, Wayne, Windom, MN

C. Advisory Pastors

Braun, Harold, White Bear Lake, MN
Roth, Victor, Waterville, MN

D. Advisory Teachers

Erdman, Marvin, Ceylon, MN
Krentz, Paul, Edina, MN
Pfeiffer, Cletus, Fairbault, MN
Schallhorn, Mark, Gibbon, MN
Schroeder, Erlen, Mayer, MN
Ziegler, Robert, Bloomington, MN

Missouri District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Lohnes, Paul, Altenburg, MO
2. Dissen, David, Cape Girardeau, MO
3. Boenisch, Paul, Brunswick, MO
4. Morton, Douglas, Boonville, MO
5. Eggers, Robert, Alma, MO
6. Beese, Roger, Warrensburg, MO
7. Wegener, Merlen, Farmington, MO
8. Mueller, Howard, Pocahontas, MO
9. Brandt, Warren, Lohman, MO
10. Nicolaus, Jon, Independence, MO
11. Parks, David, Liberty, MO
12. Kuhlmann, Marvin, Raymore, MO
13. Brummond, David, Louisiana, MO
14. Coniglio, Frank, Bourbon, MO
15. Schwab, Dennis, St. Charles, MO
16. Larson, Thomas, Troy, MO
17. Mayes, T. E., Maryville, MO
18. Doubek, William, St. Louis, MO
19. Hoppes, James, St. Louis, MO
20. Rall, Ronald, St. Louis, MO
21. Winker, Eldon, St. Louis, MO
22. Karsten, Darwin, Eureka, MO
23. Moore, Richard, Florissant, MO
24. Burgdorf, Lawrence, Bridgeton, MO
25. Schoedel, Walter, Kirkwood, MO
26. Sherouse, Paul, Versailles, MO
27. Griebel, Kirk, Rockville, MO
28. Bond, Dale, Republic, MO
29. Feldmann, Duane, Washington, MO

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Thiess, Gilbert, Wittenberg, MO
2. Kaiser, Raferd, Gordonville, MO
3. Hansel, Clayton, Carrollton, MO
4. Klinkerman, Emmett, Columbia, MO
5. Hartwig, David, Marshall, MO
6. Harms, Lester, Sweet Springs, MO
7. Hill, August, Imperial, MO
8. Brehmer, Jerry, Dexter, MO
9. Behrens, Raymond, Eldon, MO
10. Lee, Norman, Blue Springs, MO
11. Keltner, Sidney, Kansas City, MO
12. Borgelt, Alvin, Kansas City, MO
13. Werr, Kenneth, Shelbyville, MO
14. Hass, Erma, Rolla, MO
15. Monday, Marvin, St. Charles, MO
16. Scott, Elvin, Warrenton, MO
17. Wendt, Reiny, Cameron, MO
18. Lucht, Elda, St. Louis, MO
19. Benz, Emil, St. Louis, MO
20. Subracko, Steve, St. Louis, MO
21. Johnson, George, St. Louis, MO
22. Rathert, Robert, Ballwin, MO
23. Stierholz, Hugo, St. Charles, MO
24. Hellwig, Walter, St. Charles, MO
25. Whittle, Renee, Brentwood, MO
26. Bergmann, William, Stover, MO
27. Hasselbring, Dale, Sarcoxie, MO
28. Niewald, Don, Springfield, MO
29. Fadler, John, Rosebud, MO

C. Advisory Pastors

Stenbeck, Clarence, Bolivar, MO
Barth, Howard, Kansas City, MO
Strickert, Walter, St. Louis, MO
Bodley, Simon, St. Louis, MO

D. Advisory Teachers

Reitz, Edward, St. Louis, MO
Schumacher, Ben, Florissant, MO
Bude, Catherine, St. Louis, MO
Giesselmann, Rupert, Bridgeton, MO
Hollrah, Joyce, Ballwin, MO
Fritz, Estella, Joplin, MO
Truwe, Gary, Affton, MO
Prange, Michael, Bridgeton, MO

Montana District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Boehnke, Richard, Laurel, MT
2. Blunck, Paul, Missoula, MT
3. Poovey, David, Glendive, MT
4. Howlett, Joseph, Power, MT
5. Forke, Terry, Three Forks, MT
6. Berkoben, Wayne, Eureka, MT

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Kercher, Les, Billings, MT
2. Mayer, Thaddeus, Missoula, MT
3. Zeller, Le, Miles City, MT
4. Martin, Marion, Havre, MT
5. Hultman, R. H., Drummond, MT
6. Patterson, Walt, Polson, MT

D. Advisory Teacher

Messer, LaVaun, Billings, MT

Nebraska District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Meyer, Jerome, O'Neill, NE
2. Schmidt, Charles, Fairbury, NE
3. Escue, Douglas, Leigh, NE
4. Doremus, Dwaine, Hebron, NE
5. Harmon, Steve, Humboldt, NE
6. Maaske, Dennis, Arlington, NE
7. Kothe, Richard, Central City, NE
8. Knox, Michael, Campbell, NE
9. Meier, Harlan, Elwood, NE
10. Heiden, Dennis, Kearney, NE
11. Hoyer, Joel, Eagle, NE
12. Lucas, James, Wauneta, NE
13. Johnston, Thomas, Norfolk, NE
14. Vomhof, Allen, Omaha, NE
15. Kiihne, Keith, Omaha, NE
16. Schultz, Glenn, Neligh, NE
17. Hartburg, Mark, Staplehurst, NE
18. Klatt, Gary, Ponca, NE
19. Schepmann, Roger, Beemer, NE
20. Wassman, Darwin, Ogallala, NE
21. Brinkmeyer, Arthur, York, NE
22. Bereuter, Bryce, Murdock, NE

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Schaff, Rudy, Crookston, NE
2. Bartels, Elroy, Tobias, NE
3. Karel, Ken, Clarkson, NE
4. Meyers, Fred, Hardy, NE
5. Beethe, Lawrence, Elk Creek, NE
6. Garber, Eldon, North Bend, NE
7. Zimmerman, Leon, Loup City, NE
8. Nolte, Ramon, Kenesaw, NE
9. Nelson, Vernon, Holdrege, NE
10. Finch, Robert, Lexington, NE
11. Dobbertien, David, Lincoln, NE
12. Christensen, Trent, Culbertson, NE
13. Purdy, Earl, Madison, NE
14. Williams, D. Max, Omaha, NE
15. Boll, George, Omaha, NE
16. Krueger, Delbert, Pierce, NE
17. Glawatz, Roger, Seward, NE
18. Sebade, Ronald, Wayne, NE
19. Broekemeier, Gerhard, West Point, NE
20. Huebner, Kenneth, North Platte, NE
21. Bereuter, Rupert, Utica, NE
22. Schwab, Al, Bennington, NE

C. Advisory Pastor

Schulz, Mark, Omaha, NE

D. Advisory Teachers

Fehlhafer, Stanley, Lincoln, NE
Rupprecht, Robert, Grand Island, NE

New England District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Beinke, Robert, Londonberry, NH
2. Klemm, Robert, Topsfield, MA
3. Schoenfuhs, Walter, Troy, NH
4. Schweinler, Paul, Ashaway, RI
5. King, Jeffrey, Southwick, MA
6. Sackschewsky, Ralph, Storrs, CT
7. Hillenbrand, Philip, Terryville, CT
8. Benken, F. Richard, Madison, CT
9. Froehlich, Ronald, Trumbull, CT

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Cary, Lawrence, Cape Elizabeth, ME
2. Rumba, George, Mashpee, MA
3. Rabon, Margo, South Burlington, VT
5. McConnell, Jack, Windsor, CT
6. Tervo, Wes, Farmington, CT
7. Reich, Kevin, Forrestville, CT
8. Brown, George, Old Saybrook, CT
9. Keller, Ted, New Milford, CT

C. Advisory Pastor

Dienst, Martin, Williston, VT

D. Advisory Teacher

Sunderman, John, New Britain, CT

New Jersey District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Brinkmann, Norman, Westwood, NJ
2. Webb, Douglas, Orange, NJ
3. Lindemann, Ralph, Pompton Lakes, NJ
4. Zeile, Richard, Maplewood, NJ
5. Lieske, Bruce, Lebanon, NJ
6. Nesko, Milan, Medord, NJ
7. Huneke, Paul, Tinton Falls, NJ

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Lamp, William, Closter, NJ
2. Russell, Donald, Newark, NJ
3. Blecker, LaMarr, Towaco, NJ
4. Perkins, Karen, Roselle, NJ
5. Ninnemann, Karl, Morristown, NJ
6. Erb, Paul, Hightstown, NJ
7. Visbeck, Ray, Point Pleasant, NJ

C. Advisory Pastor

Kaufmann, Arthur, Red Bank, NJ

D. Advisory Teacher

Doring, Lois, Stanhope, NJ

North Dakota District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Biberdorf, Richard, Rolla, ND
3. Seter, Bernhard, Grafton, ND
4. Asmus, Gerhardt, West Fargo, ND
5. Friedrich, Henry, Jamestown, ND
6. O'Brien, Patrick, Oakes, ND
7. Rutter, Ed, Lidgerwood, ND
8. Nelson, Paul, Garrison, ND
9. Sedlmayr, Roger, Dickinson, ND

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Gust, Richard, Kramer, ND
3. Drees, Robert, Grand Forks, ND
4. Rachow, Harold, Hillsboro, ND
5. William, Rahlf, Sutton, ND
6. Werth, Alan, Ellendale, ND
7. Gagelin, Walter, Barney, ND
8. Becker, Maurie, Anamoose, ND
9. Wiedrich, Gottlieb, Beulah, ND

D. Advisory Teacher

Cziok, Kathleen, Fargo, ND

North Wisconsin District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Cloeter, Paul, Bessemer, MI
2. Kelto, Paul, Gladstone, MI
3. Mueller, Ronald, Barron, WI
4. Barg, Edgar, Ladysmith, WI
5. Hunsicker, Paul, Iron River, MI
6. Beversdorf, Al, Merrill, WI
7. Freimuth, Jerome, Deerbrook, WI
8. Wiegert, Paul, Amery, WI
9. Plautz, William, Chippewa Falls, WI
10. Paul, Gary, Athens, WI
11. Hoelter, Thomas, Wausau, WI
12. Selle, Robert, Embarrass, WI
13. Vetter, Eugene, Shawano, WI
14. Steckling, Larry, Marinette, WI
15. Miller, Steven, Osseo, WI
16. Borchers, Richard, Vesper, WI
17. Bray, David, Port Edwards, WI
18. Wehmeier, Waldemar, Appleton, WI
19. Buelow, Leonard, Green Bay, WI

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Harmon, David, Ironwood, MI
2. Johnson, Craig, Munising, MI
3. Murphy, Tom, Spooner, WI
4. Swanson, Joy, Phillips, WI
5. Korth, Arno, Eagle River, WI
6. Krueger, Mayward, Merrill, WI
7. Volm, Gerald, Antigo, WI
8. Schroeder, Alvin, Glenwood City, WI
9. Sell, Donald, Eau Claire, WI
10. Bedroske, David, Dorchester, WI
11. Woodridge, George, Wausau, WI
12. Mueller, Herbert, Wittenberg, WI
13. Teetzen, Marlyn, Shawano, WI
14. Kabelowsky, Roger, Suring, WI
15. Kuehn, Milton, Fall Creek, WI
16. Hupe, Lorraine, Marshfield, WI
17. Montgomery, Allen, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
18. Hanson, Donald, Manawa, WI
19. Reckelberg, Harold, Casco, WI

C. Advisory Pastor

Danielsen, Ralph, Eau Claire, WI

D. Advisory Teachers

Weiss, Charles, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Taylor, Patricia, Green Bay, WI

Northern Illinois District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Fitzpatrick, Dennis, Chicago, IL
2. Limmer, Harlan, Chicago, IL
3. Baase, Marc, Chicago, IL
4. Reichmann, Wilmer, Glenview, IL
5. Northrop, Andrew, Buffalo Grove, IL
6. Koschmann, Andrew, Carol Stream, IL
7. Meissner, Bruce, Carpentersville, IL
8. Schmidt, Harold, Genoa, IL
9. Hanson, Philip, Harvard, IL
10. Waldo, Donald, Berkeley, IL
11. Nordlie, Robert, Hillside, IL
12. Grover, Bradley, Downers Grove, IL
13. Frazell, Jay, Bensenville, IL
14. Fleming, Dave, Warrenville, IL
15. Fick, Burneal, Aurora, IL
16. Butler, Jim, Rockford, IL
17. Vaughn, John, Rock Falls, IL
18. Griffen, William, Chicago, IL
19. Zimmerman, James, Calumet Park, IL
20. Barthel, William, Des Plaines, IL
21. Krampitz, David, LaGrange, IL
22. Matson, Ronald, Hazel Crest, IL
23. Troester, Matthew, Matteson, IL
24. Tucker, William, Marseilles, IL
25. Allyn, Eric, Grant Park, IL
26. Baumann, Gene, Herscher, IL

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Schultz, Ralph, Forest Park, IL
2. —
3. Messerschmidt, Gloria, Evanston, IL
4. Brosowske, Harold, Lake Villa, IL
5. Mueller, Herbert, Palatine, IL
6. Hansing, Roland, Elgin, IL
7. Speidel, Robert, Mundelein, IL
8. Freeman, Doris, Dundee, IL
9. Schlicker, Mel, Hawthorn Woods, IL
10. Bodenstab, Richard, Chicago, IL
11. Wanderer, Douglas, Oak Park, IL
12. Garton, Martin, LaGrange, IL
13. Backhaus, Herbert, Elmhurst, IL
14. Kolba, Vern, Plainfield, IL
15. Heimsoth, Mark, Aurora, IL
16. Hammond, Burton, Pecatonica, IL
17. —
18. Davis, Deborah, Chicago, IL
19. Cornwell, Thomas, Calumet City, IL
20. Nadasdy, Wayne, Chicago, IL
21. Krug, William, Oak Lawn, IL
22. Brauer, Ralph, Chicago Heights, IL
23. Zoellner, Marilyn, Orland Park, IL
24. Surprenant, Donald, Romeoville, IL
25. Geiger, Robert, Reddick, IL
26. Cluver, Herbert, Watseka, IL

C. Advisory Pastor

Mock, George, East Hazel Crest, IL

D. Advisory Teachers

Zemke, Herman, Wheaton, IL
Wischmeyer, Donald, Matteson, IL
Beckendorf, Leon, Chicago Ridge, IL
Otten, Ruth, Brookfield, IL
Keske, Richard, Mount Prospect, IL
Klemm, Lowell, Aurora, IL
Rehmer, Edgar, Algonquin, IL
Lindeman, Marilyn, Des Plaines, IL
Schmidt, Ralph, Arlington Heights, IL
Piel, Paul, Norridge, IL
Hanssen, Melba, Lansing, IL
Matthias, Donley, Arlington Heights, IL

Northwest District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Storteboom, Fred, Rogue River, OR
2. VanNatta, Tim, Oakridge, OR
3. Russert, Arlyn, Albany, OR
4. Bjornstad, Robert, Molalla, OR
5. Parshall, Daniel, Portland, OR
6. Kaufmann, Clifford, Tualatin, OR
7. Boegl, Sigmund, Longview, WA
8. Sprengeler, Erwin, Tillamook, OR
9. McCoy, Michael, Emmett, ID
10. Rhode, Paul, Jerome, ID
11. Kolasch, Bruce, Soda Springs, ID
12. Adams, Ricky, Wapato, WA
13. Gerken, Dan, Walla Walla, WA
14. Wulf, Craig, Veradale, WA
15. Watkins, John, Lewiston, ID
16. Cook, Steven, George, WA
17. Reinhardt, Larry, Snohomish, WA
18. Brubaker, James, Gig Harbor, WA
19. Jenson, James, Bothell, WA
20. Koehler, James, Renton, WA
21. Winterstein, Paul, Seattle, WA
22. Betker, Bruce, Repulse Bay, Hong Kong
23. Reinke, Chris, Anchorage, AK

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Weaver, William, Eagle Point, OR
2. Clayton, Craig, Redmond, OR
3. Schmidt, Walter, Corvallis, OR
4. Kraft, Clarence, Salem, OR
5. Koenig, Ron, Estacada, OR
6. Sorenson, Gordon, Milwaukie, OR
7. Dressler, Robert, Portland, OR
8. Birdewald, Steve, Aloha, OR
9. Fisher, Loren, New Plymouth, ID
10. Young, Joe, Twin Falls, ID
11. Freitag, Harvey, Ashton, ID
12. Hibbs, Bob, Yakima, WA
13. Benscoter, Donald, Hermiston, OR
14. Moore, Edward, Spokane, WA
15. Connolly, Jackson, Sandpoint, ID
16. Noss, Leonard, Wenatchee, WA
17. Pellegrini, Barry, Everett, WA
18. Schultz, Donald, Bremerton, WA
19. Johnson, Wayne, Everett, WA
20. Baumann, Steven, Redmond, WA
21. Pittelko, Harvey, Seattle, WA
22. Sturzenegger, Dale, Puyallup, WA
23. Mikkelsen, Richard, Anchorage, AK

C. Advisory Pastors

Kachmarek, Kasimir, Hillsboro, OR
Schroeder, Delbert, Portland, OR

D. Advisory Teachers

Gehring, Irene, Seattle, WA
Anderson, Ellsworth, Seattle, WA
Zuch, Thomas, Idaho Falls, ID

Ohio District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Luderman, Gary, Willshire, OH
2. Behnke, Richard, Wauseon, OH
3. Weiss, Donald, Oregon, OH
4. Marcis, Peter, North Jackson, OH
5. Landskroener, John, Maple Heights, OH
6. Bernath, Gary, Strongsville, OH
7. Gross, Lloyd, Parma, OH
8. Sorenson, Robert, Brunswick, OH
9. Just, Christian, Euclid, OH
10. Vail, Clayton, Thompson, OH
11. Volk, Michael, Cincinnati, OH
12. Leber, Don, Columbus, OH
13. Davidson, John, Lancaster, OH
14. Fees, Ross, Englewood, OH

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Waldron, Alvin, Convoy, OH
2. Hurst, David, Wauseon, OH
3. Miller, Blair, Elmore, OH
4. Harnap, Vern, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
5. Reitz, Leonard, Cleveland, OH
6. Hessler, Peter, Cleveland, OH
7. Gross, Leo, North Olmsted, OH
8. Grunau, Eileen, Lorain, OH
9. Essel, Randy, Willoughby Hills, OH
10. Gertz, Reinhart, Geneva, OH
11. Kittenbrink, Kenneth, Cincinnati, OH
12. Wolpert, Larry, Hilliard, OH
13. Beal, Larry, Logan, OH
14. Beach, Charles, Dayton, OH

C. Advisory Pastor

Roth, Michael, Bay Village, OH

D. Advisory Teachers

Hoffschneider, Larry, Westlake, OH
Schroeder, James, Cincinnati, OH

Oklahoma District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Byer, Charles, Texhoma, OK
2. Keltner, Andy, Fairmont, OK
4. Hartman, Paul, Morre, OK
5. Henschel, Marvin, Ponca City, OK
7. Cornwell, Steven, Muskogee, OK
8. Quiram, Gerald, Midwest City, OK

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Dungan, Steven, Okeene, OK
2. Simmering, Ira, Garber, OK
4. Ekonen, Tauno (Don), Norman, OK
5. Erdwin, Ray, Pryor, OK
7. Bode, Denise, Tulsa, OK
8. Perry, R., Edmond, OK

C. Advisory Pastor

Kollmeyer, Glen, Enid, OK

D. Advisory Teacher

Pralle, Gerhart, Tulsa, OK

Rocky Mountain District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Kroll, Roland, Pueblo West, CO
2. Temme, Elton, Farmington, NM
3. Dietz, William, Bennett, CO
4. Zehnder, Robert, Lakewood, CO
5. Hiller, Michael, Aurora, CO
6. Koch, David, Denver, CO
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8. Mueller, James, Fort Collins, CO
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10. Raess, John, El Paso, TX
11. Patterson, Craig, Woodland Park, CO
12. Stuehrenberg, Lyle, Albuquerque, NM
13. Sahlstrom, Greg, South Jordan, UT

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Appel, Mona, Lamar, CO
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Dahlke, Dan

Kansas District

Hampton, Stephanie
Vandemark, Brian

Michigan District

Yakimow, Scott

Minnesota North District

Wilson, Karen

Missouri District

Bolland, Erika
Truwe, Dana

New England District

Owen, Jon
Anderson, Tracie

Northwest District

Gehrke, Andrea

Ohio District

McMaster, Amy

Oklahoma District

Howard, Brent
Dyer, David

Rocky Mountain District

Dudden, Matt
Babcock, Hannah

SELC District

Joyce, Daniel
Kerfin, Robert

Southeastern District

Byard, Christie
Carlson, Amy

Southern California District

Bean, Stephan

Southern Illinois District

Pike, Melanie

Texas District

Cavazos, Arely
Kuhlmann, Leah

Tabular Survey

Synodical District	Delegates Present							Delegates Absent						
	Voting			Advisory				Voting			Advisory			
	PASTORS	LAYMEN	TOTAL	PRES. & DIR.	BRD.	PASTORS	TEACHERS	TOTAL	PASTORS	LAYMEN	PASTORS	TEACHERS	OTHERS	TOTAL
Atlantic	12	12	24	3		1	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
California-Nevada-Hawaii	17	17	34	3		2	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
California-Southern	28	28	56	2		3	5	10	0	0	0	2	0	2
Eastern	17	17	34	3		1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
English	17	16	33	3		1	3	7	0	1	0	0	0	0
Florida-Georgia	17	15	32	2		1	4	7	0	2	0	0	1	1
Illinois, Central	15	15	30	2		1	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois, Northern	26	24	50	3		1	8	12	0	2	0	4	0	4
Illinois, Southern	7	7	14	3		1	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indiana	20	20	40	3		2	4	9	1	1	0	1	0	1
Iowa East	12	12	24	3		1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iowa West	21	21	42	1		1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas	16	16	32	2		1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michigan	41	40	81	3		1	15	19	0	1	0	1	0	1
Mid-South	9	9	18	3		1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota North	18	18	36	2		1	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	1
Minnesota South	26	26	52	3		2	5	10	0	0	0	1	0	1
Missouri	29	28	57	3		4	8	15	0	1	0	0	0	0
Montana	6	6	12	1		0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nebraska	22	22	44	2		1	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	1
New England	9	8	17	2		1	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	2
New Jersey	7	7	14	2		1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Dakota	8	8	16	2		0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest	23	23	46	3		2	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio	14	14	28	3		1	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oklahoma	6	6	12	2		1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rocky Mountain	13	13	26	3		1	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
SELC	3	3	6	1		1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Dakota	10	10	20	2		1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southeastern	17	18	35	3		1	3	7	1	0	0	0	0	0
Southern	13	13	26	2		1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Texas	26	26	52	3		2	7	12	0	0	0	1	0	1
Wisconsin, North	19	19	38	3		1	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wisconsin, South	23	23	46	3		1	5	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyoming	6	6	12	2		0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boards and Commissions								61						
General Officials								24						
Boards of Regents								13						
Faculty Members								26						
Overseas Missionaries								10						
Totals	573	566	1139	86		42	101	363	2	8	0	12	3	15
Ad Hoc Committees								1						
District Youth Representatives								28						

Comparative Figures

	1969	1971	1973	1975	1977	1979	1981	1983	1986	1989
Voting Delegates Present	993	1,020	1,075	1,118	1,123	1,116	1,127	1,128	1,155	1,139
Advisory Delegates Present	558	546	500	492	496	516	495	360	372	363
Total Delegates Present	1,551	1,566	1,575	1,610	1,619	1,632	1,622	1,488	1,527	1,502

CONVENTION FLOOR COMMITTEES

Key to Abbreviations

AT—Atlantic
CNH—California-Nevada-Hawaii
CI—Central Illinois
EA—Eastern
EN—English
FG—Florida-Georgia
IN—Indiana
IE—Iowa East
IW—Iowa West
KS—Kansas
MC—Michigan
MDS—Mid-South
MNN—Minnesota North
MNS—Minnesota South
MO—Missouri
MT—Montana
NE—New England
NEB—Nebraska
ND—North Dakota
NJ—New Jersey
NW—North Wisconsin
NI—Northern Illinois
NOW—Northwest
OH—Ohio
OK—Oklahoma
RM—Rocky Mountain
S—SELC
SD—South Dakota
SW—South Wisconsin
SE—Southeastern
SO—Southern
SC—Southern California
SI—Southern Illinois
TX—Texas
WY—Wyoming

Committee 1
WITNESS AND OUTREACH

Chairman

Sohns, Wilbert (WY)

District Presidents

Barry, Al (IE)
Fink, Ronald (AT)
Kiessling, Richard (MT)

Pastors

Gall, Theodore (CI)
Holdorf, Kenneth (TX)
Miller, Steven (NW)
Nguyen, Wynn (SC)
Sackschewsky, Ralph (NE)
Schoessow, Dave (MNN)

Laypersons

Hall, Dudley (SO)
Koepke, Ed (RM)
List, John (FG)
Miller, Blair (OH)
Pittelko, Harvey (NOW)
Weismantel, Paul (MC)
Williams, Dan (TX)

Teachers

Jording, David (SW)
Pfeiffer, Cletus (MNS)

Committee 2
CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES

Chairman

Kromphardt, Arnold (EA)

District Presidents

Lutz, Arleigh (NW)
Mueller, Orval (SO)
Pittelko, Roger (EN)

Pastors

Campbell, Philip (MC)
Hinrichs, Daniel (SW)
Rutter, Steven (MNN)
Schaper, Gary (IN)
Weiss, Donald (OH)

Laypersons

Beals, H. Raymond (CI)
Fratzke, Jean (SE)
Krueger, Charles (TX)
Messerschmidt, Gloria (NI)
Stoterau, Linda (SC)
Whittle, Renee (MO)

Teachers

Pralle, Gerhart (OK)
Ziegler, Robert (MNS)

Committee 3
THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS

Chairman

Heins, John (MC)

District Presidents

Laesch, Theodore (NI)
Marcis, Albert (S)
Suelflow, Edwin (SW)

Pastors

Boyer, Richard (KS)
Flentgen, Ronald (IW)
Griffen, William (NI)
Krogen, Richard (MNS)
Reinhardt, Larry (NOW)

Laypersons

Bell, James (MC)
Garber, Philip (IN)
Hanson, Donald (NW)
Hartwig, David (MO)
Hessler, Peter (OH)
Hoener, William (CNH)

Teachers

Schramm, Walter (TX)
Schuknecht, Jerold (RM)

Committee 4
PROGRAM AND FINANCE

Chairman

Kapfer, Richard (IW)

District Presidents

Petersen, John (RM)
Schmidt, Eugene (KS)
Zehnder, Thomas (FG)

Pastors

Bajas, Luther (S)
Blunck, Paul (MT)
Hagenow, Martin (MC)
Hartman, Paul (OK)
Kaufmann, Arthur (NJ)
Liefer, Myron (SI)
Nordlie, Robert (NI)
Radtke, Richard (IN)
Sattgast, Dale (SD)
Stennfeld, Fred (CNH)
Strickert, Walter (MO)
Wassman, Darwin (NEB)
Wood, Frederick (IE)

Laypersons

Abel, John (EA)
Bauer, Edmund (ND)
Bindewald, Steve (NOW)
Davis, Deborah (NI)
Glick, Merle (CI)
Graves, Clarence (EN)
Hall, Jeff (MNN)
Hermetz, Todd (SO)
Hurst, David (OH)
Judkins, Hartsell (SC)
Knudtsen, Roger (MNS)
Lisle, Forest (MDS)
Mazer, Peter (AT)
McConnell, Jack (NE)
Pherson, Jack (SE)
Schroeder, Rodney (SW)
Sell, Donald (NW)
Ullrich, Don (WY)

Teacher

Allmon, Richard (TX)

Committee 5
STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

Chairman

Oswald, Orval (CNH)

District Presidents

Groteluschen, Norman (MDS)
Hartwig, Raymond (SD)
Meyer, Eldor (NEB)

Pastors

Bailey, Robert (IE)
Hoesman, William (MC)
Ratcliffe, Kermit (TX)
Strickert, Robert (FG)
Zeile, John (SE)

Laypersons

Baumhoefner, Herbert (MNS)
Ninnemann, Karl (NJ)
Paulson, Leonard (MNN)
Rathert, Robert (MO)
Roekle, Philip (MC)
Zuelsdorf, Jerome (SW)

Teachers

Kading, Douglas (IW)
Piel, Paul (NI)

Committee 6
HIGHER EDUCATION

Chairman

Bauer, Erhart (NOW)

District Presidents

Garber, Reuben (IN)
Kramer, Loren (SC)
Spitz, Paul (MO)

Pastors

Abel, Louis (FG)
Bray, David (NW)
Etzold, Herman (EN)
Marshall, Ulmer (SO)
Rockemann, Larry (CI)

Laypersons

Bartels, ElRoy (NEB)
Berner, Gene (MNS)
Dahlke, W. E. (IE)
Heimsoth, Mark (NI)
Holste, James (TX)
Petersen, Richard (IW)

Teachers

Lafrentz, Terry (SD)
Schroeder, Elwin (MC)

Committee 7
HUMAN CARE

Chairman

Hinz, Richard (SE)

District Presidents

Jackson, Robert (OK)
Reimnitz, Alwin (ND)
Sandmann, Donald (NJ)

Pastors

Maaske, Dennis (NEB)
Nadasdy, Dean (MNS)
Reichmann, Wilmer (NI)
Reinke, Chris (NOW)
Robinson, Carl (SC)

Laypersons

Boris, Doris (EN)
Engelken, Ralph (CNH)
Essenburg, Steven (MC)
Pettit, Nancy (SW)
Shellhase, Leslie (SO)
Wallace, Rose (MDS)

Teachers

Meissner, Herbert (EA)
Messer, LaVaun (MT)

Committee 8
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

Chairman

O'Shoney, Glenn (TX)

District Presidents
Buegler, David (OH)
Cloeter, Ottomar (MNS)
Mulder, David (NE)

Pastors
Benke, David (AT)
Dodge, Christopher (MC)
Garwood, Ronald (WY)
Schoedel, Walter (MO)
Zehnder, Robert (RM)

Laypersons
Bruer, Armin (EN)
Burrus, William (FG)
Prange, Janis (CNH)
Price, Wayne (SI)
Scheer, Dale (NEB)
Schulz, Ralph (NI)

Teachers
Gruetzmacher, Paul (SW)
Lindeman, Marilyn (NI)

Committee 9
NOMINATIONS

Chairman
Kuhn, Robert (CI)

Pastors
Buelow, Leonard (NW)
Dissen, David (MO)
Hoyer, Martin (MO)
Thiem, Alfred (ND)
Tornow, Lothar (SC)
Wendling, Paul (IW)

Laypersons
Cahill, Jerold (S)
Hewitt, James (IN)
Koch, Milton (SE)
Korthals, Richard (RM)
Noack, Art (TX)
Wipperman, A. H. (KS)

Teachers
Cattau, Rollin (IW)
Tietz, Stuart (NEB)

Committee 10
CREDENTIALS, REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

Chairman
Kollmann, Alvin (SI)

District Presidents
Guehna, Richard (MNN)

Pastors
Brunner, John (EA)
Janetzke, Douglas (MNS)
Muench, Herbert (IN)
Thies, Larry (SW)

Laypersons
Friedrichs, Waldemar (KS)
Fulford, Lois (SE)
Hansing, Roland (NI)
Hibbs, Bob (NW)
Swan, Shirley (MC)

Teacher
Pfeiffer, Thomas (MC)

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

(Note: Floor Committee meetings were held July 7–8)

SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1989

Morning Session

8:30 Devotions—Dr. Arnold Kuntz, Convention Chaplain
8:45 LifeLight Bible Study
9:15 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (10)
9:30 Convention Opening
9:35 Welcome and Response—Dr. Eugene Schmidt, Kansas District President; Dr. George Mohr, Chairman, Board of Directors
10:00 Convention Schedule
10:10 President's Report, Part III
10:55 Electronic Response System—Becoming Acquainted
11:15 Standing Rules
11:20 Adoption of Slate for President
11:25 Balloting for President
11:50 Resolutions A and B
12:00 Noonday Prayers
12:05 Recess

Afternoon Session

1:15 Devotions
1:25 Adoption of Slate for First Vice-President
1:35 Balloting for First Vice-President
2:00 Structure and Organization (5)
2:40 Higher Education (6)
3:20 Nominating Ballot for Other Vice-Presidents
3:40 Witness and Outreach (1)
4:20 Congregational Ministries (2)
5:00 Devotions
5:20 Recess

Evening

7:00 Special Cowtown Festivities

SUNDAY, JULY 9, 1989

Morning

9:30 Mission Celebration and Worship—Dr. Edward Westcott, Speaker
11:30 Recess

Afternoon Session

1:15 Devotions
1:25 Validation of Voting Pads
1:30 Witness and Outreach (1)
2:00 Balloting for Vice-Presidents 2–5 (10)
2:25 Welcome to Former Officers
2:30 Greetings—Dr. J. A. O. Preus
2:40 Nominations Committee (9)
3:35 Congregational Ministries (2)
4:15 Program and Finance (4)
4:35 Human Care (7)
5:00 Greetings—Roy Schmidt, President, International Lutheran Laymen's League
5:15 Recess

Evening Session

7:00 Theology and Church Relations (3)
7:45 Planning and Administration (8)
8:30 Structure and Organization (5)
9:00 Closing Devotions

MONDAY, JULY 10, 1989

Morning Session

8:30 Devotions
8:45 LifeLight Bible Study
9:30 Greetings—Mrs. Betty Duda, President, International Lutheran Women's Missionary League
9:40 Nominations (9)
9:45 Witness and Outreach (1)
10:15 Planning and Administration (8)
11:00 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (10)
11:55 Noonday Prayers
12:00 Recess

Afternoon Session

1:15 Devotions
1:25 Minutes
1:30 Higher Education (6)
2:00 Greetings—ELCA Bishop Chilstrom
2:10 Theology and Church Relations (3)
3:00 Structure and Organization (5)
3:40 Human Care (7)
4:20 Completion of Balloting
5:15 Devotions
5:30 Recess

Evening

Alumni Gatherings

TUESDAY, JULY 11, 1989

Morning Session

8:30 Devotions
8:45 LifeLight Bible Study
9:30 Congregational Ministries (2)
10:15 Registration; Credentials, and Elections (10)
10:40 Concordia Seminary—150th Anniversary Recognition
11:00 Program and Finance (4)
11:30 Higher Education (6)
12:00 Noonday Prayers
12:05 Recess

Afternoon Session

1:15 Devotions
1:25 Minutes
1:30 Planning and Administration (8)
2:30 Program and Finance (4)
3:00 Structure and Organization (5)
3:30 Seminary Anniversary Service
4:15 Human Care (7)
5:15 Devotions
5:20 Recess

Evening

7:00 Kansas District Centennial

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1989

Morning Session

8:30 Devotions
8:45 LifeLight Bible Study
9:30 Theology and Church Relations (3)
10:05 Acceptance Speech: President Bohlmann
10:15 Congregational Ministries (2)
11:00 Structure and Organization (5)

12:00 Noonday Prayers
12:05 Recess
Afternoon Session
1:15 Devotions
1:25 Minutes
1:30 Program and Finance (4)
2:15 Human Care (7)
2:45 Higher Education (6)
3:30 Planning and Administration (8)
4:00 Theology and Church Relations (3)
4:45 Witness and Outreach (1)
5:15 Devotions
5:20 Recess
Evening
8:00 President's Reception—Crystal Ballroom, Ramada Inn

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1989
Morning Session
8:30 Devotions
8:45 LifeLight Bible Study
9:30 Congregational Ministries (2)
10:00 Program and Finance (4)
11:00 Planning and Administration (8)
12:00 Noonday Prayers
12:05 Recess
Afternoon Session
1:15 Devotions
1:25 Minutes
1:30 Witness and Outreach (1)
2:00 Structure and Organization (5)
3:00 Theology and Church Relations (3)
4:00 Higher Education (6)
4:30 Human Care (7)
5:00 Devotions
5:05 Recess
Evening
Reserved for business session, if necessary

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1989
Morning Session
8:30 Devotions
8:45 LifeLight Bible Study
9:30 Structure and Organization (5)
10:30 Congregational Ministries (2)
11:00 Higher Education (6)
12:00 Noonday Prayers
12:05 Recess
Afternoon Session
1:15 Devotions
1:25 Minutes
1:30 Human Care (7)
2:15 Witness and Outreach (1)
2:45 Program and Finance (4)
3:05 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (10)
3:20 Closing Devotions
3:35 Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE CONVENTION

Opening Service

The opening worship service for the 57th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was held on July 7, 1989, in Century II, the convention center of Wichita, Kans. Dr. Ralph A. Bohlmann, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, was the preacher, with Rev. John F. Niermann of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wichita serving as the presiding minister.

Delivering a message based on Psalm 105 to a full convention hall, President Bohlmann described how the more than 2.5 million members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have returned countless times from the Communion table with joy and peace in their hearts to sing the canticle which includes the words, *Tell everyone what He has done,* the theme of Dr. Bohlmann's sermon and of our convention.

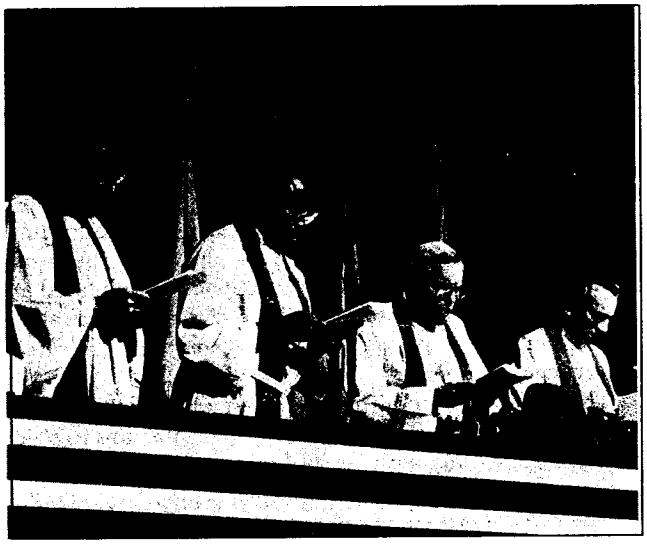
Dr. Bohlmann reminded those present that three-fourths of the world's five billion people do not know Christ, have not yet been told what *HE* has done. Indeed it is *HE* whom we must proclaim. It is *HE* whom we desire to proclaim, called and commissioned by God to do so. *HE* is our focus; *HE* our marvelous God, our God of covenant and redemption. *HE* is the content, the light, and the power of our mission. *HE* is our personal salvation and the salvation of all those whose lives the Holy Spirit will touch through the message we proclaim, the Great Commission we fulfill. "Father, who the crown shall give, / Savior, by whose death we live, / Spirit, guide through all our days: / Three in One, your name we praise. / Alleluia!"

Session 1

July 8, Morning

Devotions

The opening devotion for the first session of the convention was led by Dr. Arnold Kuntz, convention chaplain, following an order of worship prepared especially for the convention.



LifeLight™ Bible Study

Dr. Earl Gaulke introduced the LifeLight Bible study to the delegates and visitors to the convention, pointing out that the new program emphasizes individual study, small-group sharing, large-group lecture, and review. Dr. Stephen Carter will serve the convention as teacher of the LifeLight Bible study. The introduction was concluded with prayer by Rev. Roy Bleick.

Registration, Credentials, and Elections

Dr. Alvin V. Kollmann, president of the Southern Illinois District and chairman of the Committee on Registration, Credentials and Elections, reported on the number of voting delegates registered to this point of the convention. As of 7:59 a.m., July 8, there were 532 voting pastors and 526 voting laypersons registered. The total number of voting delegates present was 1,058, constituting a quorum.

Dr. Kollmann also reminded the delegates that the convention will utilize a new electronic voting system this year. All delegates were asked to be present for an introduction to the system.

A subsequent registration tally was made which included all delegates officially registered as of 10 a.m. The count was 566 voting pastors and 562 voting laypersons, for a total count of 1,128.

Convention Gavel

Dr. August Suelflow, director of the Concordia Historical Institute, presented a gavel of historical significance to Dr. Bohlmann for use in the opening and closing of the convention. This historic gavel has been used since 1911, and President Bohlmann is the fifth synodical president to use it. The gavel was first used by President Pfotenhauer and had been prepared in 1910 by a layman from a piece of wood taken from a beam of the log cabin in Perry County that served as the church's first seminary.

Call to Order

After receiving the gavel, President Bohlmann used it to declare the convention open in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Following the call to order, a media presentation was shared with all present.

Welcome

Dr. Eugene Schmidt, president of the Kansas District, warmly welcomed the delegates. He introduced and thanked the volunteers of the Convention Committee from the Wichita area, who helped to prepare for the convention. He spoke of the history of the church in Kansas and said the task remains to share the Gospel, to "Tell everyone what *He* has done." He prayed for God's blessings upon the convention.

A response to the welcome was given by Dr. George Mohr, chairman of the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, during which he asked the delegates to extend a warm round of applause to those who voluntarily contributed so much to the preparations for the

convention. Their work enables the delegates to be about the Lord's business in an effective and efficient manner. Dr. Mohr requested that President Bohlmann extend a word of appreciation also to the mayor of Wichita and to the governor of the state of Kansas.

Greetings and Introductions

President Bohlmann indicated that special greetings will be extended to the delegates from other dignitaries as the days pass. He also noted that a video greeting will come from the President of the United States.

Dr. Bohlmann introduced the following individuals: Dr. August Mennicke, first vice-president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; Dr. George Wollenburg, second vice-president; Dr. Robert King, third vice-president; Dr. Walter A. Maier, fourth vice-president; Dr. Guido Merkens, fifth vice-president; Dr. Walter Rosin, secretary of the Synod; Dr. Norman Sell, treasurer of the Synod; the members of the Board of Directors of the Synod; the members of the Council of Presidents; Dr. Arnold Kuntz, convention chaplain; Dr. D. Ray Halm, assistant secretary for the convention; and Mrs. Angeline Haines, convention parliamentarian.

Dr. Bohlmann invited the delegates to contact Mr. Les Stroh or Rev. Art Kuehnert, his assistants, if special needs arise. Ms. Jean Buettner, the president's administrative assistant, and other staff members were also acknowledged.

Housekeeping

Mr. Marvin Siebels, convention manager, made some comments of introduction to the Wichita events and offered assistance to the delegates in meeting needs which might arise.

President's Report, Part III

Prior to beginning the third part of his report to the delegates, President Bohlmann led the assembly in the singing of the Doxology.

Dr. Bohlmann noted that the first two parts of his report already been printed and disseminated; Part I, dealing with organization and administration on pages 1–6 of the *Convention Workbook*, and Part II on pages 24–28 of *Today's Business*. He stated his hope that all the delegates would exercise carefully their responsibilities at this convention and assured them that he holds them in his prayers.

Referring to specific portions from the first two parts of his report, President Bohlmann underscored the gratitude all of us feel for the ministry of those who have been called home during the past triennium.

President Bohlmann went on to describe the role of his office, that is, to guide and counsel the leaders of the church body. The responsibility of the synodical president is that of pastor to the church. Dr. Bohlmann noted that it is with humility that he seeks to fulfill the office to which previous conventions have called him.

On another subject, Dr. Bohlmann described the role of the synodical president with regard to church discipline. He pointed out that it is not within the president's authority to remove people from office unilaterally. The church in its wisdom has devised a program of careful disciplinary review which includes the involvement of the vice-presidents and the district presidents. In reality, discipline involves the matter of correction by teaching.

President Bohlmann pointed again to his conviction that the first priority of this church is spiritual growth. He encouraged all delegates and visitors to assume the responsibility of carrying this message home to their respective congregations.

Dr. Bohlmann reminded all delegates that another key subject before this church body is that of visioning, of recognizing what this church could be if we were truly faithful in carrying out the Great Commission given to us by our Lord Jesus. President Bohlmann's vision includes partnership with confessional churches throughout the world in mission endeavor. By 1995 the funding of mission work will increase significantly, according to the dream which he holds. By 1995 he sees the congregations supporting the planting of far more new congregations than we have in the past, although our plantings in recent years outnumber those of other Lutheran bodies.

President Bohlmann envisions a significantly increased number of congregation members in Bible study and in attendance at Holy Communion. He dreams of a church body with an urgent desire to grow in the Lord, a church body led by faithful pastors and peopled by those who know the wondrous love of Christ and the changeless power and providence of the Father. Dr. Bohlmann urged all to admit their sins, to humble themselves before an all-forgiving God, and to rise up in His power to be what His Spirit is leading them to be. If we have a goal, it is this: that we "Tell everyone what *He* has done." President Bohlmann closed his report with a quotation from C. F. W. Walther:

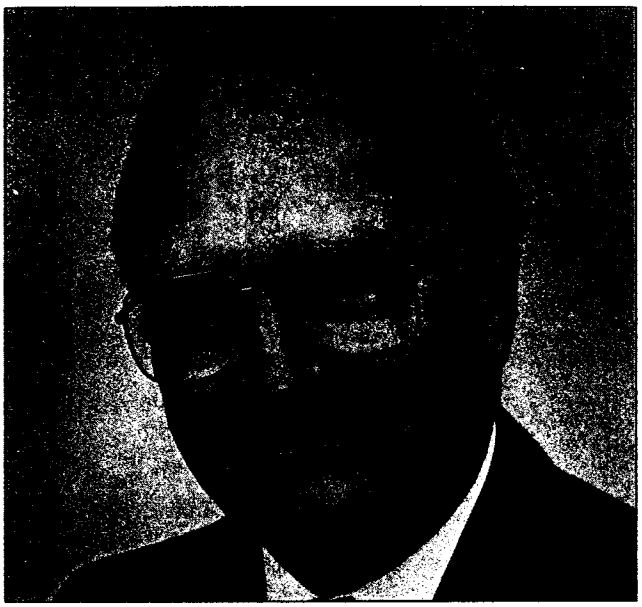
> Let us now go to work in the name of the Lord. May God's Word, the sole judge of all controversies, also be our only judge and guide; may the church of God be our witness; may the glory of God and the salvation of the redeemed be our sole objective; may the awareness of God's presence, genuine and pure brotherly love, unhypocritical humility, and inexhaustible patience govern our every word; may the promise of God to hear our prayer for light and wisdom and to grant success to the upright in heart be our comfort; but let all bitterness and obstinacy be far from us. Then Jesus Christ, the invisible Head of His church, will graciously be present with us and will bring our work—which of course is not *our* work but *His* work—to a glorious conclusion and will soon turn our present sighs in the midst of testing into joyful psalms of praise and thanksgiving for His help.

Electronic Response System—Becoming Acquainted

Dr. Alvin Kollmann introduced the delegates to the electronic voting system, which is being used for the first time by an LCMS convention. The system will provide for immediate vote tally. He instructed the delegates that it is mandatory that the electronic voting pads be validated at those points during the course of the convention when elections for office are to take place. Delegates will be notified in advance.

The Elections Committee chairman led the delegates in a demonstration of the equipment. Delegates are invited to speak personally with Dr. Kollmann or any member of his committee if there is question.

The delegates were asked to vote to indicate their will-



Convention Chaplain Arnold Kuntz

ingness to proceed with the use of the electronic voting system. The vote for approval was unanimous.

The assembly also voted to extend the orders of the day for the morning session until 12:30 p.m. This was to allow adequate time for validating the voting pads and completing the election of a president.

Standing Rules

Dr. Walter Rosin, secretary of the Synod, presented the proposed standing rules for the convention to the delegates, which appeared on page 4 of *Today's Business*. The standing rules were accepted with the following changes:

By common consent of the assembly, line 13 was changed to read " . . . governed by *Roberts Rules of Order*, Scott, Foresman and Company, 1981 edition."

An amendment was proposed to delete the words "without debate" from standing rule 7. The amendment failed.

Further action on the Standing Rules was postponed until the afternoon session.

Adoption of Slate for Office of President

Dr. Walter Rosin presented the official slate for the office of President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The convention adopted the slate of candidates for President as presented: Ralph A. Bohlmann, Eugene W. Bunkowske, Robert D. Preus, Robert C. Sauer, and George F. Wollenburg. When the voting machines were ready and the assembly had been led in prayer by the Chaplain, the delegates of the convention cast their ballots for the office of President with the following results:

Ralph A. Bohlmann	589
Eugene W. Bunkowske	57
Robert D. Preus	16
Robert C. Sauer	433
George F. Wollenburg	29

Of the 1,124 votes cast, 52.4 percent were cast for Ralph A. Bohlmann, who was declared elected.

The Chaplain led the delegates in prayer.

The delegates voted to retain the validation of the Saturday morning's session for the voting Saturday afternoon.

Noonday Prayers

The noonday prayers were led by Dr. Arnold Kuntz.

Session 2

July 8, Afternoon

Opening Devotions

Devotions were led by Chaplain Kuntz.

Registration, Credentials, and Elections

As of 12:30 p.m. 1,131 delegates were registered for the convention, 568 pastors and 563 laypersons.

The chairman of the committee reported in response to a question from the floor that the number of machines which had been validated prior to the voting for the office of president of the Synod had not been recorded and was lost. The delegates indicated by a show of hands that the assembly accepted the report and did not require a revalidation.

Adoption of Slate for Office of First Vice-President

Dr. Walter Rosin presented the slate of nominees for the office of First Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The nominees included Alvin L. Barry, Eugene W. Bunkowske, Robert T. Kuhn, August T. Mennicke, and George F. Wollenburg.

The name of Robert H. King was added to the slate of nominees by amendment. The convention delegates adopted the amended slate. Vote was delayed until information on the sixth candidate could be made available to the assembly.

The delegates cast their votes for the First Vice-President with the following results:

	First Ballot	Second Ballot	Third Ballot
Alvin L. Barry	233	278	335
Eugene W. Bunkowske	113	88	
Robert H. King	120	117	113
Robert T. Kuhn	21		
August T. Mennicke	509	533	595
George F. Wollenburg	121	102	81

Receiving a majority of the votes on the third ballot, Dr. August T. Mennicke was declared elected. Chaplain Kuntz led the assembly in prayer.

Standing Rules

A motion was made to amend the Standing Rules to the effect that "any reports, thanks, 'table talks,' nonelection polling, or other activities during floor-committee time, beyond the presentation of their resolutions, will be limited to one such activity, of not more than five minutes of their allotted time, per committee appearance before the convention." The amendment failed.

A motion was then made and approved to adopt the Standing Rules as amended.

Resolution A

Dr. Rosin presented Resolution A, found on pages 114 and 115 of *Today's Business*, plus several additions on page 140. In presenting the resolution, he noted that Overture L3-24 should be L3-124, and Overture 5-31A–C, "Revision of Rules of Procedure to Be Referred to the Commission on Appeals," should be added as a third item on page 115.

An amendment was proposed to delete Overtures 3-114 and 3-115 from Resolution A. The amendment failed.

An amendment was proposed to delete Overture 6-67. It was pointed out that technically Overture 6-68 is also included by virtue of the fact that the same subject is covered in both resolutions. The amendment failed.

An amendment was proposed to delete Overtures 7-65, 7-66, 7-69, and 7-70. The amendment was adopted. Therefore Overtures 7-65, 7-66, 7-69, and 7-70 were returned to committee.

Committee 2 deleted Overture 2-45 from Resolution A. No vote was required.

An amendment was proposed to delete Overture 5-31 A–C. The amendment failed.

An amendment was proposed to delete Overture L6-80. The amendment failed.

An amendment was proposed to delete Overture 5-27. The amendment failed.

An amendment was proposed to delete Overture 8-18. The amendment failed.

An amendment was proposed to delete Overture 6-69. The amendment failed.

An amendment was proposed to change the resolve of Resolution A to read as follows: "Resolved, that the following overtures be referred to the listed administrative unit." The amendment was adopted.

Resolution A was placed before the assembly and was adopted as amended.

Elections

Dr. Bohlmann informed the assembly that the Committee on Registration, Credentials, and Elections has the privilege of interrupting the proceedings at any time to carry on the elective responsibilities of the convention.

Dr. Kollmann, chairman of the Committee on Registration, Credentials, and Elections, asked the delegates to complete a nomination ballot for the offices of Second through Fifth Vice-Presidents.

It was brought to the convention chairman's attention that the listing of Vice-Presidents in the *Convention Workbook* contains error. The corrected listing is as follows:

Rev. August T. Mennicke, D.D., First Vice-President
Rev. George F. Wollenburg, D.D., Second Vice-President
Rev. Robert H. King, Jr., Ph.D., Third Vice-President
Rev. Walter A. Maier, Th.D., Fourth Vice-President
Rev. Guido A. Merkens, D.D., Fifth Vice-President

Resolution B

Dr. Rosin presented Resolution B, found on page 116 of *Today's Business*.

An amendment was proposed to delete Overture 3-50—57. The amendment failed. An amendment was proposed to delete Overtures 8-34–35; and 8-37–38. The amendment failed.

An amendment was proposed to add the following words to the final resolve in Resolution B: "and be it further resolved that this convention once again affirm the above mentioned action of our Synod at previous conventions." The motion to amend was adopted.

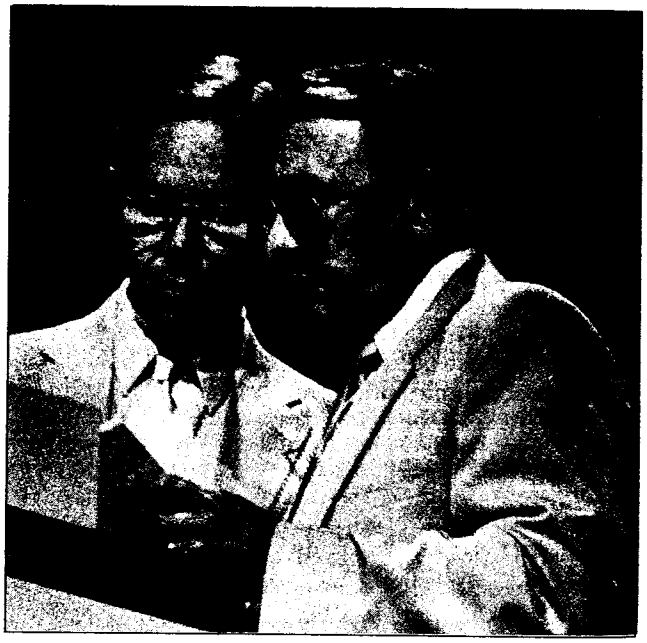
An amendment was proposed to delete Overture 6-51. The amendment failed.

Resolution B was then placed before the delegates and was adopted as amended.

Structure and Organization

Rev. Orval M. Oswald, chairman of Committee 5, offered the following remarks, introducing the work of the Committee on Structure and Organization:

> Although we are well aware of the fact that structure and organization are not of the essence of the church, nor are they defined within the scriptural doctrine of the church, yet we also realize that structure and organization are important to us if our church body is to function to its greatest potential. If we are to achieve the 10 objectives stated very clearly in Article III of the Constitution of the Synod, it is important that our structure and organization not impede us, rather that they assist us in expediting the mission which our Lord has entrusted to us.
>
> Floor Committee 5 addressed itself to its task with those thoughts in mind, especially as we considered the overtures on pages 221–243 of the *Convention Workbook*. The members of the committee were assisted immensely in their work by Dr. Walther Rosin, secretary of the Synod; Board of Directors chairman Dr. George Mohr; Board of Directors member Rev. Victor Marxhausen; and Judge Gene Schnelz, chairman of the Commission on Constitutional Matters, as well as commission member Judge James Groh. We thank them for their participation in our deliberations and decisions.
>
> An additional special word of thanks to Dr. Eldor Meyer of the Nebraska District, who served as vice-chairman of our committee and served well in that leadership capacity while I was hospitalized at the time of the May floor committee meetings. Also a word of thanks is due to President Raymond Hartwig of the South Dakota District, who acted as our secretary.



D. Ray Halm, assistant secretary for the convention, and Walter L. Rosin, Secretary of the Synod

Res. 5-01 was placed before the assembly: "To Enable Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Seminary and College Faculty to Serve As Members of Boards and Commissions." By common consent the word *under* was added to line 24 between the words *commissions* and *which*.

The convention chairman called for the orders of the day. Res. 5-01 will be discussed further the next time Committee 5 comes to the podium.

Announcement

Delegates were informed that voting pads would be validated at 1:25 p.m. Sunday afternoon and that voting for the Second through Fifth Vice-Presidents would occur at 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon.

Closing Devotions

The assembly was led in closing devotions by Dr. Arnold G. Kuntz, convention chaplain.

President Bohlmann declared the convention in recess.

Session 3

Afternoon, July 9

Opening Devotion

The delegates were led in devotions by Chaplain Kuntz.

Election Committee

Dr. Alvin Kollmann led the delegates in validating their voting pads.

Witness and Outreach (1)

The chairman of Committee 1, Rev. Dr. Wilbert J. Sohns, set the stage for the resolutions of his committee by reflecting upon the urgency of the mission and outreach opportunities challenging our beloved Synod at this time. Furthermore, on behalf of the committee, Dr. Sohns expressed words of appreciation to those leaders in mission and outreach who are retiring from service, including Dr. Edward Westcott, Dr. Erwin Kolb, and Dr. LeRoy Biesenthal. Dr. Sohns also noted that the Synod is in the midst of two significant projects, the writing of a new statement concerning our mission theology, and the formation of a mission blueprint for the 1990s and beyond.

Dr. Sohns introduced Res. 1-01 (*Today's Business*, p. 31). Two corrections were made: In line 13, "80%" was changed to "67%." In line 36, the words *and Districts of the Synod* were deleted. The resolution was placed before the assembly.

An amendment was proposed to delete the fourth last resolve, beginning on line 50, and to substitute the third and fourth resolves from Overture 1-10 from the *Convention Workbook*, page 151.

An amendment to the amendment was proposed to add the words *the highest* immediately in front of the word *priority* within the fourth resolve of Res. 1-01. The amendment to the amendment was adopted.

The amended amendment was again placed before the assembly. Following several moments of discussion, the delegates voted to close debate on the proposed amendment. The amendment was then placed before the delegates and was adopted.

Elections

Committee 10 reported the nominations for Second through Fifth Vice-Presidents as follows:

Robert King	639
George Wollenburg	597
Alvin Barry	525
Eugene Bunkowske	391
Walter Maier, Jr.	317
Guido Merkens	238
Robert Sauer	224
Charles Mueller	123
Robert Preus	101
Robert Kuhn	92
Richard Hinz	67
Glenn O'Shoney	66
Arnold Kuntz	43

Wilbert Sohns 34
Ronald Fink 33
Richard Kapfer 32
Kurt Marquardt 32
Paul Spitz 29
Eldor Meyer 28
Karl Barth 23
John Heins 17
Roger Pittelko 17
Oswald Hoffmann 16
Orval Oswald 16
Wallace Schulz 16
Arnold Kromphardt 15
Loren Kramer 12
Erhart Bauer 10
Theodore Laesch 10
David Mulder 9
(No first name) Preus 8
Walter Rosin 7

The following received six votes: David Buegler; Charles Mueller, Jr.; Albert Marcis; David Scaer.

Five votes: Ray Hartwig; Alvin Kollmann; Ed Westcott; Thomas Zehnder; Orval Mueller.

Four votes: Robert Bailey; David Belasic; David Benke; August Bernthal; Gerald Kuhn; Dean Hempelmann; Arleigh Lutz; Richard Meyer; Eugene Schmidt; August Suelflow.

Three votes: John Bass; O. H. Cloeter; Norm Groteluschen; John Petersen; Alvin Reimnitz; Donald Sandmann; Walter Schoedel; Brad Urbach.

Two votes: Thomas Baker; Leroy Biesenthal; Stephen Carter; Reuben Garber; William Huener; Richard Krogen; James Kalthoff; Frank Marshall; Ulmer Marshall; Paul Maier; Ron Meyer; Otten Walter; Ralph Phipps; Charles Reimnitz; Delbert Rossin; Fred Skov.

One vote: Jeffrey Anderson; Richard Armstrong; Barry Austin; Ernest Bartels; Greg Barth; Kenneth Behnken; George Black; David Bray; Hans Boehringer; Richard Boyer; Paul Brinkman; A. Brondos; Donald Cario; Holger Cattau; Arthur Crosmer; Warren Davis; Richard Dickinson; Reinhold Dierks; David Dissen; Chris Dodge; David Dressel; Mike Ernst; Duane Feldman; Craig Ford; Henry W. Friedrich; Paul Garchow; Raymond Gianano; Gene Gierke; Ron Goodsman; Alfred Graser; William Griffen; Eugene Gruell; Vern Gundermann; Ray Halm; Ronald Halamka; G. Heckman; Michael Hiller; Martin Hoyer; Douglas Janetzke; David Jentsch; John Johnson; Christian Just; Doug Kabell; Richard Kessler; John Kieschuech; Charles Knippel; Henry Koepchen; Erwin Kostizen; Ray Kringle; Harlan Limmer; Henry Lubben; Ed Lutz; Oscar Marquart; Ray Martens; David Marth; Elmer Medley; David Meier; Charles Meyer; Gerhardt Michael; James Mueller; Paul Mueller; Spencer Nygaard; Eugene Oesch; G. Oesch; Norbert Oesch; Jerome Peck; Wayne Pohl; J.A.O. Preus III; Mark Raddatz; John Rath; David Rohde; Wilbert Rosin; Lyle Rusert; Andrew Sabo; Timothy Saleska; Robert Schaibley; Vern Schindler; Dennis Schlecht; Richard Schlecht; Ronald Schmidt; Delbert Schroeder; Wayne Schumpe; Henry Simon; Michael Simminger; Richard Skov; Robert Steinke; Fred Stennfeld; Robert Strickert; A. Thiem; Arlan Thompson; Walter Tietjen; Steven Turner; James Uhrinak; Marvin Ulmer; Eric Von Fang; Steven Wagner; Edwin Weber; Paul Weber; Leland Wendland; Dean Wenthe; Ed Wessling; Frederick Wood; Ronald Zehnder.

The following slate was adopted, and the votes which were cast were recorded as follows:

Karl Barth 280
Eugene Bunkowske 508
Oswald Hoffmann 457
Robert King 762
Arnold Kuntz 341
Walter A. Maier, Jr. 508
Kurt Marquardt 218
Charles Mueller, Sr. 358
Charles Mueller, Jr. 45
Robert Sauer 653
David Scaer 137
Wallace Schulz 194

As of 3:30 p.m., July 9, 1,134 voting delegates were registered. A majority of votes is required for an election. Dr. Robert King, with 68 percent of the vote, was declared elected Second Vice-President, and Dr. Robert Sauer, with 58 percent of the vote, was declared elected Third Vice-President.

The following names constituted the second ballot for Fourth and Fifth Vice-Presidents, with the voting results as listed:

Eugene Bunkowske 688
Oswald Hoffmann 439
Walter A. Maier, Jr. 647
Charles Mueller, Sr. 395

1,087 voters participated in the balloting. A majority is required for election. Eugene Bunkowske was declared elected as Fourth Vice-President with 63 percent of the vote, and Walter A. Maier, Jr. was declared elected as Fifth Vice-President with 60 percent of the vote.

Recognition of Former Corporate Officers of Synod

President Bohlmann spoke words of appreciation on behalf of the delegates for two former officers who were unable to be present on this occasion, Dr. Ed Weber and Dr. Roland Wiederanders.

Dr. Milton Carpenter, Dr. Herbert Mueller, and Dr. Robert Sauer greeted the delegates.

A special presentation was made to former synodical president Rev. Dr. J. A. O. Preus by Mr. John Gerber, president of Concordia Publishing House. Dr. Preus addressed remarks to the assembly.

Dr. Kuntz spoke a word of prayer of thanksgiving for past leadership.

Structure and Organization (5)

Rev. Orval Oswald brought Res. 5-01 back to the floor of the convention. The committee had not had adequate time to complete 5-01 during the previous day's afternoon session. The question was called to end debate and was supported by a two-thirds majority. The delegates voted to adopt Res. 5-01.

Nominations (9)

Committee 9 presented its nominations for the several offices of the Synod, and other nominations were received from the floor. Those added were

Board of Directors
PASTORS
Richard Benken
Arnold Kuntz
LAYPERSONS
Harvey Wilkening
Major Madison

Board for Evangelism Services
PASTORS
Victor Belton
Ihno Janssen
LAYPERSONS
Elery Irwin
Paul Wegele

Board for Higher Education Services
PASTORS
Oscar Gerken
Bernhard Filbert
Jeff Johnson
Paul L. Maier
B. Christian Zimmerman

Board for Mission Services
PASTORS
Luther Meinzen
Eugene Bunkowske
Charles Brehmer
Ihno Janssen
TEACHER
Darrell H. Wallis
LAYPERSON
Kermit Reedstrom

Board for Parish Services
TEACHER
Debra Herman
LAYPERSON
Norma Speckhardt

Board for Youth Services
Rev. William H. Griffen from committee
PASTOR
Jan Kucera

Commission on Adjudication
PASTOR
Dr. Wilbert Griesse
LAYPERSON
M. Scott Wolfram

Commission on Appeals
PASTORS
Ralph Phipps
William Huener
Alan Barber
LAYPERSONS
Richard Bodenstaff
Orin Rinke

Commission on Theology and Church Relations
PASTORS
George Dolak
Dr. Charles Manske
Vernon Harley
LAYPERSONS
Ferman F. Lane
Richard Bardolph

Board of Directors—CPH
LAYPERSONS
Thomas Johnson
Harold Uthoff
Dr. George Mohr
Lenora Buth
Ruth Brighton

Board of Regents—Ann Arbor
TEACHER
David L. Krause
LAYPERSON
Walter Kayser

Board of Regents—Austin
TEACHERS
Dr. Gerald Longworth
Keith Loomans
LAYPERSONS
Donald Hoferkamp
Donald Graff
Thomas John Krueger
William E. Feucht

Board of Regents—Bronxville
Carl Eisman from committee

Board of Regents—Fort Wayne
PASTORS
Dr. David Benke
Dr. Elwood Zimmermann

Board of Regents—Irvine
TEACHER
George Zehnder
LAYPERSON
Gregory Preuss

Board of Regents—Mequon
TEACHER
Eugene Fiedler
LAYPERSON
Dr. James Gutenberger

Board of Regents—River Forest
Betty Mulholl and Richard Krause from committee
PASTOR
Gene Bauman

Board of Regents—St. Louis
PASTORS
Dr. Richard Schlecht
B. Christian Zimmermann
Victor Halboth, Jr.
Ed Westcott
LAYPERSON
Conrad Kircher

Board of Regents—St. Paul
LAYPERSONS
Richard Peters
C. R. Montz

Board of Regents—Selma
PASTOR
William Parsons
LAYPERSON
Sam Givhan

Board of Regents—Seward
LAYPERSONS
Mark Kolterman
William Hartman

Committee for Convention Nominations
PASTORS
Henry Koepchen
Martin Lundy
Edmund Dubberke

TEACHER
Darell Pichan
LAYPERSONS
Merle Lietz
Alberta Barnes
DISTRICT PRESIDENT
Wilbert Sohns

Congregational Ministries (2)

The committee, under the leadership of Dr. Arnold Kromphardt, presented Res. 2-02 (*Today's Business*, p. 41), commending and encouraging Lutheran teachers and schools, and reaffirming support of them, for consideration by the assembly. The resolution was adopted.

The committee led the assembly in a special recognition of all teachers, DCEs, and others involved in educational leadership roles in the church. The delegates celebrated their colleagues' ministry in the singing of the Doxology.

A special award, the Christus Magister, was presented by Rick Herman, president of LEA, to Eugene Burger, teacher from St. Paul's Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Special Greetings

Mr. Roy Schmidt, president of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, addressed the convention. Mr. John Schoedel, executive director of the league, and Rev. Dale Meyer, Lutheran Hour speaker, were introduced. They briefly addressed the delegates.

Closing Devotions

The assembly was led in closing devotions by Dr. Arnold G. Kuntz, convention chaplain.

Session 4

Evening, July 9

Opening Devotion

The delegates were led in devotions by convention Chaplain Kuntz.

Planning and Administration (8)

District president Rev. Dr. Glenn O'Shoney asked the convention whether the delegates preferred to close nominations at this time or whether they wished to have Res. 8-04A (*Today's Business*, p. 160), which calls for a change in the manner in which the Convention Nominations Committee is formed, come to the floor first. The delegates voted their desire to consider 8-04A prior to closing nominations.

Dr. O'Shoney's committee presented Res. 8-04A.

An amendment was proposed that this resolution would first go into effect in 1992. The amendment was to be added as statement f in the resolve.

The question was called on the amendment. The assembly voted to close debate and voted to decline the ammendment.

The chair asked for a "pro—con" rotation of speakers in view of the large number of speakers at the microphone. After several speakers, the question was called. The delegates voted to close debate. The resolution was placed before the voters who elected to adopt Res. 8-04A.

Committee 8 yielded the floor.

Theology and Church Relations (3)

Following an opening statement, Dr. John L. Heins, chairman of the committee, placed Res. 3-01 (*Today's Business*, p. 49), which urges the members of Synod to engage in mission study, before the assembly. Debate was closed by vote of the assembly. The resolution subsequently was adopted.

Committee 3 then placed Res. 3-02A (*Today's Business*, p. 149), regarding the formalizing of altar and pulpit fellowship with the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, before the convention.

An amendment was proposed to add, "*Resolved*, that the Synod reaffirm its position on apartheid" to the end of the overture. The question was called and sustained. The delegates voted to decline the amendment.

Res. 3-02A again came before the convention. The question was called and was sustained. The resolution was adopted. Missionary Will Schumacher expressed joy, and the assembly celebrated with song.

The Chair permitted a delegate to present an amendment which called for change in the convention schedule. The Chair ruled the amendment proposal out of order and was sustained by the assembly.

Structure and Organization (5)

The committee placed Res. 5-02 (*Today's Business*, p. 71), to transfer district membership of two congregations, before the convention. The resolution was adopted.

The committee placed Res. 5-03 (*Today's Business*, p. 71), to include the Church of All Nations in Hong Kong within the Northwest District boundary, before the delegates. The resolution was adopted.

Res. 5-04 (*Today's Business*, p. 71), to change the name of the Southern California District to the Pacific Southwest District, was placed before the convention. The resolution was adopted.

Res. 5-05 (*Today's Business*, p. 72), to provide an alternate method to amend Bylaws, was placed before the assembly with the following change in line 50: "a) are proposed by the Secretary of Synod as a result of convention action within six months following the convention and reviewed by the Commission on Constitutional Matters;" Time did not permit final consideration of the resolution.

Closing Devotions

The assembly was led in closing devotions by Dr. Arnold G. Kuntz, convention chaplain.

Session 5

Monday Morning, July 10

Opening Devotion

The delegates were led in devotions by Chaplain Kuntz.

LifeLight™ Bible Study

The Bible study was led by Dr. Earl Gaulke and Dr. Stephen Carter.

Special Greetings

Mrs. Betty Duda, president of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, addressed the convention, highlighting the efforts of the league in their endeavor to "Tell everyone what He has done." She noted that in 1991 the league will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. The mission of the LWML is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and The Lutheran Church—Canada in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

The LWML is currently seeking to fulfill six critical objectives:

1. That young women become aware of and participate in the LWML
2. That all LCMS congregations have active, growing LWMLs
3. That women in the workplace recognize the values of LWML for their unique circumstances
4. That synodical leadership understand and promote the mission and work of the LWML
5. That clergy support the mission of the LWML and encourage women to use their spiritual gifts in parish ministry
6. That all members demonstrate openness to and participate in the developing ministry of the LWML

Nominations for Convention Nominations (9)

Dr. Robert Kuhn, president of the Central Illinois District and chairman of the committee presented the final report on candidates for the several boards and commissions of the Synod. The Commission on Constitutional Matters was called upon to rule regarding the eligibility of Dr. Elwood Zimmermann to serve on the Board of Regents of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, if elected. In view of the fact that a triennium has not passed since his last service on that board, the commission ruled that Dr. Zimmermann was not eligible. The slate was adopted by the assembly as presented by the committee and the nominations were closed.

Change of Order

The Chair announced that the orders for the day would be modified slightly to allow for a statement to be made by the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Dr. George Mohr read a joint statement by the directors and Mr. Hinnefeld, which is reprinted in its entirety in *Today's Business*, page 215.

Following the statement read by Dr. Mohr, President Bohlmann made a statement to the delegates regarding expressions which came to him after the speech made by former President J. A. O. Preus. Dr. Bohlmann noted his deep understanding of the struggle of the presidential office, which he and Dr. Preus shared, and his ready identification with Dr. Preus's concerns. President Bohlmann called for healing and love within our Synod, and he pleaded with the Synod to move forward in joy and with a determination to be about the mission of telling the world of the saving grace of Christ.

As a first step in a process that will address the issues, Dr. Bohlmann offered the microphone to a representative of Balance, Inc., to make a response to the convention. Mr. E. A. Weise spoke of his and *Affirm*'s intense desire to defend the orthodox doctrine of the Church.

Dr. Bohlmann and Mr. Weise shared a strong handshake following Mr. Weise's comments. President Bohlmann assured the convention that it is his personal goal to avoid at all costs any activity which serves to undermine the mission of the church.

Elections (10)

A motion was made to change the orders of the day to delay the balloting until Wednesday morning to allow time for the biographical data on floor nominations to be disseminated. The motion was defeated since this information had already been made available in an issue of *Today's Business*.

Witness and Outreach (1)

Dr. Wil Sohns led Committee 1 in the presentation of resolutions for the witness and outreach endeavors of the church.

Res. 1-01, *Today's Business*, page 31, was returned to the floor as amended in session 3. (It is also noted that the committee added the following reference to line 7 of the notations for Res. 1-01: "Report R1-01 *Convention Workbook*, pp. 6–15.)

An amendment was proposed to change the words *a high* to *the highest* in the fourth resolve. The amendment was adopted by common consent.

An amendment was proposed to add the words *and the Synod itself* immediately after the word *district* on line 55. The amendment was adopted by common consent.

Res. 1-01, which calls for an intensification of our mission endeavors throughout the Synod, was adopted as amended.

Dr. Sohns introduced Rev. Thomas Armour, president of Mill Neck Foundation, who, together with Rev. Howard Schoenfeldt, presented the John of Beverly Medal to Dr. Elaine Costello, director and editor-in-chief of the Gallaudet University Press, who has made truly outstanding contributions in the areas of education and communication with respect to those who are hearing impaired and profoundly deaf.

Dr. Sohns introduced Mr. Roger DeMeyere to present the Ephphatha Award to Rev. Walter Busby for his contributions to ministry and education to the deaf.

Res. 1-16, *Today's Business*, pages 38–39, to celebrate the centennial of ministry to the deaf, was adopted unanimously by the convention.

Res. 1-02, *Today's Business*, pages 31–32, which calls for a renewal and reaffirmation of mission goals, was placed before the delegates. The committee noted the following minor changes in the resolution: Line 8, misspelling of "cooperating" corrected. Line 36, the words *all too often* were deleted. Because time expired, action on Res. 1-02 was delayed.

Elections (10)

Dr. Alvin Kollmann acquainted the 1,134 delegates reg-

istered as of 11 a.m., July 10, with the ballots for the several offices for the boards and commissions of the Synod. Prior to the actual voting, Dr. Kuntz led the assembly in noonday prayers.

Session 6

Afternoon, July 10

Opening Devotions

The delegates were led in an opening devotion by Dr. Arnold G. Kuntz, convention chaplain.

Minutes

The minutes were corrected and approved. The corrections included changing the number of votes recorded for Ralph A. Bohlmann on page 187 from 509 to 589; changing the number of votes recorded for August T. Mennicke from 501 to 509; and changing the number of voters listed on line 30 of *Today's Business*, page 192 from 1,134 to 1,087.

Higher Education (6)

Rev. Erhardt Bauer, president of the Northwest District, presented an opening statement for higher education in which he expressed gratitude for the work carried on by the executive secretary, Dr. Michael Stelmachowicz, and the other leaders in higher education, including especially the chairman of the Board for Higher Education Services, Rev. John Schildwachter, and the members of the board.

By way of clarification, Rev. Bauer noted that Overture 6-33 would not be considered at this convention. He also pointed out that the several overtures dealing with pastoral certification have been referred to the BHES's Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry.

Res. 6-01, *Today's Business*, page 89, to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Concordia College, River Forest, Ill., was presented to the assembly. The chairman called upon Dr. Eugene Krentz, president of "RF," who reminded the delegates of the historic vision which has led to these 125 years of blessing to the church. Northern Illinois president, Rev. Theodore Laesch, presented a plaque to Dr. Ralph Bohlmann on behalf of the college and the constituency. The resolution was adopted unanimously and was celebrated with the singing of a hymn.

The committee chairman called upon Rev. Ulmer Marshall to present Res. 6-02, *Today's Business*, page 89, which calls for the development of Concordia College, Selma, Ala., to eventually become, with the assistance of the Board for Higher Education Services, the Board of Regents, and the accrediting agency, a four-year, degree-granting institution. Dr. Michael Stelmachowicz provided additional information. The question was called on Res. 6-02 and was sustained. The resolution carried by a margin of 990 to 31.

Special Greetings

Dr. Herbert Chilstrom, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), addressed the convention, stressing both the history and the new beginnings of the ELCA. He noted that the long-range future for his church body looks very bright, and he expressed appreciation for the fact that while he and President Bohlmann do not agree on each and every point of doctrine, they do hold as a high mutual priority the need to continue to dialogue. Bishop Chilstrom underscored the values discovered as the LCA and the ALC looked toward their similarities rather than their differences. He stated the principal beliefs of the new church body, including the inspiration of Scripture. He agreed that the foremost task facing all Christians is that of telling the unbelieving world

what God has done in Christ. Reference was made to the fiscal pressures upon the ELCA as well as upon the LCMS. He spoke of the ELCA's mission priorities and the church's commitment to reach out with the Gospel. "Time and energy must be directed toward positive steps forward," said Dr. Chilstrom. He requested our prayers for the ELCA, and he promised their prayers for the LCMS.

Theology and Church Relations (3)

The committee called upon Rev. Carlos Puig to make a special presentation of the Book of Concord, printed in the Spanish language for the first time.

The committee moved Res. 3-04A, *Today's Business*, page 150, which calls for the encouragement of women in service to the church. The chairman of the committee requested that the words *of women* be deleted from line 32 of the resolution.

An amendment was proposed to substitute the words *encouraging women to recognize and accept their responsibility for church teaching* for the words *sharing resources for the ministry of women* in line 31.

An amendment was proposed to the amendment, calling for the words *for church teaching* to read as *for what the church teaches*. The amendment to the amendment was adopted by common consensus. The question on the amendment was then called and sustained. The amendment was adopted as amended.

An amendment was proposed to add a resolve to the resolution, calling for the convention to reaffirm the Synod's position on the doctrine of ordination.

The Chair called for the orders of the day, delaying further debate on the amendment until the next time Committee 3 comes to the podium.

Report on Offering for Missions

The special collection for missions stands at more than $394,000 as of the July 10 afternoon session, with many gifts still being received. Congregations and individuals are encouraged to continue during the next 30 days to submit their gifts. Checks are to be made out to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Special Convention Offering and sent to the synodical headquarters.

Planning and Administration (8)

The Committee moved adoption of Res. 8-02A, *Today's Business*, page 159, which calls for the support of congregational ministries through coordinated planning and decision making. To the point of the resolution, Dr. Rich Bimler, executive secretary for Youth Services and special assistant to the Planning Council, presented a video for convention viewing.

The question was called but was not sustained by the two-thirds majority vote.

After several more speeches from the floor, Dr. Bohlmann called for a vote to determine if the delegates were ready to take action on Res. 8-02A. The assembly indicated its desire to vote and the resolution was adopted.

Human Care (7)

Dr. Richard Hinz, president of the Southeastern District and chairman of Committee 7, introduced the work the committee had prepared for the convention's consideration. Dr. Eugene Linse, executive secretary of Social Ministry, was introduced, and he in turn welcomed Dr. Norman Barth, executive director of Lutheran World Relief, who expressed thanks for and described the work of our Synod in the field of human care in countries throughout the world.

Committee 7 placed Res. 7-02A, *Today's Business*, page 157, calling for support for the work of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod World Relief, before the convention.

An amendment was proposed to add the words *and seek additional support of any matching funds from other resources* after the word *Sunday* in line 32. The amendment was adopted, and the resolution was adopted as amended.

A motion was made to test the will of the convention regarding the suspension of the reading of the "Whereas" statements of resolutions to come before the delegates, except in those cases where the committee deems such reading essential. The motion was adopted.

Res. 7-03, *Today's Business*, page 102, encouraging ministry to older persons, was placed before the assembly.

An amendment was proposed to delete the fourth statement of the resolve (lines 33–34) of the resolution. The question was called on the amendment and was sustained. The amendment was adopted, and the amended resolution was brought back to the floor. Debate was ended by vote of the delegates, and the amended resolution was adopted.

Res. 7-04, *Today's Business*, page 102, calling for assistance to professional church workers and congregations, was placed before the delegates. The resolution was adopted.

Special Greeting from the President of the United States

President George Bush addressed the 57th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in a video prepared especially for this occasion.

Procedures

A motion was made to limit debate on all resolutions to three pro and three con speeches before the Chair automatically asks the delegates if they wish to end debate. The motion was not debatable and was defeated.

Structure and Organization (5)

Rev. Orval Oswald brought back to the floor Res. 5-05 (*Today's Business*, p. 72), and pointed the delegates to page 179 of *Today's Business* for a proper wording of line 50.

The resolution calls for an alternate method for amending the Bylaws of Synod.

The question was called and was sustained. The resolution was defeated.

The committee moved Res. 5-06, *Today's Business*, page 72, calling for a revision of the synodical Bylaws regarding synodical personnel. The committee noted a change in wording in line 12, to wit: *"Resolved,* That the convention adopt the following Bylaw changes:" The committee also called for the deletion of the word *Bylaw* in line 16, page 73.

The question was called and was sustained. The resolution was adopted.

A motion was made to reconsider Res. 5-06. The convention voted to do so.

An important question was raised as to whether the proposed change would give the Board of Directors of Synod increased authority over policies governing district and/or college or seminary personnel. Dr. John Schuelke responded on behalf of the Board of Directors by stating that the resolution would not have the effect anticipated in the question but would instead limit the role of the directors to advisory, with the exception of those serving at the International Center.

The Chair called for the orders of the day. It was understood that debate on Res. 5-06 would continue when Committee 5 came back to the podium.

Closing Devotions

The assembly was led in closing devotions by Dr. Arnold G. Kuntz, convention chaplain.

Session 7

Morning, July 11

Opening Devotions

The delegates were led in an opening devotion by Dr. Arnold G. Kuntz, convention chaplain.

LifeLight Bible Study

The convention assembly was led in Bible study by Dr. Earl Gaulke and Dr. Steven Carter.

Elections (10)

The committee presented the results of the first ballot. Following the announcement of those elected (*), the chairman of the committee, Dr. Alvin Kollmann, led the delegates through the second ballot.

First Ballot

Position		Ballots Casts	Required For Election
Secretary (Vote for 1)			
Krogen, Richard	MN	162	
* Rosin, Walter	MO	938	
		1100	551
Treasurer			
* Sell, Norman	MO	1012	507
Board of Directors			
PASTORS (Vote for 2)			
Benken, F. Richard	NE	190	
Buelow, Leonard	NW	399	
Kuntz, Arnold	SC	522	
* Marxhausen, Victor	MNS	690	
Pohl, Wayne	MI	287	
Reimnitz, Charles	NB		
		2088	523
TEACHERS (Vote for 1)			
* Dietrich, Clifford	IN	537	
Henkelmann, Ervin	SC	501	
		1038	520
LAYPERSONS (Vote for 4)			
* Hirsch, Robert	SD	591	
Joeckel, Raymond	RM	407	
Koch, Milton	SE	417	
La Haine, Gilbert	MI	448	
Madison, Major, Jr.		320	
* Montz, Florence	ND	611	
Saacks, Jerry	SO	241	
* Snyder, Donald	EA	599	
Theiss, Herbert	SC	374	
Wilkening, Harvey		153	
		4161	521
Board for Evangelism Services			
PASTORS (Vote for 2)			
Belton, Victor	MO	267	
Dodge, Chris	MI	348	
Droegemueller, Carl	IW	443	
Janssen, Ihno	EN		
* Nguyen, Wynn	SC	744	
Simcak, Andrew	NE	358	
		2160	541
TEACHERS (Vote for 1)			
Berg, James	SW	379	
* Geisler, Ralph	NI	692	
		1071	536
LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)			
Erwin, Elloree		365	
Jones, Harry	EN	150	
Kraepel, David	MI	481	
Lenz, Kenneth	NJ	297	
Vedder, Arnold	CNH	341	
Wegele, Paul	NB	500	
		2107	527
Board for Higher Education Services			
PASTORS (Vote for 2)			
Briel, Steve	MNS	464	
Filbert, Bernard	IN	177	
Gerken, Oscar	FG	292	
Johnson, Jeff	SC	76	
Maier, Paul	MI	447	
Mueckler, Edwin	MI	126	
Otten, Walter	NI	224	
Reimnitz, Elroi	SC	283	
Zimmermann, B.C.	NOW	66	
		2155	539
TEACHERS (Vote for 2)			
Joyce, Mark	MI	249	
Palmreuter, Kenneth	RM	198	
* Rohmaller, Duane	SC	723	
* Schroeder, Leland	NB	873	
		2043	511
LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)			
Ridgeway, Don		487	
* Royal, George	SE	570	
		1057	529
Board for Mission Services			
PASTORS (Vote for 2)			
Brehmer, Charles	SC	159	
Bunkowske, Eugene	IN		
Janssen, Ihno	ENG	205	
Johnson, James	SC	508	
Lutz, Bernard	MNN	512	
MacLachlan, Neal	RM	363	
Ratcliffe, Kermit	TX	406	
		2153	539
TEACHERS (Vote for 1)			
Kahlfeldt, Carl	NI	186	
Wallis, Darrell	MO	299	
Walther, John	SW	476	
		1061	531
LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)			
Boltz, William	SC	493	
* Purdy, Paul	SO	631	
Reedstrom, Kermit	MNS	106	
Stahl, Kenneth	ENG	357	
* Thies, Gary	IW	554	
		2138	535

Board for Parish Services

PASTORS (Vote for 1)

Reese, William	CNH	278	
* Zehnder, Jon	MNN	807	
		1085	543

TEACHERS (Vote for 2)

Eichinger, Kenneth	IN	439	
Herman, Debra	FG	477	
Hessler, Ed	SW	411	
Koenig, David	TX	329	
Royuk, Ronald	MDS	436	
		2092	527

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)

* McCants, Susan	IN	544	
Plattenberger, Bill	MI	222	
Speckhardt, Norma	MO	297	
		1063	532

Board for Youth Services

PASTORS (Vote for 1)

Griffen, William	NI	360	
Kucera, Jan	OH	115	
Pless, John	MNS	410	
Wagner, Daniel	MO	185	
		1070	536

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)

Althaus, Paul	RM	380	
* Bader, Marilyn	MO	708	
		1088	548

YOUTH (Vote for 4)

* Bean, Stefan	SC	755	
Bolland, Ericka	MO	474	
Dyer, David	OK	456	
Ferguson, Marta	IE	321	
Finger, Patti	MNS	301	
* Fogo, Scott	SC	672	
Kuehn, Jennifer	CI	347	
* Markin, Jennifer	IE	646	
		4022	503

Commission on Adjudication

PASTORS (Vote for 2)

Bode, David	MNS	516	
Griesse, Wilbert	MDS	454	
Pankratz, Adolph	MI	468	
Robinson, Geoffrey	KS	280	
Sauer, John	SC	439	
		2157	540

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)

Gerfen, Raymond	TX	225	
Piehler, David	NW	472	
Wolfram, Scott		367	
		1064	533

Commission on Appeals

PASTORS (Vote for 3)

Barber, Alan	IN	431	
Elowsky, Earl	MI	277	
Fiene, John	NB	262	
Harnapp, Harlan	RM	449	
Hellman, Victor	SW	415	
Huener, William	NI	367	
Mueller, Paul	IW	332	
Phipps, Ralph	FG	380	
Sauls, Ottis	IN	141	
		3154	526

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

Bodenstab, Richard	NI	122	
Dissen, Walter	SE	429	
Doggett, Robert	OH	447	
Hessler, Peter		351	
Lusthoff, Craig	NI	205	
Peterson, Edward	TX	218	
Rinke, Orin		331	
		2103	526

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

PASTORS (Vote for 1)

Dolak, George	SELC	454	
Ferguson, William	RM	381	
Williams, George	NB	223	
		1058	530

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)

Bardolph, Richard		339	
Johnson, George	MO	174	
Lane, Ferman		40	
Moldenhauer, Raymond	MNN	494	
		1047	524

Board of Directors—Concordia Publishing House

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 4)

Brickler, John	MO	398	
Brighton, Ruth		450	
Buske, Glenn	SI	394	
Buth, Lenora		418	
* Fleischli, Jack	SC	530	
Johnson, Thomas		82	
Moeller, Albert	OH	509	
Mohr, George	SW	410	
Olsen, Melvin	CNH	407	
Rodefeld, Robert	RM	427	
Uthoff, Harold		111	
		4136	518

Board of Regents—Ann Arbor

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

Hink, Paul	ENG	387	
Hoyer, Dexter	OH	190	
Krause, David	MI	472	
		1049	525

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

Cahill, Jerold	SELC	259	
Engel, Edward	ENG	354	
* Kayser, Walter	MI	494	
Tuttle, Paul	OH	397	
Wilkening, Rolland	MI	432	
		1936	485

Board of Regents—Austin

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

Brunworth, Gerald	TX	210	
Clausen, Vernon	TX	67	
Loomans, Keith	TX	224	
Paskett, Alan	TX	405	
		906	454

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

Adams, George	TX	193	
Bokenkamp, Don		295	
Feucht, William		259	
Graf, Don		212	
Johnston, Bradley	TX	315	
Kaufman, David	FG	255	
Krueger, Tom		74	
Schur, Martin	TX	354	
		1957	490

Board of Regents—Bronxville

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

* Kane, Richard, Jr.	EA	1007	504

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

* Bruening, Alice	SE	625	
Nelson, Gordon	SE	280	
* Praetzel, Gary	EA	707	
Tervo, Wesley	NE	410	
		2022	506

Board of Regents—Concordia, MO

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

* Janssen, Leland	MO	535	
Sheck, Don	SW	487	
		1022	512

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

* Grefe, Vernon	MO	706	
Kiehl, Hubert	MO	449	
* Weiss, Norman	MO	693	
		1848	463

Board of Regents—Fort Wayne

PASTORS (Vote for 2)

* Anderson, David	MNN	528	
Benke, David	ATL	491	
Brown, Barclay	WY	380	
Cascione, Jack	OH	344	
Taddey, Martin	CNH	296	
Zimmermann, Elwood	IN		
		2039	510

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

Lams, Ernest	NI	423	
* Tietz, Stuart	NB	618	
		1041	521

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)

Hinnefeld, Edwin	FG	494	
* Roetman, Orvil	NOW	536	
		1030	516

Board of Regents—Irvine

PASTORS (Vote for 1)

* Allsing, Richard	SC	554	
Martin, Ronald	SC	451	
		1005	503

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

Ellwein, Kenneth	SW	324	
Harman, Ronald	ENG	240	
Zehnder, George	SC	447	
		1011	506

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)

* Buttenmiller, Karl	RM	507	
Preuss, Greg		479	
		986	494

Board of Regents—Mequon

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

Berlinski, Donald	SW	144	
Fiedler, Eugene	NW	154	
* Haas, Walter	SW	711	
		1009	505

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

Gutenberger, James		453	
* Jaeger, John	SW	531	
Judd, Robert	CI	304	
* Schroeder, Rodney	SW	579	
		1867	467

Board of Regents—Portland

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

Einspahr, Junior	CNH	407	
* Fischer, Franklin	NOW	566	
		973	487

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

Brauner, Ken	NOW	452	
* Crawford, Matt	MT	459	
* Hyde, Richard	CNH	491	
Tolzin, Keith	NOW	433	
		1835	459

Board of Regents—River Forest

PASTORS (Vote for 1)

Bauman, Gene	NI	197	
Christian, Douglas	IN	218	
* Thoelke, Lothar	IN	570	
		985	493

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

Herring, Louis	IN	328	
* Klemm, Lowell	IN	645	
		973	487

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)

Gaede, Herbert	SW	333	
Krause, Richard	NI	415	
Mulholland, Betty		177	
		925	463

Board of Regents—St. Louis

PASTORS (Vote for 2)

Dissen, David	MO	412	
Goodsman, Ronald	IE	141	
Halboth, Vic	ENG	66	
Koeppen, Robert	NI	328	
Muenchow, Fred	CI	90	
Schlecht, Richard	MI	403	
* Westcott, Ed	MO	537	
Zimmermann, B.C.	NOW	80	
		2057	515

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

* Loessel, Allen	MO	716	
Schmidt, Donald	TX	269	
		985	493

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)

Kircher, Conrad		304	
Lehenbauer, Arno	MO	240	
Lorenz, Dwayne	MO	100	
Melde, Gus	TX	125	
Von Lehe, Eldon	SC	75	
		844	423

Board of Regents—St. Paul

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

* Dirks, Dennis	MNS	649	
Stohs, Delton	MNN	338	
		987	494

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

Haar, James	SD	226	
Montz, C.R.	ND	410	
Peters, Richard		361	
Preus, Christian	MNS	447	
Unterseher, Archie	ND	213	
Vieman, Lowell	IE	271	
		1928	483

Board of Regents—Selma

PASTORS (Vote for 1)

Meyer, Richard	SO	422	
Parsons, William	SE	286	
Schey, Bernard	SO	258	
		966	484

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

Lohmeyer, Jan	SO	363	
* McBride, Mary	SO	622	
		985	493

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)

Givhan, Sam		149	
Moldovan, Wayne	TX	231	
* Willhardt, John	SO	592	
		972	487

Board of Regents—Seward

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

* Johnson, Arthur	MO	549	
Zobel, Marlin	MO	435	
		984	493

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

Brauer, Tony	KS	209	
* Hartmann, William	NB	542	
Kolterman, Mark	NB	453	
Krueger, Dan	RM	310	
Perry, Robert	OK	349	
Scheibe, Donald	SD	106	
		1969	493

Presentation of Corporate Officers

President Bohlmann introduced to the convention the corporate officers of the Synod, Rev. Dr. August T. Mennicke, First Vice-President; Rev. Dr. Robert H. King, Second Vice-President; Rev. Dr. Robert C. Sauer, Third Vice-President; Rev. Dr. Eugene W. Bunkowske, Fourth Vice-President; Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier, Jr., Fifth Vice-President; Rev. Dr. Walter L. Rosin, Secretary; and Dr. Norman E. Sell, Treasurer.

Concordia Seminary—150th Anniversary Recognition

The Rev. Dr. Karl Barth, president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, led the delegation in a celebration of the anniversary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's oldest seminary. A special video, *Light of Our World,* was enjoyed by the assembly.

The Rev. Dr. George Beto, Ph.D., who was awarded the honorary doctor of divinity degree, addressed the convention.

Noonday Prayers

Delegates were led in noonday prayers by Chaplain Kuntz.

Session 8

Afternoon, July 11

Minutes

The minutes of sessions 5 and 6 were approved as distributed in *Today's Business* 5, pages 211–14.

Planning and Administration (8)

Dr. O'Shoney's committee moved Res. 8-03, *Today's Business*, page 108, which calls for a planning council to assist networking among congregations and districts and would thus enhance Synod's design for short- and long-range planning. Dr. Bohlmann relinquished the chair to Rev. Dr. George Wollenburg in order to speak to this resolution. Dr. Bohlmann pointed out that the Planning Council, which will enjoy broad ethnic representation, will serve to advise the church body in setting its vision. Rev. Dr. Henry Koepchen, member of the committee, also noted that this resolution does not establish a new layer of administration, rather it defines and clarifies the nature of the Planning Council, which already exists.

A motion to refer back to committee was offered. The question on the motion to refer was called and was sustained. The motion to refer was placed before the house and was defeated.

The original motion was again placed before the assembly. A substitute motion was introduced, and the assembly declined to consider the substitute motion.

Once again the original motion was before the convention.

Question was called to close debate and was sustained. Res. 8-03 was adopted.

Res. 8-05, *Today's Business*, pages 109–110, was introduced, calling for clarification of the title of treasurer as Synod's vice-president—chief financial officer and allow for appointment of other vice-presidents not in line of succession.

A motion was made to refer the resolution to the Commission on Constitutional Matters for clarification regarding the constitutionality of using the term *Vice-President* for a corporate officer not in line of succession and not a member of the clergy of the church.

A motion to close debate on referral was called and was sustained. The motion to refer was defeated.

The original motion was again placed before the convention. An amendment was offered to strike lines 41–46.

The convention chairman called for the orders of the day. The proposed amendment will again come before the convention when Committee 8 returns to the podium.

Higher Education (6)

Committee Chairman Erhardt Bauer presented Res. 6-03, *Today's Business*, page 90, authorizing synodical assistance in the development of Concordia College, Selma, Ala. Dr. Julius Jenkins, president of Concordia College, Selma, delivered an address in support of the resolution. He pointed out that Concordia is responsible for educating more than 50 percent of the black pastors currently serving The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

By common consent line 21 was changed to read, " . . . the Synod endorse the Board of Directors action authorizing . . ."

The question on Res. 6-03 was called and was sustained. The delegates rose to vote unanimously in support of the development of Concordia, Selma.

Res. 6-04 *Today's Business*, page 90, was moved, calling for the Synod to receive the report of the Task Force on Higher Education for Black Students in Synodical Higher Education. The resolution was adopted.

The committee called upon Dr. Michael Stelmachowicz, executive secretary for Higher Education, to introduce the presidents of the colleges (and university) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Res. 6-05 *Today's Business*, page 90, calling for long-term planning in higher education, was placed before the convention and was adopted.

Res. 6-08 *Today's Business*, page 93, calling for revision in the eligibility requirements of the pastoral colloquy program, was placed before the convention.

An amendment was proposed to delete the first "Whereas" and was carried.

The amended resolution was again placed before the delegates. President Bohlmann asked the convention whether the delegates wished to vote on the amended resolution. The vote was in the affirmative, and the amended resolution was adopted.

Special Greetings

The Rev. Dr. Ed Lehman, president of the Lutheran Church—Canada, addressed the delegation, bringing greetings from the many congregations of the "daughter" synod of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The Lutheran Church—Canada was formed Jan. 1, 1989. President Lehman underscored the youth and energy of the new church. At the conclusion of his remarks, he presented The

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with a beautiful globe as a gift from our friends to the north and a reminder of the scope of our mutual mission.

Committee 3 offered a motion of support and love for The Lutheran Church—Canada, Res. 3-03, *Today's Business*, page 50, which was unanimously approved by the convention.

Procedures

A motion was made to limit all special presentations, including videos to five minutes. The motion failed.

Theology and Church Relations (3)

Res. 3-04A, which was carried over from session 6, was brought back to the floor. The discussion centered on an amendment which called for the Synod to reaffirm its position on ordination of women. The Chair ruled the amendment out of order and was sustained by the convention.

Thus, Res. 3-04A, *Today's Business*, page 150, which calls for the encouragement of service from women to the church, was before the assembly as amended in session 6 (see minutes, *Today's Business*, page 213, lines 40–45).

An amendment was proposed to change the word "district" to "circuit" in the last resolve (line 30). The Chair called for a vote to end debate on the amendment and was sustained. The amendment failed.

Res. 3-04A, as amended, was delayed due to the orders of the day.

Worship of Celebration for the 150th Anniversary of Lutheran Immigration and Our Seminary

The convention joined in a service of worship to celebrate the many blessings God has bestowed upon The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Dr. Karl Barth was the preacher.

Procedures

A delegate requested that the convention finish work on a given issue before leaving it for another subject. The Chair placed the suggestion before the assembly, which indicated its approval.

Human Care (7)

The committee moved Res. 7-01, *Today's Business*, page 101, which calls for support of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Rev. Dennis Schmidt introduced two recent immigrants, Ivan and Mariya Kolenko, from Tallinn, Estonia. The resolution had to be delayed due to the report of the Elections Committee.

Elections (10)

The committee moved that the assembly proceed with the third ballot. The delegates voted to proceed.

Dr. Kollmann announced the results of the second ballot, including those elected (*) and those to be included on the third ballot. Following the report, the delegates began a third ballot but were delayed due to technical problems with the voting machines.

Second Ballot

Position		Ballots Cast	Required For Election
Board of Directors			
PASTORS			
Buelow, Leonard	NW	358	
* Kuntz, Arnold	SC	587	
Pohl, Wayne	MI	166	556
		1111	
LAYPERSONS			
Joeckel, Raymond	RM	249	
Koch, Milton	SE	156	
La Haine, Gilbert	MI	326	
Madison, Major, Jr.		174	
Saacks, Jerry	SO	74	
Theiss, Herbert	SC	134	557
		1113	

Board for Evangelism Services

PASTORS

Dodge, Chris	MI	418	
Droegemueller, Carl	IW	484	
Simcak, Andrew	NE	209	556
		1111	

LAYPERSONS

Erwin, Elloree		408	
* Kraepel, David	MI	553	
Lenz, Kenneth	NJ	258	
Vedder, Arnold	CNH	340	
* Wegele, Paul	NB	624	546
		2183	

Board for Higher Education Services

PASTORS

Briel, Steve	MNS	534	
Filbert, Bernard	IN	173	
Gerken, Oscar	FG	332	
* Maier, Paul	MI	678	
Otten, Walter	NI	214	
Reimnitz, Elroi	SC	283	554
		2214	

Board for Mission Services

PASTORS

Janssen, Ihno	ENG	221	
* Johnson, James	SC	588	
* Lutz, Bernard	MNN	591	
MacLachlan, Neal	RM	351	
Ratcliffe, Kermit	TX	467	555
		2218	

TEACHERS

Wallis, Darrell	MO	479	
* Walther, John	SW	620	550
		1099	

Board for Parish Services

TEACHERS

* Eichinger, Kenneth	IN	552	
* Herman, Debra	FG	617	
Hessler, Ed	SW	470	
* Royuk, Ronald	MDS	555	549
		2194	

Board for Youth Services

PASTORS

Griffen, William	NI	427	
Pless, John	MNS	504	
Wagner, Daniel	MO	184	558
		1115	

YOUTH

Bolland, Ericka	MO	384	
Dyer, David	OK	304	
Ferguson, Marta	IE	164	
Kuehn, Jennifer	CI	255	554
		1107	

Commission on Adjudication

PASTORS

* Bode, David	MNS	579	
* Griesse, Wilbert	MDS	509	
Pankratz, Adolph	MI	340	
Sauer, John	SC	376	452
		1804	

LAYPERSONS

* Piehler, David	NW	620	
Wolfram, Scott		474	548
		1094	

Commission on Appeals

PASTORS

Barber, Alan	IN	523	
Elowsky, Earl	MI	381	
Fiene, John	NB	261	
Harnapp, Harlan	RM	507	
Hellman, Victor	SW	454	
Huener, William	NI	385	
Mueller, Paul	IW	339	
Phipps, Ralph	FG	433	547
		3283	

LAYPERSONS

Dissen, Walter	SE	503	
Doggett, Robert	OH	520	
Hessler, Peter		395	
Lusthoff, Craig	NI	207	
Peterson, Edward	TX	200	
Rinke, Orin		366	548
		2191	

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

PASTORS

* Dolak, George	SELC	655	
Ferguson, William	RM	457	557
		1112	

LAYPERSONS

Bardolph, Richard		371	
Johnson, George	MO	155	
* Moldenhauer, Raymond		583	555
	MNN	1109	

Board of Directors Concordia Publishing House

LAYPERSONS

Brickler, John	MO	336	
* Brighton, Ruth		580	
Buske, Glenn	SI	249	
Buth, Lenora		450	
Moeller, Albert	OH	503	
Mohr, George	SW	442	
Olsen, Melvin	CNH	313	
Rodefeld, Robert	RM	391	545
		3264	

Board of Regents—Ann Arbor

TEACHERS

Hink, Paul	ENG	435	
* Krause, David	MI	663	550
		1098	

LAYPERSONS

Engel, Edward	ENG	376	
Tuttle, Paul	OH	245	
Wilkening, Rolland	MI	460	541
		1081	

Board of Regents—Austin

TEACHERS

Brunworth, Gerald	TX	210	
Loomans, Keith	TX	365	
Paskett, Alan	TX	516	551
		1100	

LAYPERSONS

Adams, George	TX	194	
Bokenkamp, Don		352	
Feucht, William		316	
Graf, Don		198	
Johnston, Bradley	TX	380	
Kaufman, David	FG	252	
Schur, Martin	TX	486	545
		2178	

Board of Regents—Fort Wayne

PASTORS

Benke, David	ATL	497	
Brown, Barclay	WY	344	
Cascione, Jack	OH	267	555
		1108	

Board of Regents—Irvine

TEACHERS

Ellwein, Kenneth	SW	458	
* Zehnder, George	SC	636	548
		1094	

Board of Regents—River Forest

LAYPERSONS

Gaede, Herbert	SW	449	
* Krause, Richard	NI	620	535
		1069	

Board of Regents—St. Louis

PASTORS

Dissen, David	MO	411	
Koeppen, Robert	NI	150	
Schlecht, Richard	MI	545	554
		1106	

LAYPERSONS

* Kircher, Conrad		554	
Lehenbauer, Arno	MO	541	548
		1095	

Board of Regents—St. Paul

LAYPERSONS

Haar, James	SD	295	
* Montz, C.R.	ND	583	
Peters, Richard		432	
* Preus, Christian	MNS	587	
Vieman, Lowell	IE	283	546
		2180	

Board of Regents—Seward

LAYPERSONS

Brauer, Tony	KS	150	
Kolterman, Mark	NB	413	
Krueger, Dan	RM	223	
Perry, Robert	OK	317	552
		1103	

Closing Devotions

The assembly was led in closing devotions by Dr. Arnold G. Kuntz, convention chaplain.

Session 9

Morning, July 12

Opening Devotions

The delegates were led in an opening devotion by Dr. Arnold G. Kuntz, convention chaplain.

LifeLight™ Bible Study

The convention assembly was led in Bible study by Dr. Earl Gaulke and Dr. Stephen Carter.

Elections (10)

The committee chairman, Dr. Kollmann, explained that the system was once again operative and that voting could again be undertaken. He further explained that the first two votes cast during session 8 were recorded, so that voting in this morning's session would begin with the Board for Evangelism Services.

The delegates completed the second ballot.

Special Greetings

The Rev. Dr. Johannes Gedrat, president of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil and chairman of the International Lutheran Conference, addressed the convention, bringing greetings from the 200,000 Lutheran Christians of his country. He asked for our prayers as the International Lutheran Conference meets this year in Seoul, Korea.

Theology and Church Relations (3)

The committee introduced Res. 3-06, *Today's Business*, page 53, which calls for a strengthening of relationships with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's partner churches. The convention adopted the resolution without change.

The committee reintroduced Res. 3-04A, *Today's Business*, page 150. (The resolution had been amended in session 6, *Today's Business*, p. 213.)

An additional amendment was proposed to reinsert as number 1 (line 31) the words *sharing resources for the ministry of women.* The amendment was adopted by common consent.

The question was called on the amended resolution and was sustained. The resolution was adopted.

President Ralph Bohlmann's Acceptance Speech

The Rev. Dr. Ralph A. Bohlmann expressed joy and humility in accepting for the fourth time the will of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in calling him to serve as the president of our beloved church. Dr. Bohlmann noted his deep appreciation for the members of his immediate family, especially his dear wife, Pat. He noted that the work ahead of the Synod is significant in its scope and challenging in its nature.

President Bohlmann straightforwardly asked the members of the church to talk to him openly in person or by telephone or letter whenever they are dissatisfied with what his administration is doing or what he personally is doing, rather than to disseminate criticism abroad in the Synod without benefit of brother-to-brother, loving conversation first.

Dr. Bohlmann spoke of the "unique window of time" the LCMS has today because of our resources. We are truly gifted by our Lord God to be a blessing within this world which so hungers for the saving Word of God. We are a family which can make a huge difference, and we must not fail — far too many lives depend on our positive, Spirit-directed ministry. Dr. Bohlmann pleaded with the delegates to take the messages of this convention home to their individual congregations, and, beyond that, to work diligently toward the fulfillment of the vision of ministry we have dreamed together during these days.

Dr. August Mennicke, first vice-president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, expressed his profound joy to be able to serve with Dr. Bohlmann in the vital ministry of our Synod. Dr. George Mohr, the chairman of the Board of Directors of Synod, pinned flowers on Dr. Bohlmann and Dr. Mennicke and presented bouquets to their wives.

Congregational Ministries (2)

Dr. Kromphardt introduced Res. 2-01, *Today's Business*, page 41, which calls for a strengthening of the Sunday schools of the Synod. The resolution was adopted.

The committee moved Res. 2-03, *Today's Business*, page 42, encouraging greater involvement from younger adults in the affairs of congregations and the Synod. By way of highlighting the resolution, Dr. Richard Bimler, executive secretary of the Board for Youth Ministry Services, introduced a special greeting to be brought to the delegates from Brian Van De Mark, representing the youth in attendance at the convention. Mr. Van De Mark encouraged continuing support for LYF (Lutheran Youth Fellowship), the official youth organization of the Synod.

The question was called and was sustained. The resolution was adopted.

The committee brought to the floor Res. 2-04, *Today's Business*, page 42, calling for placing the new translation of Luther's Small Catechism in *Lutheran Worship*.

An amendment was proposed, to wit: (line 42, p. 42) "Whereas, the new translation of the Enchiridion does not provide Luther's translations of biblical passages but instead inserts New International Version translations, which often vary widely from Luther's Enchiridion, be it resolved that the new translation be amended to conform to Luther's biblical interpretation as Scripture is cited in the Enchiridion, and be it further . . . " The Chair ruled that the amendment was in fact a substitute motion. Therefore, the Chair placed before the assembly the choice to consider the substitute motion. The delegates voted not to consider the substitute motion.

The committee asked that the words *of the Enchiridion* be inserted immediately after the word *translation* in line 43.

A delegate proposed Overture 2-38, *Convention Workbook*, page 164, as a substitute motion. The Chair asked the committee for information. The committee noted that the translation of the Enchiridion was approved by the 1986 convention. The Chair allowed the assembly to decide whether it wished to consider the substitute motion. The delegates declined to consider the substitute motion.

The original motion was again placed before the assembly.

An amendment was proposed to add a resolve "that future printing of the Enchiridion incorporate both the new translation and the old." The question was called on both the amendment and the resolution. The delegates voted to close debate on the amendment and on the main motion. The amendment was defeated.

The original resolution (as amended by the committee) was adopted.

Election (10)

Dr. Kollmann reported those elected (*) on the third ballot. He then led the delegates through a brief fourth ballot.

Third Ballot

Position		Ballots Cast	Required For Election
Board of Directors			
LAYPERSONS			
Joeckel, Raymond	RM	365	
La Haine, Gilbert	MI	448	
Madison, Major, Jr.		250	532
		1063	
Board for Evangelism Services			
PASTORS			
Dodge, Chris	MI	483	
* Droegemueller, Carl	IW	612	548
		1095	
Board for Higher Education Services			
PASTORS			
Briel, Steve	MNS	518	
Gerken, Oscar	FG	459	
Reimnitz, Elroi	SC	121	550
		1098	
Board for Youth Services			
PASTORS			
Griffen, William	NI	535	
* Pless, John	MNS	575	556
		1110	
YOUTH			
Bolland, Ericka	MO	461	
Dyer, David	OK	343	
Kuehn, Jennifer	CI	297	551
		1101	
Board of Regents—Ann Arbor			
LAYPERSONS			
Engel, Edward	ENG	447	
* Wilkening, Rolland	MI	637	543
		1084	
Board of Regents—Austin			
TEACHERS			
Loomans, Keith	TX	513	
* Paskett, Alan	TX	581	548
		1094	
Board of Regents—Fort Wayne			
PASTORS			
* Benke, David	ATL	613	
Brown, Barclay	WY	497	556
		1110	
Board of Regents—St. Louis			
PASTORS			
Dissen, David	MO	481	
* Schlecht, Richard	MI	625	554
		1106	
Board of Regents—Selma			
PASTORS			
* Parsons, William	SE	611	
Schey, Bernard	SO	476	544
		1087	
Board of Regents—Seward			
LAYPERSONS			
Kolterman, Mark	NB	470	
Krueger, Dan	RM	279	
Perry, Robert	OK	352	551
		1101	

Structure and Organization (5)

Rev. Orval M. Oswald introduced Res. 5-06A, *Today's Business*, page 231, which calls for change in the Bylaws regarding synodical personnel. The committee asked for editorial change (beginning with line 232): Place a period after the words *received a solemn call.* Then strike the word *which.* Then add the words *Other ordained or commis-*

sioned ministers appointed to positions in the Synod shall be affirmed by the respective board or commission through a solemn call. All called ministers and line 17 continues with the word *shall . . .*

The question on the motion was called, and the delegates voted to end debate. The resolution, with the committee's editorial corrections, was then placed before the house and was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 5-07 *Today's Business*, page 74, which calls for amending the Bylaws on filling board and commission vacancies.

It was amended so that in line 59 after the word *candidate* a comma was added and then the words *at least one of whom shall come from the slate of candidates.* The amendment was placed before the convention and was defeated.

An amendment was proposed to replace the words *Board of Directors* with the words *elected boards and commissions themselves.* Because the orders of the day called for the noonday prayers, and because the convention had determined to attempt to close action on resolutions before the house, the Chair asked the delegates whether they wished to close debate on the amendment. Debate was closed. The amendment failed.

The unamended resolution will come back before the delegates when Committee 5 returned to the podium.

Noonday Prayers

Delegates were led in noonday prayers by Chaplain Kuntz.

Session 10

Afternoon, July 12

Opening Devotions

The delegates were led in an opening devotion by Dr. Arnold G. Kuntz, convention chaplain.

Minutes

The minutes from session 8, *Today's Business*, pages 238–53, were corrected to read "Res. 6-03" in lines 8 and 15, page 248, instead of "Res. 6-02"; and "page 90" rather than "page 89" in line 8. The corrected minutes were adopted.

Orders of the Day

The Chair invited the delegates to extend the orders of the day until 6 p.m. if they so wished. A motion was made to that effect and was adopted.

Program and Finance (4)

Dr. Richard G. Kapfer, chairman of Committee 4, introduced the work of the committee. While commending the integrity of the members of the Board of Directors, Dr. Kapfer noted the "anguishing difficulty" of having to cut rather than expand programs in light of the diminishing financial resources available to the Synod. Turning the assembly's attention to the first resolutions to be brought before the house by his committee, Dr. Kapfer encouraged the delegation to consult the table printed between pages 178 and 179 of *Today's Business* for financial information pertinent to the seminaries.

Elections

The Elections Committee reported those elected (*) on the fourth ballot and led the delegation through a brief fifth ballot.

Fourth Ballot

Position		Ballots Cast	Required For Election
Board of Directors			
LAYPERSONS			
Joeckel, Raymond	RM	500	
* La Haine, Gilbert	MI	543	522
		1043	
Board for Higher Education Services			
PASTORS			
* Briel, Steve	MNS	538	
Gerken, Oscar	FG	507	523
		1045	
Board for Youth Services			
YOUTH			
* Bolland, Ericka	MO	630	
Dyer, David	OK	408	520
		1038	
Commission on Appeals			
PASTORS			
* Barber, Alan	IN	580	
Elowsky, Earl	MI	414	
Harnapp, Harlan	RM	538	
Hellman, Victor	SW	505	
Huener, William	NI	425	
Mueller, Paul	IW	343	
Phipps, Ralph	FG	477	548
		3282	
LAYPERSONS			
* Dissen, Walter	SE	554	
* Doggett, Robert	OH	588	
Hessler, Peter		429	
Lusthoff, Craig	NI	205	
Rinke, Orin		398	544
		2174	
Board of Directors—Concordia Publishing House			
LAYPERSONS			
Brickler, John	MO	276	
Buth, Lenora		430	
Moeller, Albert	OH	544	
Mohr, George	SW	413	
Olsen, Melvin	CNH	225	
Rodefeld, Robert	RM	311	550
		2199	
Board of Regents—Austin			
LAYPERSONS			
Bokenkamp, Don		428	
Feucht, William		338	
Graf, Don		192	
Johnston, Bradley	TX	423	
Kaufman, David	FG	234	
* Schur, Martin	TX	558	544
		2173	
Board of Regents—Seward			
LAYPERSONS			
* Kolterman, Mark	NB	571	
Perry, Robert	OK	471	522
		1042	

Program and Finance (4)

Dr. Jonathan Grothe of the Board for Higher Education Service's Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry offered assistance to the delegates with regard to the interpretation of the financial information. Dr. Grothe noted that the cost of a year's education at the seminary has risen "dramatically."

The committee introduced Res. 4-01, *Today's Business*, page 61, which encourages adequate funding of theological education at our colleges and seminaries. Following several speeches, the Chair asked if the assembly was ready to consider the question. The assembly voted that it was so ready. The resolution was adopted.

Human Care (7)

Dr. Richard Hinz introduced Res. 7-01, *Today's Business*, page 101, which calls for the support of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. The resolution was adopted.

Res. 7-05, *Today's Business*, page 103, was moved with a modest editorial correction in line 12, replacing "in compassion" with "and compassion." The resolution calls for the encouragement and strengthening of support for recognized social ministry organizations. The resolution was adopted.

The committee moved Res. 7-06, *Today's Business*, page 103, which calls for continuing response to the plight of the homeless. The resolution was adopted.

The committee moved Res. 7-07, *Today's Business*, pages 103–104, which addresses ministry to victims of AIDS. The committee added the words *Law and* before the word *Gospel* in line 6.

An amendment to be inserted between the third and fourth resolves and of the following wording was proposed as an addition to the resolution: "Resolved, that congregations be encouraged to utilize materials such as the LWML video *I Feel So Alone* and other materials of similar nature provided by the auxiliaries of the LCMS in their ministry of compassion; and be it further . . . " The amendment was adopted by common consent.

The resolution as amended was placed before the house once again. The chair offered assistance to a delegate who wished an amendment by suggesting the addition of the words *doctrinally sound* before the word *educational* in line 76. The change was adopted by common consent.

The resolution as amended was placed before the house and was adopted.

Higher Education (6)

The committee proposed Res. 6-10, *Today's Business*, page 95, which speaks to the process for handling faculty termination at synodical schools.

An amendment was offered to add the words *or becomes available within two academic years* to the end of line 53. The amendment was adopted by common consent.

The question was moved and was sustained. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 6-09, *Today's Business*, page 93, which calls for a change in the process of the election of college presidents. The committee added the words */if desirable* in line 5, page 95, between the words *and* and *request.*

An amendment was proposed to delete the words *shall give notice in an official publication of the Synod and* from lines 9–10, page 95. The amendment was defeated.

An amendment was proposed to add word *and* as the second last word in line 75, page 94, and to delete from lines 76–77, page 94, the words *and the elected representatives of the faculty as a group with one vote,* and to replace the word *five* with *four* in line 4, page 95.

A motion was made to refer the resolution back to committee. The motion to refer was defeated.

The Chair asked if the delegates were ready to vote on the amendment. Indicating that they were so ready, the assembly voted to defeat the amendment.

The Chair called the question on the resolution and was sustained. Res. 6-09 was defeated.

Planning and Administration (8)

The committee introduced Res. 8-06, *Today's Business*, pages 110–111, which calls for a clarification of the role of the Board of Directors. The resolution was adopted.

Elections

The committee announced those elected (*) on the fifth ballot and led the convention through the sixth ballot.

Fifth Ballot

Position		Ballots Cast	Required For Election
Commission on Appeals			
PASTORS			
Elowsky, Earl	MI	347	
Harnapp, Harlan	RM	490	
Hellman, Victor	SW	389	
Huener, William	NI	427	
Phipps, Ralph	FG	471	532
		2124	
Board of Directors—Concordia Publishing House			
LAYPERSONS			
Brickler, John	MO	278	
Buth, Lenora		478	
* Moeller, Albert	OH	563	
Mohr, George	SW	444	
Rodefeld, Robert	RM	365	533
		2128	
Board of Regents—Austin			
LAYPERSONS			
Bokenkamp, Don		367	
Feucht, William		133	
Johnston, Bradley	TX	404	
Kaufman, David	FG	160	533
		1064	

Planning and Administration (8)

The committee moved Res. 8-07A, *Today's Business*, page 161, which urges faithfulness to the Synod's constitution.

An amendment was proposed to add the word *generally* between the words *be* and *commended* in line 18, page 161. The Chair asked the convention delegates if they were ready to close debate. The assembly indicated it was ready to vote on the amendment, which was defeated.

A motion was made to table the resolution. The motion was defeated.

Question on the resolution was called and sustained. The resolution was adopted.

Elections (10)

The committee pointed out an error in its initial report for the pastoral candidates for the Board of Directors. A name was inadvertently deleted from the ballot. The assembly was asked it they wished to reconsider this portion of the ballot. The delegate in question, Rev. Richard Benken, withdrew his name, thus enabling the results to be accepted as previously reported.

Theology and Church Relations (3)

The committee introduced Res. 3-05A, *Today's Business*, page 150, which calls for the adoption of the recommendations of the Lay Worker Study Committee as reported. The committee asked for a deletion of the words *Diaconal Workers* in line 56.

Following lengthy debate, a motion was made to refer the resolution to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations.

Question was called as to whether the delegates wished to cease debate on referral. Stating their desire to vote on referral, the delegates voted not to refer.

The assembly voted its desire to continue debate on Res. 3-05A. A motion was then made to extend debate until 6 p.m. A substitute motion was made to delay further discussion until the next time Committee 3 comes to the podium. The assembly voted to consider the substitute motion. The substitute motion was adopted.

Elections (10)

Dr. Kollmann announced the names of those elected (*) on the sixth ballot and led the delegates through a seventh ballot.

Sixth Ballot

Position		Ballots Cast	Required For Election
Commission on Appeals			
PASTORS			
* Harnapp, Harlan	RM	542	
* Hellman, Victor	SW	514	
Huener, William	NI	471	
Phipps, Ralph	FG	476	501
		2003	
Board of Directors—Concordia Publishing House			
LAYPERSONS			
Buth, Lenora		384	
Mohr, George	SW	264	
Rodefeld, Robert	RM	345	479
		993	
Board of Regents—Austin			
LAYPERSONS			
Bokenkamp, Don		385	
Johnston, Bradley	TX	444	
Kaufman, David	FG	172	501
		1001	

Witness and Outreach (1)

Dr. Sohn's committee introduced Res. 1-03, *Today's Business*, page 33, which calls for our congregations to perceive of themselves as challenged to reach out in mission, to "tell everyone what He has done." The resolution was adopted.

The committee moved 1-04A, *Today's Business*, page 125, which calls for a task force for black ministry. (Secretary's note: Inadvertently *Today's Business* failed to print the *A* behind 1-04 on page 125.)

Elections (10)

A final report was made by the Elections Committee, announcing those elected on the seventh ballot. The committee was introduced by Dr. Kollmann and thanked by the convention.

The committee moved that all ballots be destroyed. The motion was adopted.

Seventh Ballot

Position		Ballots Cast	Required For Election
Board of Directors—Concordia Publishing House			
LAYPERSONS			
* Buth, Lenora		521	
Rodefeld, Robert	RM	490	506
		1011	
Board of Regents—Austin			
LAYPERSONS			
Bokenkamp, Don		475	
* Johnston, Bradley	TX	563	520
		1038	

Witness and Outreach (1)

Res. 1-04A was again placed before the house. The question was called and was sustained. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 1-19A, *Today's Business*, page 227, calling for the Mission Task Force to give consideration to the concept of recommending voting or advisory status of the LLL and LWML on the Board for Mission Services and to report the outcome of such consideration to the 1992 convention. The resolution was adopted.

Closing Devotions

The assembly was led in closing devotions by Dr. Arnold G. Kuntz, convention chaplain.

Session 11

Morning, July 13

Opening Devotions

The delegates were led in an opening devotion by Dr. Arnold G. Kuntz, convention chaplain, and assisted in song by the Rev. Allen Goebbert of Trinity Lutheran Congregation of Wichita.

Bible Study

The assembly was led in the LifeLight Bible study series by Dr. Stephen Carter and Dr. Earl Gaulke.

Procedures

Motion was made to call for immediate vote on any resolution if no *con* speech is made; a *pro* speech may only be made if a *con* speech is offered. The motion, which was a voice vote, was defeated. A division of the house was called. The Chair asked the delegates to vote on the machines. It was subsequently determined that not all of the machines were operative. The Chair postponed voting until the machines could be readied.

Motion was made to call for a vote after two *con* and two *pro* speeches on any motion. The motion was defeated.

Recommendation was made to have questions of clarification submitted in writing to the appropriate floor committee chairman before the afternoon/evening and Friday sessions. The Chair's decision that only a simple majority is required was challenged, and the assembly sustained the Chair. The vote on the recommendation had to be postponed until the machines were again operative.

Congregational Ministries (2)

The committee introduced Res. 2-05A, *Today's Business*, page 126, which calls for Bylaw provision for the Council on Human Resources and Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support and to dissolve the Commission on Ministerial Health.

The committee offered several minor editorial corrections, including replacing the word *professional* with the word *ministerial* in line 32, page 126; adding a comma after the word *knowledge,* line 30, page 127; and capitalizing the *d* of *district,* line 1, page 128.

A delegate requested that the minutes note that line 62 of page 126 does not include congregations in its mention of "entities."

An amendment was proposed to line 13, page 127, to replace the words *growth and support* with *growth, support* and *health.* The amendment failed.

An amendment was offered to add in line 18, page 127, immediately after the word *ministers* the words *at least two of which shall be parish pastors.*

A substitute amendment was offered that line 19 be changed to read "two" instead of "one." The delegation voted to consider the substitute motion. The motion carried.

An amendment was offered to add the word *Christian* after the word *provide* in line 1 on page 128. The amendment was adopted by common consent.

Question was called on the entire resolution and was sustained. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 2-06, *Today's Business*, page 44, which calls for an appropriate disposition of records of disbanding congregations. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 2-12, *Today's Business*, page 46, which addresses inclusive and exclusive language.

A motion was made to table. The motion failed.

The assembly was asked if they were ready to vote on the motion because of the orders of the day. They answered in the affirmative and adopted the resolution.

Human Care (7)

The committee introduced Dr. Robert Zimmer, who briefly addressed the convention for the Wheatridge Foundation.

Procedure

Because some of the voting machines were inoperative at the point of voting on the earlier motion and recommendation on procedures, the Chair asked the delegates to vote again on the first motion and the recommendation. The first motion, to vote on resolutions if no *con* speech is offered, was adopted. The house then sustained the Chair in his call that the recommendation also was adopted.

Special Recognition

The Chair introduced Mr. Bill Ludwig, who has been selected to receive special recognition from the White House as an outstanding educator.

Program and Finance (4)

The committee introduced Res. 4-05A, *Today's Business*, page 177, which calls for increased seminary funding.

A delegate offered a substitute motion, Overture 4-13A, page 207, *Convention Workbook*. The assembly declined to consider the substitute motion.

The question was called and was sustained. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 4-06, *Today's Business*, page 65, which calls for help for church workers in the repayment of student loans.

An amendment was offered to replace the word *any* in line 26 with *necessary.*

Question was called on the amendment and was sustained. The amendment failed.

An amendment was offered to delete the word *circuits* from line 29. The question was called and was sustained. The amendment was adopted.

Res. 4-06, as amended, was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 4-02, *Today's Business*, page 62, which provides direction for the work of funding the Mission Working Team. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 4-03, *Today's Business*, page 63, which encourages biblical stewardship. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 4-07A, *Today's Business*, page 155, which alters synodical policy on salary information.

An amendment was moved in lines 29–30 to delete the words (*President, First Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer*).

Time having expired, the Chair asked the delegates if they were ready to vote on the amendment. The delegates indicated they were so ready to vote and defeated the amendment.

The original motion, without amendment, went before the house and was adopted.

Theology and Church Relations (3)

The committee introduced Res. 3-09A, *Today's Business*, page 173, which addresses recent developments and continued concerns on Pro-Life issues. The convention received the comments of Dr. Jean Garton, who has represented in many circles The Lutheran Church—Missouri

Synod's stance on abortion.

A substitute motion was offered to consider the first resolve from 3-09, page 55. The assembly voted not to consider the substitute motion.

An amendment was offered of considerable length, which the Chair could not interpret as to whether the proposed wording was an amendment or a substitute motion. Therefore, the Chair asked the house if it wished to consider the proposed words. The house declined to consider the wording.

An amendment was proposed to line 47, page 173, to add a resolve: "That the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations be encouraged to support Lutherans for Life."

Question was called on both the amendment and the resolution and was sustained. The amendment was adopted. The resolution was adopted without dissenting vote.

The committee introduced Res. 3-05A, *Today's Business*, page 150, which calls for the adoption of recommendations of the Lay Workers Study Committee Report as amended. (This resolution had previously been before the house and debate had to be delayed until this time.) The committee asked Dr. Samuel Nafzger, executive secretary of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, to speak to the needs in the church addressed by 3-05A.

An amendment was offered for line 24, page 153, to strike the word *ordinarily*; also on line 34, page 154, to strike the words *whenever possible*; also on line 41, page 154, to strike *or in emergencies*; also in line 42, page 154, to insert the words *for a prolonged period of time* after the word *sacrament*; also in line 43, page 154, to add the words *and the District President* after the word *pastor*. Debate on the amendment was delayed until after lunch.

Noonday Prayers

Delegates were led in noonday prayers by Chaplain Kuntz.

Session 12

Afternoon, July 13

Opening Devotions

The delegates were led in an opening devotion by Dr. Arnold G. Kuntz, convention chaplain.

Witness and Outreach (1)

The committee introduced Res. 1-05A, *Today's Business*, page 227, which calls for an evaluation of our Synod's name in view of our church's mission to "Tell everyone what He has done."

The question was called and was sustained. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 1-11, *Today's Business*, page 36, which praises God for missionary service. The committee noted two editorial corrections: line 12, page 37, add "evangelistic" after "sending"; and, line 13, correct "W" to "T." The resolution was adopted by a unanimous standing vote, which also recognized the several foreign missionaries present.

The committee introduced Res. 1-06, *Today's Business*, page 34, which encourages urban ministry planning. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 1-08, *Today's Business*, page 35, which calls for increased distribution of *Lutheran Witness*. The committee noted one editorial change: to replace "and" in line 49 with "comma (,) with." The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 1-09, *Today's Business*, pages 35–36, which calls for a comprehensive marketing/communications plan. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 1-10, *Today's Business*, page 36, which encourages congregational participation in support of missionaries. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 1-07, *Today's Business*, page 35, which encourages rural ministry outreach. The committee noted an editorial correction that in line 21 calls for "are" to be replaced with "is" in both instances, and in line 36 "these" replaces "those." The Chair asked if the delegates were ready to vote. They indicated that they were so ready, and they adopted the resolution.

The committee assisted the convention in recognizing the many years of ministry offered by Dr. W. Leroy Biesenthal, Marie Biesenthal, Dr. Richard Dickinson, Dr. Erwin J. Kolb, Dr. Philip H. Lochhaas, and Dr. Edward A. Westcott, Jr., who are retiring from their respective positions of synodical leadership this year.

Structure and Organization (5)

The committee introduced Res. 5-07, *Today's Business*, page 74, which calls for amendment to the Bylaws for filling board and commission vacancies. The question was called and was sustained. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 5-08A, *Today's Business*, page 131, which calls for a revision in the Bylaws relating to commencing action to terminate membership of a congregation or an individual. The committee noted an editorial change in line 26, correcting "should" to read "shall."

An amendment was proposed to delete the words *which shall terminate the matter* in line 32; also in line 32 add the words *determines not to proceed or* after the word *Praesidium*; on line 33 add the words *complainant may present charges to the appropriate District or synodical Commission on Adjudication* in place of the the words *complaint shall be deemed denied, which shall likewise terminate the matter.*

Question was called on both the amendment and on the resolution and was sustained. The resolution was adopted without amendment.

A motion was made that the "Resolves" for the motions from Committee 5 not be read. The motion carried.

The committee introduced Res. 5-09, *Today's Business*, pages 75–76, which calls for an amendment to the Bylaws for recognized service organizations. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 5-10, *Today's Business*, page 77, which extends the 1986 convention action regarding auxiliaries. The committee noted a correction in

line 64, correct "13.01" to "14.01." The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 5-11, *Today's Business*, page 78, which calls for miscellaneous Bylaw changes. The resolution was handled one resolve at a time:

- First resolve: lines 8–15: Adopted.
- Second resolve: lines 17–20: Adopted.
- Third resolve: lines 22–34: Adopted.
- Fourth resolve: lines 36–46: Committee correction in line 43: replace "branches" with "each branch"; strike "an" at the end of the same line; line 44, make "chaplain" plural; line 44, correct "15" to "9." The resolve was adopted as corrected.
- Fifth resolve: lines 47–70: Question called and sustained. The resolve was adopted.
- Sixth resolve: lines 72–73: adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 5-18, *Today's Business*, page 85, which calls for the release of names and addresses of delegates to the national convention. The resolution was adopted.

Planning and Administration (8)

The committee introduced Res. 8-05A, *Today's Business*, page 269, which calls for a change in the name of the office of Synod's treasurer. The motion carried.

The committee introduced Res. 8-08, *Today's Business*, page 111, which calls for the use of *The Ministry of Influence in the Church*, a document prepared by the Council of Presidents. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 8-09, *Today's Business*, page 111, which call for declination of Overture 8-23, since the responsible Board of Regents is already dealing with the congregational membership of faculty members. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 8-10, *Today's Business*, page 112, which calls for policies for the preparation of the *Convention Workbook*. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 8-11, *Today's Business*, page 112, which calls for declination of Overture 8-24, which had requested establishment of an *Official Forum*. The resolution was adopted. A substitute motion was offered, but the convention declined to consider it.

The committee introduced Res. 8-12, *Today's Business*, page 112, which calls for the preparation of policies and guidelines for the Convention Committee on Nomination.

An amendment was proposed to add the following words to the final resolve: *to be presented for adoption at the next convention.* The amendment was adopted. The resolution as amended was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 8-14, *Today's Business*, page 161, which calls for celebration of Synod's sesquicentennial in 1997.

An amendment was proposed to add a resolve "That the committee which does the planning be sensitive to the contributions of black heritage in our Synod." The amendment was adopted.

The resolution, as amended, was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 8-13, *Today's Business*, pages 112–13, which calls for the declination of several overtures listed.

An amendment was made to delete line 11 from the resolution. The amendment was defeated.

An amendment was made to delete lines 29–54. The amendment was defeated.

A suggestion was made that overtures which the convention floor committees determine not to bring to the house for full consideration be presented earlier in the proceedings.

An amendment was made to delete line 16. The amendment failed.

Question was called on the resolution and was sustained. The resolution was adopted as presented without amendment.

Higher Education (6)

A delegate asked for reconsideration of Res. 6-09. The question was called on the motion to reconsider. The debate was closed. The motion to reconsider was adopted. Floor Committee 6 moved that the resolution be recommitted. The motion to recommit was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 6-14, *Today's Business*, page 97, which calls for circulation of certain work of the Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 6-12, *Today's Business*, page 96, which calls for the intensification of recruitment of church workers. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 6-16, *Today's Business*, page 98, which calls for the establishment for alternate routes for entry into the pastoral ministry, with a report to be made to the next convention.

An amendment was proposed to delete the words, *give immediate attention to* from lines 10 and 11 and substitute the words, *immediately begin to study.*

Question was called on the amendment and on the question and was sustained.

The amendment carried.

The resolution, as amended, was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 6-13A, *Today's Business*, page 134, which urges certification of noncertified teachers and DCEs.

An amendment was proposed for Res. 6-13A, to wit: "Resolved, that the colleges and seminaries of the Synod be encouraged to establish and/or increase extension services for those seeking certification, especially to those geographical areas not immediately proximate to any synodical higher education institution." The amendment was adopted.

Question was called on the amended resolution and was sustained. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 6-06, *Today's Business*, page 91, which calls for the revision of nomenclature for synodical faculties. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 6-11, *Today's Business*, page 95, which calls for a change in the Bylaws regarding salary schedules of colleges and seminaries. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 6-18, *Today's Business*, page 98, which urges parish experience for seminary faculty. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 6-07A, *Today's Busi-*

ness, page 133, which calls for the revision of Bylaws to allow for rollover contracts. The committee added "with a minimum term of two years" to the end of line 20. Time having elapsed, the Chair called for a vote as to whether the assembly wished to extend debate. The assembly declined. The resolution was defeated.

Human Care (7)

The committee introduced Res. 7-11B, *Today's Business*, page 267, which encourages district support of ministries adversely affected by Concordia Health Plan rates. The committee called upon Mr. Earl Haake to make pertinent comments.

An amendment was proposed for Res. 7-11B, to wit: As a final resolve: "Resolved, that effective as of Jan. 1, 1990, no member congregation, controlled organization, or affiliated agency enrolled in the Concordia Health Plan shall be assessed a rate which exceeds, by more than fifteen (15) percent, the median rate charged all enrollees."

The Chair asked the delegates to vote to indicate whether they wished to close debate. The convention voted to close debate on the amendment. The amendment failed on a voice vote. A division of the house was called and the call of the Chair was sustained: the amendment failed.

An amendment was proposed which in the view of the Chair was essentially the same as the amendment just defeated. The vote of the assembly sustained the Chair.

Time having expired, the Chair asked the assembly if it wished to extend time for debate on the resolution. The assembly voted to close debate.

The resolution was adopted.

Closing Devotions

The assembly was led in closing devotions by Chaplain Kuntz.

Session 13

Evening, July 13

Opening Devotions

The delegates were led in an opening devotion by Dr. Arnold G. Kuntz, convention chaplain.

Theology and Church Relations (3)

The committee introduced Res. 3-05B, as re-printed and distributed. Dr. Wollenburg spoke to the modifications he had recommended in session 11. His suggested wording was accepted by the Floor Committee and thus became part of the resolution itself.

Res. 3-05B, as modified by Dr. Wollenburg, was again placed before the house.

An amendment was proposed for page 3 to the point that lines 60–64 be changed to read: "The celebration of Holy Communion ought not be carried out by those who do not hold the office of public ministry, since this can always be provided for on behalf of the congregation by those who hold the office of public ministry."

The Chair asked if the delegates were ready to vote on the amendment. Indicating they were so ready, the delegates defeated the amendment.

An amendment was proposed for Res. 3-05B, line 8, page 154, "3) been duly chosen by the congregation for the specific ministries, and 4) begun the synodically approved colloquy program."

Question was called on the amendment and on the resolution and was sustained. The amendment was defeated. The resolution was adopted.

A motion was made that Res. 3-05B be studied by the two seminary faculties and that a report be forthcoming to the next convention. The Chair asked Committee 3 to handle this motion.

A motion was made: "Whereas concerns regarding 3-05B are evident, be it resolved that the issues be studied by the faculties of the seminaries, the CTCR, and the Council of Presidents and report to the next convention." Again the motion was given to the Floor Committee.

The committee introduced Res. 3-11A, *Today's Business*, pages 173–74, which calls for the Synod to declare deaconesses eligible for synodical membership.

The committee noted three editorial corrections: (1) Replace "parochial schools," line 29, page 174, with "of the Evangelical Lutheran Church"; and (2) the identical change in line 31; and (3) "deaconesses" replaced by "deaconess" in line 31. The committee also moved the words *and deaconesses* in line 13 to line 12, following the word *teachers*.

Time having elapsed for debate, the Chair asked the assembly if it wished to close debate on the resolution. Indicating the desire to close the debate, the assembly voted to adopt the resolution.

The committee introduced Res. 3-18A, *Today's Business*, page 207, which calls for amending the Bylaws regarding deaconess membership in the Synod. The committee asked that the delegates strike lines 20 through 22 in entirety.

The question was called and was sustained. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 3-19, *Today's Business*, page 208, which calls for the establishment of a procedure for certification of deaconesses.

An addition was accepted by common consent as a final resolve: "and be it finally resolved that currently uncertified deaconesses be encouraged to become certified as soon as possible and that congregations and other agencies of the Synod engaging an uncertified deaconess be encouraged to make provision for time and financial assistance for such certification."

An amendment was proposed that the following wording be added at line 21: "Resolved, that deaconess graduates from Valparaiso University who request membership in the Synod within an identified time period following the adoption of recommended changes in Art. V of the Constitution (def: Res. 3-11A, 1989), also be eligible as Ministers of Religion, Commissioned;"

Question was called on the amendment and on the resolution and was sustained. The amendment failed. The resolution was adopted.

Procedures

A motion was proposed that in the sessions of the final

day of the convention any motion previously adopted may not be reconsidered. The resolution was adopted.

Closing Devotions

The assembly was led in closing devotions by Chaplain Kuntz.

Session 14

Morning, July 14

Opening Devotions

The delegates were led in an opening devotion by Dr. Arnold G. Kuntz, convention chaplain.

Bible Study

The assembly was led in the LifeLight Bible study series by Dr. Stephen Carter and Dr. Earl Gaulke.

Congregational Ministries (2)

The committee introduced Res. 2-10, *Today's Business*, page 46, which calls for Synodwide use of the LifeLight Bible study series. The resolution was adopted. Dr. Bohlmann offered the comment that this new Bible study may well prove to be the most important contribution to congregational ministry in years. It is his hope that churches throughout the Synod adopt the new program.

The committee introduced Res. 2-16, *Today's Business*, page 129, which calls for the promotion of teen chastity. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 2-07, *Today's Business*, page 44, which calls for efforts to curb pornography, violence, obscenity, and indecency. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 2-13A, *Today's Business*, page 128, which commends the Board for Parish Services and Concordia Publishing House for Sunday School materials. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 2-11, *Today's Business*, page 46, which calls for maintaining the use of historic liturgies. The committee asked for the deletion of the words *in pamphlet form* from line 48. An amendment was made and subsequently withdrawn. By common consent, "Divine Service III" was placed after "Divine Service II." The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 2-14, *Today's Business*, page 47, which calls for thanks to God for the ministry of Concordia Publishing House on its 120th anniversary. The resolution was adopted.

Structure and Organization (5)

The committee introduced Res. 5-13, *Today's Business*, page 82, which deals with the nomination and election of Circuit Counselors.

A motion was made "to refer Res. 5-13 to the Council of Presidents and that they be asked to discuss the proposal with their Circuit Counselors to receive their input, and that the Council of Presidents come with a recommendation to the 1992 convention." Question was called on the motion to refer and on the resolution and was sustained. The motion to refer failed. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 5-12A, *Today's Business*, page 232, which presented amendments for miscellaneous Bylaws referred from the 1986 convention. The committee corrected line 10 to add "3.945, 3.947, 3.949, 3.951 be amended as follows"; and to add to line 50, page 235, "resolved that Bylaw 3.51, 3.401 and 3.421 be amended as follows." The committee quickly walked the delegates through the various resolves.

An amendment was offered to delete the words beginning with *such floor* to the words *nominations,* lines 50 through 53. A substitute motion was made to leave the wording in lines 50–53 as written, with the following exception: line 52, replace "two-thirds majority" with the words "simple majority." The substitute amendment was adopted. By common consent the following wording was added to line 21, page 233, immediately following "convention": "through a publication going to the members of Synod and to the congregations." Motion was made to close debate on lines 10 through 62 on page 233 and was sustained. Debate continued on the remaining lines.

The Chair asked the delegates if they were ready to close debate on the resolution. Indicating that they were so ready, the delegates adopted the resolution.

Procedures

A motion was made to change the orders of the day by deleting the recess scheduled for 12:05 p.m. The motion failed.

Theology and Church Relations (3)

The committee chairman reported on the motion to refer 3-05B to the seminary faculties and the Council of Presidents, noting that the committee determined that it would not propose such a referral.

The committee introduced Res. 3-15, *Today's Business*, page 58, which encourages study of "An Evaluation of Some RIM Materials." An amendment was offered to add the words *no later than Jan. 1, 1991* to line 20 after the word *differences.* The amendment failed.

An amendment was proposed to add to line 17, immediately following the word *RIM* the words *as well as the documents distributed by RIM.* The delegates voted to close debate and declined the amendment.

An amendment was offered to remove the final resolve. The amendment failed.

The Chair asked if the assembly was ready to close debate. The vote was affirmative. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 3-08, *Today's Business*, page 54, which calls for the Synod to address our church's relationship with the ELCA.

An amendment was offered to add the following at line 76, page 54: "4. confessional subscription." The amendment was defeated.

The Chair asked for a vote on closing debate and was sustained. The resolution was adopted.

The Chair called on the Chaplain for prayer that God would bless our endeavors to work toward common understanding and confession.

The committee introduced Res. 3-13A, *Today's Business*, page 174, which calls for study and clarification of

the service of women in congregational and synodical offices. The committee asked that two corrections be made in line 68, page 174: Replace the words *as stated in* with *in approving*; and after the words *Commission on Constitutional Matters* add the words *based on a resolution of the Denver convention, (1969 Denver* Proceedings, *2-17, p. 88.)*

An amendment was proposed to delete the words *be urged to* from line 18. The amendment was defeated.

The Chair asked the assembly if they were ready to vote on the motion. Stating they were so ready, the delegates adopted the resolution.

The committee introduced Res. 3-12, *Today's Business*, page 56, which calls for further ministry studies. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 3-10, *Today's Business*, page 55, which calls for the congregations to address the practice of women serving Holy Communion in the light of the published CTCR study.

The Chair asked if the delegates were ready to end debate. Indicating they were so ready, the delegates adopted the resolution.

Higher Education (6)

The committee introduced Res. 6-09A, *Today's Business*, as specially printed, which deals with the manner of electing college presidents. The committee noted that the printed resolution was very similar to the present Bylaw. However, the italicized statements reference the vote which would be given to faculties if the entire resolution is adopted without amendment. The committee asked that the assembly strike the word *and* in line 52, and add *voting* before the words *as individuals* in line 58.

Procedures

A motion was made to change the orders of the day by deleting the recess at 12:05 p.m. The motion was defeated.

Higher Education (6)

Debate was resumed on 6-09A. An amendment was proposed to strike the following words, beginning in line 53: *and the three elected representatives of the faculty as a group with one vote*; and in line 61 replace *four* with *three*; replace *five* with *four* in the same line. At the suggestion of the committee for the sake of consistency: in line 58 strike the words *and the faculty voting as individuals.*

The Chair asked if the delegates were ready to close debate. Indicating they were so ready, the delegates voted to adopt the amendment (360 to 356). The Chair then asked if the delegates were ready to close debate on the amended resolution. Indicating they were so ready, the delegates voted to adopt the resolution.

Procedures

A motion was made to change the orders of the day to begin the afternoon session at 12:20 p.m. The motion failed.

Announcement of the Board of Directors

Officers of the Synod will be installed Sept. 24, 1989, at "Old" Trinity Lutheran Church in the city of St. Louis.

Closing Devotions

The assembly was led in closing devotions by Chaplain Dr. Kuntz.

Session 15

Afternoon, July 14

Opening Devotions

The delegates were led in an opening devotion by Dr. Arnold G. Kuntz, convention chaplain.

The committee introduced Res. 6-19, *Today's Business*, page 98, which calls for means to be provided for the expression of student-body concerns. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 6-17, *Today's Business*, page 98, which calls for strengthening the Synod's institutional ministries. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 6-20, *Today's Business*, page 99, which calls for a study of the concept of adding Valparaiso teacher graduates to the roster of Synod. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 6-15, *Today's Business*, page 97, which calls for an amendment to Bylaw 3.233 l, dealing with the potential closure or merger of schools.

An amendment was offered to delete the words *or separate from the Synod* from line 64. The amendment failed.

The resolution was adopted.

Human Care (7)

The committee introduced Res. 7-08, *Today's Business*, page 104, which calls for assistance to congregations in dealing with the problems of chemical dependency and substance abuse. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 7-15A, *Today's Business*, page 267, which calls for assistance to congregations in dealing with the problems of child abuse. It was agreed by common consent that the phrase would be changed to read "April or some other month" in line 72, page 267.

An amendment was proposed to add the words to the final resolve: "develop and assess already existing programs." The addition was adopted by common consent.

The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 7-16, *Today's Business*, page 237, which calls for dealing ministerially with domestic abuse. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 7-14, *Today's Business*, page 209, which calls for supporting life concerns. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 7-10, *Today's Business*, page 104, which calls for attention to be given to the concerns associated with our need to care for Synod's retirees and their spouses. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 7-13, *Today's Business*, page 106, which supports participation in and calls for improvement in the break-in-service rules of the Concordia Retirement Plan. The committee asked that the word *to* be added before the word *participate* in line 46. The resolution was adopted.

Program and Finance (4)

The committee introduced Res. 4-08, *Today's Business*, page 65, which calls for the deletion of some Bylaws: 9.11, 9.13, and 9.15. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 4-09, *Today's Business*, page 66, which calls for changing the name of the Department of Stewardship and Finance to the Department of Stewardship. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 4-04, *Today's Business*, pages 63–64, which calls for supporting the Board of Directors' budget decisions. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 4-10, *Today's Business*, page 66, which calls for congregations to participate in the "Adopt-a-Student" efforts. The resolution was adopted.

Witness and Outreach (1)

The committee announced the withdrawal of Res. 1-02.

The committee introduced Res. 1-12, *Today's Business*, page 37, which calls for an intensification of our witness to Jewish people.

An amendment was proposed for Res. 1-12 that the following words be added to the second Resolved: "by accepting the goal set by its Task Force on witnessing to Jewish people that teams of at least three (3) trained workers in five (5) major cities of Jewish population be established in the next ten (10) years." The amendment was adopted by common consent. The resolution was adopted

The committee introduced Res. 1-13, *Today's Business*, page 37, which calls for continued participation of the Synod's members in Laborers for Christ. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 1-14, *Today's Business*, page 38, which encourages participation in the Great Commission Convocations of our church. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 1-15, *Today's Business*, page 38, which calls for facilitating the process of securing directors of evangelism. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 1-17, *Today's Business*, page 39, which calls for congregations-in-formation (missions) to be included in *The Lutheran Annual*. The resolution was adopted.

Theology and Church Relations (3)

The committee introduced Res. 3-14, *Today's Business*, page 57, which addresses appropriate roles for women and men in the service of worship. Add "and men" to line 61.

An amendment was proposed that the third Whereas end with the word *women* in line 54. The assembly voted that it was ready to close debate. The amendment failed. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 3-16, *Today's Business*, page 58, which calls for the study of spiritual gift inventories. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 3-07, *Today's Business*, page 54, which encourages the CTCR to complete the preparation of guidelines for inter-Christian relationships. The resolution was adopted.

Structure and Organization (5)

The committee introduced Res. 5-17, *Today's Business*, page 84, which calls for an amendment of the Bylaws on general regulations for Synod's boards and commissions. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 5-19, *Today's Business*, page 85, which addresses the matter of guest membership in LCMS congregations by LCMS members visiting in another part of the country. The committee asked that the word *ex-officio* be replaced with the word *advisory* in line 74. By common consent the assembly determined to add "or associate" after the word *advisory*.

An amendment was proposed to add the words *as members or* before the word advisory.

The assembly voted to cease debate on the amendment. The amendment was not adopted. The assembly voted to cease debate on the resolution. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 5-25, *Today's Business*, page 132, which calls for the amendment of the Bylaws on the Commission on Organizations. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 5-14, *Today's Business*, page 83, which calls for publishing a list of the matters considered by the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 5-16, *Today's Business*, page 84, which calls for admission of emeriti to roster of the Synod from other Lutheran bodies. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 5-20, *Today's Business*, page 86, which calls for publishing the chairpersons of the several boards and commissions of the Synod. The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 5-21, *Today's Business*, page 86, which calls for referral of regional representation on the Board of Directors to Commission on Structure. The resolution was adopted.

Final Resolutions

The Chairman called to the podium the chairmen of all of the floor committees to present any final resolutions.

The Chair suggested that the assembly may wish to consider all the resolutions to decline in an omnibus resolution. The resolutions include the following:

1-18, *Today's Business*, page 39
2-15A, *Today's Business*, pages 128–29
3-17A, (including 3-120, and 3-121), *Today's Business*, page 152
4-11, *Today's Business*, page 67
4-12, *Today's Business*, page 67
5-22, *Today's Business*, page 86
5-23, *Today's Business*, pages 86–87
5-24A, *Today's Business*, pages 131–32
6-21, *Today's Business*, page 99
7-09, *Today's Business*, page 104
7-12, *Today's Business*, page 106

The resolution to decline certain overtures was passed.

Thanks

The Chair proposed a resolution from the Board of Directors to thank the many people who assisted with the functions of the convention. The resolution was adopted. A rising vote of thanks was extended to President Bohlmann for leadership from the Chair.

Dr. Bohlmann, in turn, expressed his appreciation to the delegates for their dedication to the work of the convention and for dealing with the issues in a responsible Christian manner. In response to a question from the Chair, the delegates expressed their enthusiastic appreciation for the electronic response system which had been used for the first time in the present convention and were equally enthusiastic with their endorsement of it for use in future conventions of the Synod.

Committee on Registration, Credentials and Elections (10)

In attendance:

- 568 voting pastors delegates
- 566 voting laypersons delegates
- 42 advisory pastor delegates
- 104 advisory teacher delegates
- 214 other advisory delegates
- 30 youth representatives
- 14 others

1538 total

Closing Devotions

The assembly was led in closing devotions by Chaplain Kuntz.

D. Ray Halm, Ed.D

Election Results

President	Nominating Ballot	Election Ballot
* Ralph A. Bohlmann	1511	589
Robert C. Sauer	651	433
Robert D. Preus	458	16
Eugene W. Bunkowske	393	57
George F. Wollenburg	166	29
August T. Mennicke	120	
Karl L. Barth	47	
Walter A. Maier	43	
Guido A. Merkens	40	
Glenn R. O'Shoney	27	
Charles S. Mueller, Jr.	21	
Alvin L. Barry	20	
Wilbert J. Sohns	19	
Richard D. Hinz	17	

* Elected

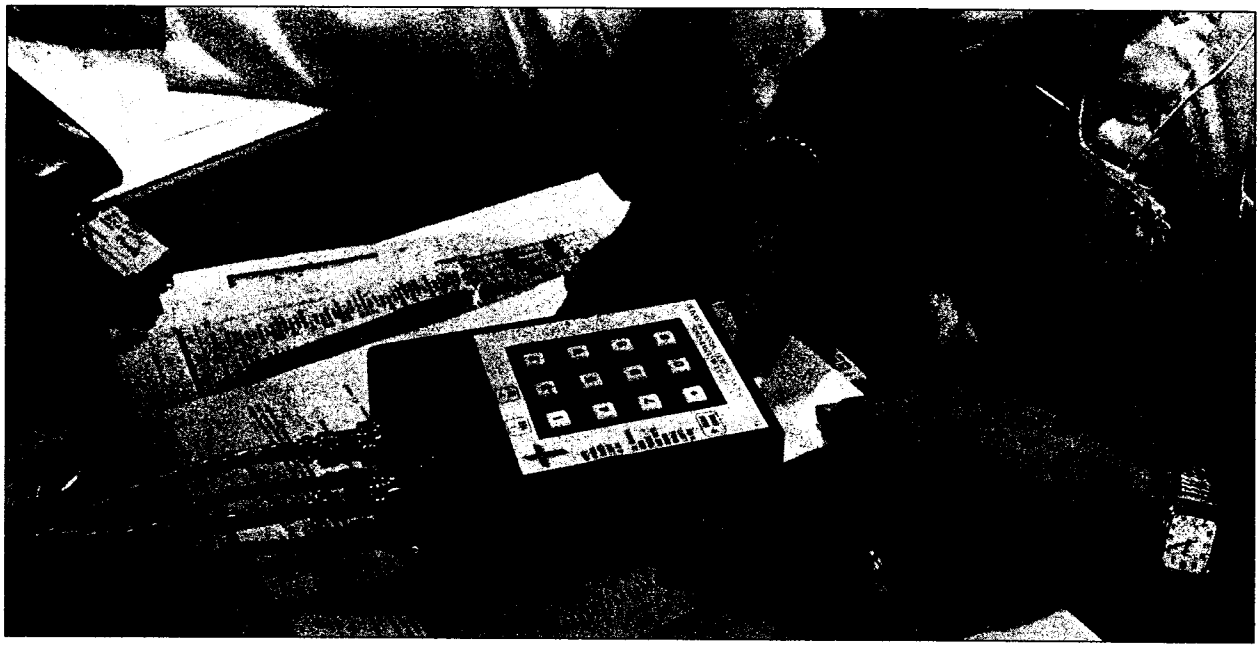
† Persons receiving 15 or fewer nominating votes are listed in *Biographical Synopsis and Statements of Nominees.*

First Vice-President	Nominating Ballot	Election Ballots (1)	(2)	(3)
* August T. Mennicke	1133	501	533	595
George F. Wollenburg	335	121	102	81
Alvin L. Barry	288	233	278	335
Robert C. Sauer	273			
Robert T. Kuhn	233	21		
Eugene W. Bunkowske	211	113	88	
Robert D. Preus	147			
Walter A. Maier	114			
Guido Merkens	113			
Robert H. King		120	117	13

*Elected
†The name of Robert H. King was added to the slate of nominees by amendment. Other nominees are listed in *Biographical Synopsis and Statements of Nominees.*

Other Vice-Presidents	Nominating Ballot	Election Ballots (1)	(2)
* Robert H. King	639	762	
George F. Wollenburg	597	Declined	
Alvin L. Barry	525	Declined	
* Eugene W. Bunkowske	391	508	688
* Walter A. Maier, Jr.	317	508	647
Guido A. Merkens	238	Declined	
* Robert C. Sauer	224	653	
Charles S. Mueller	123	358	395
Robert D. Preus	101	Declined	
Robert T. Kuhn	92	Declined	
Richard T. Hinz	67	Declined	
Glenn R. O'Shoney	66	Declined	
Arnold G. Kuntz	43	341	
Wilbert J. Sohns	34	Declined	
Ronald F. Fink	33	Declined	
Richard G. Kapfer	32	Declined	
Kurt Marquart	32	218	
Paul Ph. Spitz	29	Declined	
Eldor Meyer	28	Declined	
Karl L. Barth	23	280	
John L. Heins	17	Declined	
Roger D. Pittelko	17	Declined	
Oswald C. J. Hoffmann	16	457	439
Orval M. Oswald	16	Declined	
Wallace R. Schulz	16	194	
Arnold E. Kromphardt	15	Declined	
Loren T. Kramer	12	Declined	
Erhart L. Bauer	10	Declined	
Theodore L. Laesch	10	Declined	
David P. Mulder	9	Declined	
———Preus	8		
Walter L. Rosin	7	Declined	
David D. Buegler	6	Declined	
Charles S. Mueller, Jr.	6	45	
Albert M. Marcis	6	Declined	
David P. Scaer	6	137	

	Ballots (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Secretary							
Krogen, Richard (MNS)	162						
* Rosin, Walter (MO)	938						
Treasurer							
* Sell, Norman (MO)	1012						
Board of Directors							
PASTORS							
Benken, F. Richard (NE)	190						
Buelow, Leonard (NW)	399	358					
* Kuntz, Arnold (SC)	522	587					
* Marxhausen, Victor (MNS)	690						
Pohl, Wayne (MI)	287	166					
Reimnitz, Charles (NB)							
TEACHERS							
* Dietrich, Clifford (IN)	537						
Henkelmann, Ervin (SC)	501						
LAYPERSONS							
* Hirsch, Robert (SD)	591						
Joeckel, Raymond (RM)	407	249	365	500			
Koch, Milton (SE)	417	156					
* La Haine, Gilbert (MI)	448	326	448	543			
Madison, Major, Jr.	320	174	250				
* Montz, Florence (ND)	611						
Saacks, Jerry (SO)	241	74					
* Snyder, Donald (EA)	599						
Theiss, Herbert (SC)	374	134					
Wilkening, Harvey (SO)	153						
Board for Evangelism Services							
PASTORS							
Belton, Victor (MO)	267						
Dodge, Chris (MI)	348	418	483				
* Droegemueller, Carl (IW)	443	484	612				
	....						
Janssen, Ihno (EN)							
* Nguyen, Wynn (SC)	744						
Simcak, Andrew (NE)	358	209					
TEACHERS							
Berg, James (SW)	379						
* Geisler, Ralph (NI)	692						
LAYPERSONS							
Erwin, Elloree (SE)	365	408					
Jones, Harry (EN)	150						
* Kraepel, David (MI)	481	553					
Lenz, Kenneth (NJ)	297	258					
Vedder, Arnold (CNH)	314	340					
* Wegele, Paul (KS)	500	624					
Board for Higher Education Services							
PASTORS							
* Briel, Steve (MNS)	464	534	518	538			
Filbert, Bernard (IN)	177	173					
Gerken, Oscar (FG)	292	332	459	507			
Johnson, Jeff (SC)	76						
* Maier, Paul (MI)	447	678					
Mueckler, Edwin (MI)	126						
Otten, Walter (NI)	224	214					
Reimnitz, Elroi (SC)	283	283	121				
Zimmermann, B.C. (NOW)	66						
TEACHERS							
Joyce, Mark (MI)	249						
Palmreuter, Kenneth (RM)	198						
* Rohmaller, Duane (SC)	723						
* Schroeder, Leland (NB)	873						
LAYPERSONS							
Ridgeway, Don (SE)	487						
* Royal, George (SE)	570						
Board for Mission Services							
PASTORS							
Brehmer, Charles (SC)	159						
Bunkowske, Eugene (IN)							
Janssen, Ihno (ENG)	205	221					
* Johnson, James (SC)	508	588					
* Lutz, Bernard (MNN)	512	591					
MacLachlan, Neal (RM)	363	351					
Ratcliffe, Kermit (TX)	406	467					
TEACHERS							
Kahlfeldt, Carl (NI)	186						
Wallis, Darrell (MO)	299	479					
* Walther, John (SW)	476	620					
LAYPERSONS							
Boltz, William (SC)	493						
* Purdy, Paul (SO)	631						
Reedstrom, Kermit (MNS)	106						
Stahl, Kenneth (ENG)	357						
* Thies, Gary (IW)	554						



Board for Parish Services

PASTORS

Reese, William (CNH) 278
* Zehnder, Jon (MNN) 807

TEACHERS

Eichinger, Kenneth IN 439 552
* Herman, Debra (FG) 477 617
Hessler, Ed (SW) 411 470
Koenig, David (TX) 329
* Royuk, Ronald (MDS) 436 555

LAYPERSONS

* McCants, Susan (IN) 544
Plattenberger, Bill (MI) ... 222
Speckhardt, Norma (MO) 297

Board for Youth Services

PASTORS

Griffen, William (NI) 360 427 535
Kucera, Jan (OH) 115
* Pless, John (MNS) 410 504 575
Wagner, Daniel (MO) 185 184

LAYPERSONS

Althaus, Paul (RM) 380
* Bader, Marilyn (MO) 708

YOUTH

* Bean, Stefan (SC) 755
* Bolland, Ericka (MO) 474 384 461 630
Dyer, David (OK) 456 304 343 408
Ferguson, Marta (IE) 321 164
Finger, Patti (MNS) 301
* Fogo, Scott (SC) 672
Kuehn, Jennifer (CI) 347 255 297
* Markin, Jennifer (IE) 646

Commission on Adjudication

PASTORS

* Bode, David (MNS) 516 579
* Griesse, Wilbert (MDS) ... 454 509
Pankratz, Adolph (MI) 468 340
Robinson, Geoffrey (KS) ... 280
Sauer, John (SC) 439 376

LAYPERSONS

Gerfen, Raymond (TX) 225
* Piehler, David (NW) 472 620
Wolfram, Scott (NOW) 367 474

Commission on Appeals

PASTORS

* Barber, Alan (IN) 431 523 580
Elowsky, Earl (MI) 277 381 414 347
Fiene, John (NB) 262 261
* Harnapp, Harlan (RM) 449 507 538 490 542
* Hellman, Victor (SW) 415 454 505 389 514
Huener, William (NI) 367 385 425 427 471
Mueller, Paul (IW) 332 339 343
Phipps, Ralph (FG) 380 433 477 471 476
Sauls, Ottis (IN) 141

LAYPERSONS

Bodenstab, Richard (NI) ... 122
* Dissen, Walter (SE) 429 503 554
* Doggett, Robert (OH) 447 520 588
Hessler, Peter (OH) 351 395 429
Lusthoff, Craig (NI) 205 207 205
Peterson, Edward (TX) 218 200
Rinke, Orin (MINN) 331 366 398

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

PASTORS

* Dolak, George (SELC) 454 655
Ferguson, William (RM) ... 381 457
Williams, George (NB) 223

LAYPERSONS

Bardolph, Richard (SE) ... 339 371
Johnson, George (MO) 174 155
Lane, Ferman (IN) 40
* Moldenhauer, Raymond (MNN) 494 583

Board of Directors—Concordia Publishing House

LAYPERSONS

Brickler, John (MO) 398 336 276 278
* Brighton, Ruth (EA) 450 580
Buske, Glenn (SI) 394 249
* Buth, Lenora (NOW) 418 450 430 478 384 521
* Fleischli, Jack (SC) 530
Johnson, Thomas (MO) 82
* Moeller, Albert (OH) 509 503 544 563
Mohr, George (SW) 410 442 413 444 264
Olsen, Melvin (CNH) 407 313 225
Rodefeld, Robert (RM) 427 391 311 365 345 490
Uthoff, Harold (MO) 111

Board of Regents—Ann Arbor

TEACHERS

Hink, Paul (ENG)	387	435					
Hoyer, Dexter (OH)	190						
* Krause, David (MI)	472	663					

LAYPERSONS

Cahill, Jerold (SELC)	259						
Engel, Edward (ENG)	354	376	447				
* Kayser, Walter (MI)	494						
Tuttle, Paul (OH)	397	245					
* Wilkening, Rolland (MI)	432	460	637				

Board of Regents—Austin

TEACHERS

Brunworth, Gerald (TX)	210	210					
Clausen, Vernon (TX)	67						
Loomans, Keith (TX)	224	365	513				
* Paskett, Alan (TX)	405	516	581				

LAYPERSONS

Adams, George (TX)	193	194					
Bokenkamp, Don (TX)	295	352	428	367	385	475	
Feucht, William (TX)	259	316	338	133			
Graf, Don (TX)	212	198	192				
* Johnston, Bradley (TX)	315	380	423	404	444	563	
Kaufman, David (FG)	255	252	234	160	172		
Krueger, Tom (TX)	74						
* Schur, Martin (TX)	354	486	558				

Board of Regents—Bronxville

TEACHERS

* Kane, Richard, Jr. (EA)	1007	

LAYPERSONS

* Bruening, Alice (SE)	625	
Nelson, Gordon (SE)	280	
* Praetzel, Gary (EA)	707	
Tervo, Wesley (NE)	410	

Board of Regents—Concordia, MO

TEACHERS

* Janssen, Leland (MO)	535	
Sheck, Don (SW)	487	

LAYPERSONS

* Grefe, Vernon (MO)	706	
Kiehl, Hubert (MO)	449	
* Weiss, Norman (MO)	693	

Board of Regents—Fort Wayne

PASTORS

* Anderson, David (MNN)	528			
* Benke, David (AT)	491	497	613	
Brown, Barclay (WY)	380	344	497	
Cascione, Jack (OH)	344	267		
Taddey, Martin (CNH)	296			
Zimmermann, Elwood (IN)	Ineligible			

TEACHERS

Lams, Ernest (NI)	423	
* Tietz, Stuart (NB)	618	

LAYPERSONS

Hinnefeld, Edwin (FG)	494	
* Roetman, Orvil (NOW)	536	

Board of Regents—Irvine

PASTORS

* Allsing, Richard (SC)	554	
Martin, Ronald (SC)	451	

TEACHERS

Ellwein, Kenneth (SW)	324	458
Harman, Ronald (ENG)	240	
* Zehnder, George (SC)	447	636

LAYPERSONS

* Buttenmiller, Karl (RM)	507	
Preuss, Greg (SC)	479	

Board of Regents—Mequon

TEACHERS

Berlinski, Donald (SW)	144	
Fiedler, Eugene (NW)	154	
* Haas, Walter (SW)	711	

LAYPERSONS

Gutenberger, James (SW)	453	
* Jaeger, John (SW)	531	
Judd, Robert (CI)	304	
* Schroeder, Rodney (SW)	579	

Board of Regents—Portland

TEACHERS

Einspahr, Junior (CNH)	407	
* Fischer, Franklin (NOW)	566	

LAYPERSONS

Brauner, Ken (NOW)	452	
* Crawford, Matt (MT)	459	
* Hyde, Richard (CNH)	491	
Tolzin, Keith (NOW)	433	

Board of Regents—River Forest

PASTORS

Bauman, Gene (NI)	197	
Christian, Douglas (IN)	218	
* Thoelke, Lothar (IN)	570	

TEACHERS

Herring, Louis (IN)	328	
* Klemm, Lowell (IN)	645	

LAYPERSONS

Gaede, Herbert (SW)	333	449
* Krause, Richard (NI)	415	620
Mulholland, Betty (IN)	177	

Board of Regents—St. Louis

PASTORS

Dissen, David (MO)	412	411	481
Goodsman, Ronald (IE)	141		
Halboth, Vic (ENG)	66		
Koeppen, Robert (NI)	328	150	
Muenchow, Fred (CI)	90		
* Schlecht, Richard (MI)	403	545	625
* Westcott, Ed (MO)	537		
Zimmermann, B.C. (NOW)	80		

TEACHERS

* Loessel, Allen (MO)	716	
Schmidt, Donald (TX)	269	

LAYPERSONS

* Kircher, Conrad	304	554
Lehenbauer, Arno (MO)	240	541
Lorenz, Dwayne (MO)	100	
Melde, Gus (TX)	125	
Von Lehe, Eldon (SC)	75	

Board of Regents—St. Paul

TEACHERS

* Dirks, Dennis (MNS)	649	
Stohs, Delton (MNN)	338	

LAYPERSONS

Haar, James (SD)	226	295
* Montz, C.R. (ND)	410	583
Peters, Richard (MNS)	361	
* Preus, Christian (MNS)	447	587
Unterseher, Archie (ND)	213	
Vieman, Lowell (IE)	271	283

Board of Regents—Selma

PASTORS

Meyer, Richard (SO)	422	Ineligible
* Parson, William (SE)	286	611
Schey, Bernard (SO)	258	476

TEACHERS

Lohmeyer, Jan (SO)	363
* McBride, Mary (SO)	622

LAYPERSONS

Givhan, Sam (SO)	149
Moldovan, Wayne (TX)	231
* Willhardt, John (SO)	592

Board of Regents—Seward

TEACHERS

* Johnson, Arthur (MO)	549
Zobel, Marlin (MO)	435

LAYPERSONS

Brauer, Tony (KS)	209 150
* Hartmann, William (NB)	542
* Kolterman, Mark (NB)	453 413 470 571
Krueger, Dan (RM)	310 223 279
Perry, Robert (OK)	349 317 352 471
Scheibe, Donald (SD)	106

Proposed Special Standing Rules

These standing rules prevailed for the 1989 convention:

1. The Chair shall see that the 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 (or her) name. He shall also state the name of his District or of the administrative unit (board, faculty) he represents.
4. The two-minute rule shall apply for all who speak from the floor, and for the committee during debate.
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. The Chair may also call for a vote on the close of debate (two-thirds majority required) when in his judgment the assembly has heard sufficient speaking on both sides of the issue.
6. Voting for elections shall ordinarily be carried out by use of an electronic response system which requires delegates to be present at the beginning of the business portion of each session. When not used, 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 without debate whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is subsequently 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 two 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 committees 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.
12. The preface, preamble, and whereas sections shall be considered an integral part of the resolution or overture, 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 the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* (Glenview, IL: Scott, Foresman, 1981).

Resolutions of Thanks

Prior to the close of the convention, the following two resolutions of thanks were adopted:

WHEREAS, Many individuals and groups have generously contributed their time and efforts to the success of our convention; therefore be it

Resolved, That the President be directed to express the thanks of the 57th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to all for their faithful services which made the convention an enjoyable one, and for their assistance to delegates in carrying out their responsibilities, and in particular our gracious host, the Kansas District, and its president, Dr. Eugene Schmidt; the local committees; the fine young pages; our convention manager, Marv Siebels, and his staff; Vice-Presidents Mennicke, Wollenburg, King, Maier, and Merkens; our efficient Secretary, Dr. Rosin and Assistant Secretary, Dr. Halm; the parliamentarian, Angeline Haines; chaplain Dr. Kuntz and organist Dr. Brauer; the LifeLight leaders, Dr. Gaulke and Dr. Carter, and all group leaders; the President's staff and the communications department; the Office of Information Systems; the floor committees; and above all, the delegates, for their wonderful spirit.

WHEREAS, President Ralph Bohlmann has shown great care, sensitivity, and compassion in leading the 57th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, He has also demonstrated tremendous patience in dealing with difficult matters leading to good understanding and informed decisions; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS assembled in Wichita at its 57th convention show its profound thanks by rising and applauding.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Part I: Organizational and Administrative Matters

"Tell Everyone What *HE* Has Done!" The theme for the 57th regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod provides an excellent focus for the life and work of the Synod as a whole as well as of its individual components. Taken from the post-Communion canticle and based on the opening verses of Psalm 105, our theme reminds us that we give all glory to God for His mighty acts among us, and it calls upon us both to celebrate and to tell one another, and indeed the whole world, what He has done for us and our salvation. What a privilege it is to be a part of this great church body and to work together with its congregations, pastors, teachers, Districts, boards, commissions, colleges, seminaries, and partner churches in our common task of telling everyone what He has done!

My report on the administration of the Synod is in three parts. In this part I will summarize and comment on various organizational and administrative matters. Parts II and III will be presented respectively at the Floor Committee meetings, May 19–22, and at the opening session of the convention on July 8. Those parts of the report will focus on the issues and challenges facing our beloved Synod as we prepare to enter the last decade of the 20th century.

Summary of Activities

In memoriam. Two of our District Presidents died while in office during this triennium, namely, Rev. Donald F. Jung of our English District, and Dr. L. Lloyd Behnken of our Florida-Georgia District. It also pleased the Lord to take unto Himself in heaven two former synodical Vice-Presidents, namely, Dr. George W. Wittmer, and Dr. Arthur Nitz. Nine past District Presidents were also called home to be with the Lord: Dr. Ernest H. Stahlke, Minnesota District; Rev. August F. Droegemueller, Montana District; Dr. Leslie F. Frerking, Southeastern District; Dr. Theophil A. Weinhold, Western District; Dr. Gerhard I. Aho, Upper Michigan District NELC; Rev. Walter A. E. Enge, Colorado District; Rev. Gustav M. Karkau, Eastern District; Rev. Herman J. Kotila, Upper Michigan District NELC; Dr. Waldemar E. Meyer, Colorado District.

We give thanks and praise to God for the lives and ministries of these beloved brethren who served our church body with dedication and faithfulness.

Office administration. First Vice-President Mennicke, who serves in a full time capacity, has given invaluable service and leadership in a number of important areas. The focus of his responsibilities has been on District and staff relationships. In addition, he has provided leadership for the 1987 Circuit Counselor's Conference, the Lay Worker Study Committee, Synodical Colloquy Committees, and has represented the President on the Board of Regents of both United States seminaries. He has also had the important responsibility of monitoring alleged irregularities in the doctrine and practice of the congregations and professional workers of the Synod, and in assisting the District Presidents in their supervisory responsibilities in such matters. A more detailed account of his activity is presented below.

The many administrative details and correspondence associated with the office of the President and First Vice-President are ably handled by Mr. Les Stroh, Dr. Arthur Kuehnert, Miss Jean Buettner, two secretaries, and a part-time clerical helper. A number of other staff persons assist by carrying out various other projects on an ad hoc basis. The St. Louis-based officers, together with the executive directors of the Board of Directors, Commission on Theology and Church Relations, and the Board for Communications Services, meet on a regular basis as the "President's Round Table," in order to provide mutual counsel, support, and planning for a number of administrative activities and issues.

Vice-Presidents Wollenburg, King, Maier, and Merkens have also provided valuable assistance during the past triennium. They represented the President's office at several of the 1988 District conventions and at a number of other meetings and events as well. Drs. Maier and Wollenburg served as my nonvoting liaison representatives to our St. Catharines and Edmonton seminaries until those seminaries came under the direct administration of Lutheran Church—Canada on Jan. 1, 1989. The vice-presidents have held regular meetings to provide counsel and advice on important issues and questions facing the Synod, particularly in the areas of doctrinal supervision and discipline. A more detailed report is provided below.

Council of Presidents. The Council of Presidents, which consists of our 35 District Presidents together with the synodical President and Vice-Presidents, has continued to provide excellent leadership, counsel, and support in a number of important areas. Chaired by Dr. Glenn O'Shoney, the council serves as the Synod's Board of Assignments for our professional church workers and supervises the official rosters. The council has also undertaken a number of studies in the areas of church relations and the office of the ministry and has produced documents for clergy study dealing with clergy divorce and remarriage, the ministry of influence in the Synod, and the professional conduct of the pastoral office. Continuing the tradition of several years, the council also met with the seminary faculties in 1987 to discuss the Church Growth Movement, Inter-Christian Relations, and ways of strengthening and supporting pastoral ministry in the Synod.

In the District conventions held in 1988, eight District presidents were elected to that office for the first time. Subsequently, one District president found it necessary to resign because of poor health. Twenty-one of the 35 incumbent District presidents have begun their service in that office since 1985. The 1988 District conventions, of which I attended 14 as the synodical representative, were characterized by great commitment, enthusiasm, and desire to have the Missouri Synod move forward in mission and ministry. A more detailed report of each District's ac-

tivity is presented elsewhere in this *Workbook*.

Vice-President Mennicke and I have introduced plans to visit with all District presidents and their staffs on an individual and regular basis during each triennium. We believe such visits, which heretofore have taken place on an ad hoc basis, will do much to strengthen the already strong ties between the District and national offices of the Synod.

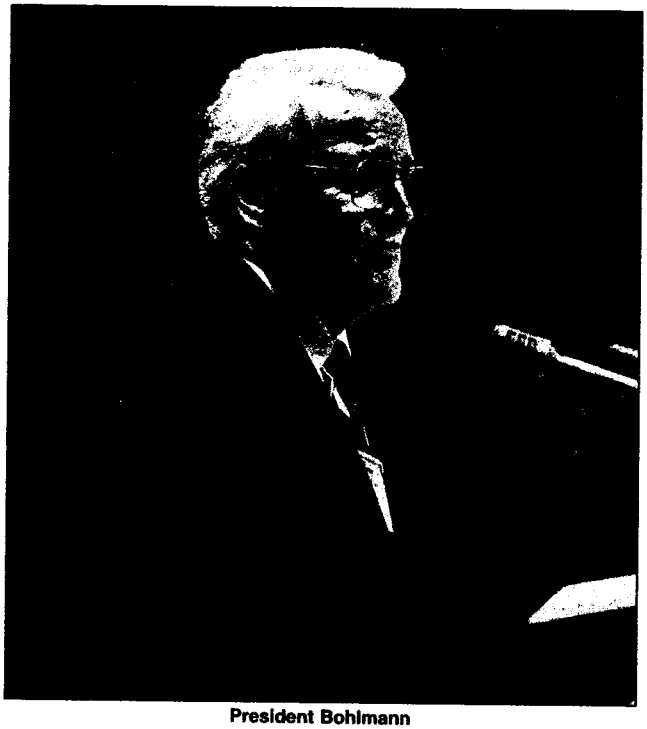
Ecclesiastical supervision. The Synod has assigned to the President of the Synod "the supervision regarding the doctrine and administration of

a. all officers of the Synod;
b. all such as are employed by the Synod;
c. the individual Districts of the Synod;
d. all District Presidents" (Constitution, Art. XI, B).

The Synod has assigned the direct responsibility for supervising the doctrine, life, and administration of pastors and teachers to the respective District presidents, who are also charged with the responsibility of inquiring and acquainting themselves with the prevailing spiritual conditions of the congregations in their Districts (Constitution, Art. 12; Bylaw 4.73). The Synod has further assigned ecclesiastical supervisory responsibility to the presidents of our colleges and seminaries. It is the responsibility of the synodical President, assisted by the Vice-Presidents, to supervise, support, and encourage these supervisors. It should also be noted that the President always has the power "to advise, admonish, and reprove," but he does not have the authority to remove people from office. In other words, supervision of doctrine and practice in the Synod is highly structured and quite de-centralized.

The Vice-Presidents and I have been very careful to follow through on every complaint, question, or reported irregularity by asking the appropriate District President to make sure that the Synod's doctrine and policies are being carried out. In addition, my office regularly monitors all dockets, agendas, reports, and publications of all synodical boards, commissions, Districts, and institutions. When problems or concerns are of a more general nature, meetings of the Council of Presidents and other groups provide opportunities for positive counsel and encouragement.

District Presidents annually provide the synodical President with a detailed report on activities within their Districts. Included in these reports is accurate information on a number of problem cases being dealt with. In addition, the Vice-Presidents and I, on occasion, meet with individual District Presidents to discuss individual cases and provide encouragement. In some cases, Vice-Presidents have joined a District President in meeting with pastors or congregations experiencing difficulties in the area of doctrine or practice. I am pleased to report that our District Presidents have willingly and effectively addressed these supervisory responsibilities, and are conscientiously working with a number of pastors and congregations at any given time to correct perceived problems. By their very nature, such problems need to be addressed privately, personally, and professionally and cannot be reported in various District or synodical publications. The following areas of doctrinal supervision are of particular importance for the Synod



President Bohlmann

1. District Presidents report that approximately 250 pastors on our clergy roster have experienced a broken marriage. Seventeen divorces occurred among our clergy in 1988, 24 in 1987. The Council of Presidents prepared guidelines to assist each other in dealing with marital crises involving the clergy and have spent a great deal of time and effort in this troublesome area.

2. District reports indicate that 52 congregations have a woman serving as chairman and that women serve as elders in 79 congregations. In several cases, the term *elder* has been defined in ways that are intended to avoid violating the Synod's position, and in some cases the responsibilities of the chair are not considered to entail an exercise of spiritual authority. Approximately 80 percent of the Synod's congregations have women suffrage, a practice permitted by the Synod since 1969 and reaffirmed several times since then. Even so, a few congregations continue to report disagreements over this issue. Other worship activities by women, such as assisting with the distribution of Holy Communion or reading the Scripture lessons, continue to raise questions in various parts of the Synod. The Council of Presidents intends to discuss these questions in its fall meetings in an effort to assist pastors and congregations to make responsible decisions in these areas.

3. District reports indicate that there are 24 congregations in which so-called charismatic gifts are used publicly and that there are 73 pastors practicing such gifts as well. In this area, to be sure, precise definition of terms is very difficult. Although these figures are considerably lower than those published by leaders of the charismatic movement, continuing effort to insure sound doctrine and practice is obviously required. District Presidents report that they are working with all such cases to ensure that the Synod's position is honored and upheld.

4. In 1988, instances of inter-Christian worship activities in violation of our Synod's stated policies were reported in the case of 65 pastors and 52 congregations. In all such cases, District Presidents without exception report that they have dealt, or are still dealing with, the situation. Not all such efforts to correct inappropriate practice have been successful. In several cases, congregations report local understandings or arrangements for special services that go back for several decades, including the period when the LCMS was in fellowship with the American Lutheran Church. The Vice-Presidents and I have visited with certain District Presidents about situations where we see little or no improvement. Although I readily acknowledge that our practice is not 100 percent perfect in this area, I strenuously object to the occasional opinion that nothing is being done about it. As a matter of fact, our deliberate efforts for the last several years have contributed to a practice that is considerably better today than it was 5, 10, or 20 years ago, and we continue working to strengthen it. Moreover, synodical and District supervisors are committed to following fraternal, evangelical, and patient approaches in dealing with one another and helping one another to grow, confident that the Lord of the church will bless such efforts more richly than a rules-oriented approach that seeks to eliminate problems by automatically excluding those who cause them.

Doctrinal review. The President's office is responsible for supervising a process by which all materials issued by our official synodical entities are reviewed to make sure that they are faithful to the Synod's doctrinal position. At the present time, nearly 100 persons serve as doctrinal reviewers. Several portions of the program are administered through the office of the president of Concordia Publishing House, and other dimensions of it are administered directly by my office staff. In cases of disagreement or concern about the doctrinal content of published material, the Commission on Doctrinal Review provides for further review.

Considering the thousands of pages reviewed every year, we have had very few complaints or criticisms during the past triennium. One notable exception occurred in 1987, when the Board for Parish Services challenged some Sunday school materials that had already cleared the doctrinal review process. The commission did not rule on whether that challenge should be sustained or not because the Board for Parish Services elected to proceed with the preparation of alternate Sunday School materials before filing its specific concerns with the Commission on Doctrinal Review.

In 1988 the Commission on Doctrinal Review assisted me in reviewing and strengthening the procedures and administration of our various doctrinal review programs. This review led to a number of adjustments in the process and procedures of doctrinal review, all designed to make sure that the materials utilized by our members are indeed faithful to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions.

Communication. One of the major tasks of the President's office is to communicate with the members of the Synod about the many items of interest and concern. I have continued to provide a monthly article for the *Lutheran Witness*, intended primarily for the laity of the Synod. On an occasional basis, I send a *Letter to Pastors* to all of the Synod's clergy. In addition to such written publications, I have addressed a number of special conferences and meetings throughout the church, several of them on pastoral and theological issues and others on the directions and goals of the Synod. From time to time I have also prepared videotaped messages to congregations or circuits when it was impossible for me to be present personally. Hundreds of pieces of correspondence are also handled by the office every week, with the goal of responding to every letter in the most personal way possible.

Convinced that communication is a two-way street, both Vice-President Mennicke and I attempt to spend as much time as possible in personal visits in order to listen to the boards, staffs, Districts, Circuits, and conferences of the Synod.

Government contacts. I have represented the Synod in a number of contacts with national governmental leaders, particularly in areas where the Synod has a direct interest, such as pro-life questions, tax matters, chaplaincy programs, the welfare of church workers serving abroad, policies affecting our secondary and elementary schools, and human-rights dimensions of national and international events. Such contacts have been greatly enhanced by a generous grant which enabled the Board of Directors of the Synod to provide for a full-time presence of the Synod in Washington, D.C., both to expedite the provision of information to governmental entities and to provide for a flow of information and counsel to our various synodical offices and congregations. Such information is also shared on a regular basis with the leaders of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The Washington Office of Government Information (whose report appears elsewhere in the *Workbook*) has also enabled our church body to have direct contact with other Christian groups who share our concerns about moral and ethical issues, family and education concerns, and other government issues affecting our institutional life together.

International visits. In June 1987 I represented the Synod at the meeting of the International Lutheran Conference in Berlin, West Germany, which was attended by 25 church bodies in partnership with our Synod. I also serve on the continuation committee of this group, which has become the major instrument for fostering strong relationships between our church body and confessional Lutherans around the world.

In May 1987 I also participated in a week-long theological education conference involving the Synod and its partner churches in Central and South America, held in Caracas, Venezuela.

In November 1987 I visited with the Council of Presidents, Commission on Theology and Inter-Church Relations, and other leadership groups of The Lutheran Church of Australia in Adelaide in an effort to share resources and strengthen the bonds between us. One year later, I returned to Adelaide to bring the greetings of the LCMS to the 150th Anniversary celebrations of our Australian partners.

In January 1989 I visited the leadership of our partner churches in the Philippines, Korea, and Japan, both to address some tensions that have developed in our rela-

tionship to the Philippine church and to express the continuing support and love of the Synod for our work in these areas.

The LCMS, both because of its size and resources, remains the acknowledged leader among confessional Lutheran churches worldwide. Mindful of that responsibility, we are providing leadership for special theological discussions involving additional seminary representatives in connection with the meeting of the International Lutheran Conference scheduled for Seoul, Korea, in September.

Relationship to auxiliaries. The President's office, assisted by appropriate staff, maintains close liaison with the leadership of the Synod's two auxiliaries, the International Lutheran Laymen's League and the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Relationships today can only be described as excellent. Both auxiliaries have strong and capable leadership and are eager to work in the closest possible partnership with synodical offices in carrying out the mission and ministry of the church. The presidents of both auxiliaries will bring special greetings to our convention.

Church relations. According to the synodical Constitution and Bylaws, the synodical President is primarily responsible for contacts and relationships with other church bodies, many of which are described in the report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations. This includes partner churches around the world, other Lutheran churches, inter-Christian dialogs and contacts, ecumenical organizations, and the like.

Because of the considerable correspondence, travel, and meetings entailed in these far-flung relationships, the President's office has developed a "Church Relations Department" within the structure of the office. Its steering committee consists of the President, First Vice-President, and the executive directors of the Board for Mission Services and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations. This administrative arrangement, which is currently operating without direct staff services, has been of great value in coordinating the various church-relations contacts of the synodical boards, educational institutions, and Districts as they make contacts with partner churches and other Christian groups.

I am pleased that during the past triennium there were several contacts with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, including a meeting in St. Louis to discuss our various understandings of church fellowship and its practice. Although no plans have been formulated for continuing meetings, the synodical administration has made it clear that it welcomes every opportunity to develop a closer relationship with these church bodies who once were members with us in the Synodical Conference. Both church bodies have been invited to bring greetings to our convention.

Of special importance to the Synod is the continual development of the strongest possible confessional bond with our partner churches worldwide. Our newest partner church is the Lutheran Church—Canada, composed of most of the congregations formerly belonging to the three Canadian Districts of the LCMS. Our Canadian partners began their autonomous existence on Jan. 1, 1989, capably led by President Ed Lehman. The transition has gone exceptionally well, largely because of the dedicated and caring efforts of the officers and staffs of both church bodies in establishing protocol documents and working agreements in the many areas in which we will be continuing to work together. Regular meetings are planned between representatives of the two church bodies, as well as the sharing of ideas and resources.

A formal arrangement has also been developed for meeting with the leadership of the newly formed Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A Committee on Lutheran Cooperation, involving the leaders of these two church bodies, meets twice a year to monitor the work we do together in Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, and various other inter-Lutheran agencies. Plans have also been developed to address the theological differences which keep the two churches from enjoying altar and pulpit fellowship. Although those differences remain unresolved, the relationship among leaders of the two church bodies is cordial and positive.

Two important meetings were held during the past triennium between the Synod and its partners worldwide, on the one hand, and the leadership of the Lutheran World Federation. The first of these was held in Geneva in December 1987 and the second in St. Louis in December 1988. These face-to-face conversations gave all participants an opportunity to achieve greater clarification on the self-understanding of the Lutheran World Federation as a "communion" of churches, as well as to explicate the understanding and mission of Missouri and her partners in our efforts to be and remain confessional Lutherans.

Conversations were also held on two occasions with representatives of the American Association of Lutheran Churches, a group of congregations that chose not to join the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America but to form its own church body.

The Synod has also held formal conversations with the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa in an effort to move toward an official recognition of altar and pulpit fellowship, as well as partnership in mission. Recommendations by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations and the Board for Mission Services will be considered by this convention on these matters.

By the time of the convention, it is expected that the Commission on Theology and Church Relations will have released a study instrument to assist the members of the Synod in applying our church relations' principles to a number of practical situations. This churchwide study effort remains one of the highest priorities of the Synod because of the increasing complexity and the frequent misunderstandings that occur in the Synod in this sensitive area. This topic was one of the major considerations at an August 1987 gathering of the Circuit Counselors of the LCMS, whose leadership in this area has been strongly encouraged. In the fall of 1988, I communicated with the Circuit Counselors by means of a videotape in order to clarify "levels of relationship" terminology (emphasizing that the concept applies only to questions *outside* the framework of altar and pulpit fellowship), respond to panelists' questions about various church relationships and encourage involvement in the study process. Contrary to some published criticism, this communication was in-

tended to encourage discussion, not to set a new agenda for the Synod. Such discussions, it is hoped, will enable us to have a stronger measure of consensus in the application of our Biblical and confessional church-relations principles.

President's Commission on Women. Appointed in 1984, this special commission of six women continues to study ways in which women can make a greater contribution to the life and ministry of the church. Because of severe budget restraints, the commission was unable to realize its goal of linking various District study efforts. The commission continues to monitor responses to its various recommendations as set forth in its 1986 report. Given the many questions and concerns that exist in this general area, the importance and potential for this commission and its efforts deserves increased attention and financial support. The report of this commission appears elsewhere in this *Workbook*.

Pro-Life efforts. The Synod continues to provide a strong voice on behalf of unborn human life. In addition to a special task force of the Board for Social Ministry Services, the Office of Government Information in Washington has been particularly helpful in expressing the Synod's position with reference to a number of governmental programs or proposals.

Lutherans for Life, a pan-Lutheran organization chaired by Dr. Jean Garton, who also serves as a special unpaid consultant to the President and other officers and staff in this area, continues to provide excellent resources and materials. In the state of Michigan, the Synod provided a video statement of our position as voters prepared to vote on the question of state funding for abortions. More recently, the Synod has taken the lead in submitting an amicus brief on the pending Supreme Court case, *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*. Joining in the Synod's brief are the National Association of Evangelicals and the Christian Life Conference of the Southern Baptist Convention. In addition to national synodical efforts, a growing number of District and congregational programs have been developed to help deal with this serious national ethical issue.

Meeting with charismatics. In the fall of 1986 synodical leaders concluded a series of three meetings with several Missouri Synod pastors who are active in the charismatic movement. A jointly prepared report on those meetings has been made available by the President's office. The meetings served to clarify and reinforce the Synod's position on charismatic teaching and practice as set forth in Res. 3-10A of the 1977 convention. Although no formal meetings have been held since that time, my office continues to monitor developments, including a related effort called "Renewal in Missouri." A theological statement from this group, as well as related materials, were given to the CTCR for theological analysis. The CTCR report was completed in early 1989 and is in the process of being distributed more widely.

International dogmatics project. Assisted by four associate editors, I continue to serve as the general editor for an international dogmatics project involving more than 50 theologians from the Synod and its partner churches around the world. This two-volume effort will not only help our seminary students and others to address contemporary theological issues on the basis of the Word of God, but will demonstrate the worldwide confessional fellowship of which we are a part. Although this important effort is slowed by the absence of any direct staff assistance, final manuscripts are scheduled to be submitted to the publisher this summer.

Anniversaries. Because 1989 is the 150th anniversary of the immigrations that led to the founding of our Synod, as well as the 150th anniversary of the founding of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and the 125th anniversary of the founding of Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, special efforts to celebrate God's blessings in these areas will characterize the convention. Additional materials and suggestions will also be shared with the church-at-large. Much of the leadership for these anniversary observances has come from the special heritage committee which has met throughout the triennium. The anniversary theme, "Forward in Faith and Freedom," helps us to focus on our tremendous heritage and gives special encouragement to us as we move forward in carrying out our Lord's Great Commission.

Entered into rest. Attached as appendix III to this *Workbook* is a list of the professional church workers of the Synod whom the Lord called home to Himself during the past triennium. The convention will praise God for His many blessings toward these departed servants during a special convention worship service.

General Comments

Spiritual life and growth. Although a major responsibility of the President and his coworkers is to administer and supervise the synodical organization, the focus of his office, and indeed of the entire synodical structure, is on the spiritual well-being of our people.

Difficult as it is to generalize on the spiritual health of the Synod, it is my conviction that the pastors, teachers, and congregations of the Synod today are making strong and encouraging efforts to carry out their responsibilities for spiritual life and growth with faithfulness and energy. Nothing is more vital for the well-being of our Synod than the continued focus on the Word and Sacraments by which God's Holy Spirit not only forgives our sins, daily and richly, but empowers us for service in His name.

Statistics provide some measure of the ministry of the Gospel among us. During the past three calendar years, for example, more than 170,000 children were baptized in our congregations, and more than 120,000 adults were received into communicant membership. We thank and praise God for what He has done and is doing through His Gospel in our congregations. At the same time, we continue to be concerned that 492,000 communicants in our church body did not partake of the Lord's Supper even once during the past year. That's 24.2 percent of our communicant membership—nearly one out of every four.

Again, as had been the case for several years, the number of those leaving our congregations by the back door exceeds 50,000 per year. Another statistic that disappoints all of us is the fact that only 39 percent of our members are worshiping in our congregations on an average Sunday. Although that figure is not that much different from other large denominational groups, it is far from adequate—par-

ticularly when we consider that of the 5.1 billion people now living on this earth, only 1.4 billion can be identified as Christians. If we are to remain strong in our own confession of the faith and our service to the Lord, while evangelizing the world, synodical congregations need to make our own spiritual growth and nurture our highest priority.

Throughout the past triennium, I have used four words to depict the major emphases or foci of our life and work together: doctrine, growth, relationships, and ministry (see the October 1988 *Lutheran Witness* where these emphases are described in an article entitled "Reach for the Future"). But I have always tried to make it very clear that the top priority for the Synod, and basic to all other efforts and emphases, is our spiritual growth in relationship to our Lord Jesus Christ engendered through the Word and Sacraments. I am therefore delighted that a number of special projects in this area have been developed, including Bible class and Sunday School materials, to help us put first things first as we move ahead with our various efforts.

Congregational ministries. For both theological and organizational reasons, the Synod has emphasized from its very beginning that congregations are at the center of our life and work. The synodical structure at both the national and District levels is a creature of the congregations and exists in order to provide support services for congregations or to carry out work on behalf of congregations. Synodical programs and activities are not an end in themselves, but are carried out in order to enhance and support the mission and ministry of God's people in their congregations and through the congregations to all the world.

During the past triennium these accents have received renewed emphasis and clarity, chiefly through activities and studies carried out under the supervision of the Planning Council. Our church body is one of the few major denominations that has given such strong attention to understanding and meeting the needs of congregations in our changing society. The 1989 Planning Conference and Council endorsed efforts to develop a common vision of our life and work together as we carry out the Great Commission of our Lord and encouraged the development of new ways of relating to each other as we share resources and tools for congregational ministry and other dimensions of our mission together. The Planning Council report to the convention, supplemented by subsequent materials and reports, will receive special emphasis at the convention because it offers great promise for "recovenanting" our life and work together in the Synod.

I am convinced that many of these new directions need to be implemented immediately and strongly in order to help our congregations remain active and involved in working together as the confessional, mission-minded church body we want to be.

Mission zeal. The people of the Synod continue to make it clear in countless ways that they want to be alive and active in carrying out the Lord's Great Commission to make disciples of the nations. Nowhere was this in better evidence than during the Great Commission Convocation held in St. Louis in November 1988, when several thousand people from all across the Synod celebrated, discussed, and learned new ways of being active in evangelism, witness, and outreach.

Many congregations and pastors throughout the Synod have developed new and exciting programs of reaching out to their communities and to all the world. At the same time, however, there are indications that we are not doing all that we can, and that perhaps our traditional zeal for mission outreach has diminished. To a large extent, this appears to be related to the financial difficulties we experience in virtually every area of our life and work together, but other factors may also be involved. The synodical administration continues to highlight mission outreach as basic to everything we do, and to urge the congregations of the Synod to make mission understanding, inspiration, and activity one of their highest priorities.

Financial difficulties. Reported elsewhere in the convention *Workbook*, as well as in our official periodicals from time to time, the Synod's financial affairs continue to demand our close scrutiny and attention. In several important areas, we are doing very well. Congregational receipts for all purposes continue to climb, and are in fact among the highest of major Protestant bodies in the United States. Likewise, giving for several synodical programs, such as planned giving and church extension programs, continues to amaze us. Various capital appeals and other causes continue to receive the generous support of many of our people throughout the Synod.

However, money available for the operational needs of the Synod at virtually all levels—congregational, District, and national—continues to be less than we need to move forward in meeting our many challenges and needs. On the national level, this is most clearly seen in our inadequate support of colleges, seminaries, world missions, and parish services. At the District level, it is evidenced by our inadequate resources to undertake all of the new mission and ministry starts that are available to us. Synodical leaders therefore continue to give high priority to finding better ways of allocating our resources, as well as the development of spiritual resources that will help congregations develop a stronger stewardship consciousness.

An unresolved problem. At the 1986 convention, an oral resolution was made and seconded which called for the censure of *Affirm* and another magazine. Because of legal concerns identified by the synodical Board of Directors and the Synod's legal counsel, the resolution was not officially presented to the convention for action (see "Minutes of the Convention," 1986 *Proceedings*, p. 33). For the same reason, I later in the convention declined a request from the lay delegate who had offered the resolution to make a statement of apology which would be followed by a statement from an *Affirm* editor.

In October 1986 *Affirm* magazine, in an article signed by its editorial group, accused me of unethical conduct for my handling of this matter at the convention. At my request, the editors met with me in January 1987 to discuss their accusations. While acknowledging in retrospect that the incident could have been handled in other ways, had there been more time and opportunity to do so, I told the editors, both orally and in an extensively documented written report, that their article bears false witness against me, and I asked for an appropriate correction.

An effort to develop a mutually acceptable statement to

resolve the issue was unsuccessful and further misunderstanding developed over publicity questions. In subsequent letters, as well as personal conversations with one of the editors, I have endeavored to resume conversations or find other ways to resolve the matter in a God-pleasing manner. However, all such requests have been declined. I have therefore requested the Council of Presidents to offer its good offices to seek appropriate solutions and corrections.

Special Studies and Efforts Requested

1. *Lay Worker Study Committee.* Res. 5-07 of the 1986 synodical convention proposed a study of the office of deacon and related ministries. Although the convention did not have time to act on that proposal, the sense of District and national leaders was that the study needed to go forward as soon as possible. A special Lay Worker Study Committee was appointed, consisting of representatives from the various groups and entities most directly involved, in order to study and recommend common understandings of the functions, responsibilities, preparation, and nomenclature for various lay ministries. The report and recommendations of this committee are included in this *Workbook*.

2. *Mission blueprint.* The Board for Mission Services and I have initiated an effort to develop a mission blueprint for the '90s that will include an analysis of all current world and North American mission activities, as well as a design and strategy for our future efforts. The Board of Directors has made available limited funds from a designated account in order to enable this effort to go forward during the remainder of 1989 and early 1990.

This "Blueprint for the 90's" is particularly important in view of a number of staff changes taking place in the Department of Missions, including the retirement of its executive director, Dr. Edward Westcott. More importantly, the souls of men are dying without Christ! Nearly three-fourths of the world's population does not know Him. With the tremendous resources of people and money in the congregations of the LCMS, we can and must do much more to bring Christ to the nations—and that means finding newer and better ways to organize, fund, and coordinate our efforts.

3. *The LCMS identity.* In 1988 I asked the Board for Communications Services to undertake a careful study of ways to clarify who we are and what we do as the LCMS. This study is to include an analysis of our name. Although longtime members of the Synod, as well as many nonsynodical observers, have grown accustomed to our name, several others report that both "Missouri" and "Synod" are confusing and sometimes hinder evangelism efforts. The results of this study can do much to help us and our publicity efforts as we seek to carry out our mission.

4. *Coordinating congregational ministries.* The services provided by synodical boards to congregations, especially in programmatic areas, have achieved improved coordination through the staff associated with the Congregational Ministries Planning Unit. In the interest of improving such coordination even more, I requested the Commission on Structure to review the activities and services provided by various departments and units, and to offer a report and possible recommendations to this convention on how that might be achieved. Included in this request was the suggestion that we need to find a better organizational expression of the fact that stewardship deals with a far broader dimension of Christian life than our responsibility to provide financial support for the work of the Lord.

5. *Resolving conflicts.* Although our Commissions on Adjudication and Appeals provide invaluable services in the resolution of conflicts, various complexities in our procedures need clarification and adjustment. Moreover, many synodical leaders believe that we need to identify more informal ways of resolving conflicts, perhaps using third-party arbiters and the like, in order to avoid the increasing costs and legal involvements in many cases. The Commission on Structure has been asked to study these questions.

6. *Selection procedures.* The membership of our Commissions on Adjudication and Appeals, which have key roles in the settlement of conflicts among us, as well as the membership of the Commission on Constitutional Matters, which is the official interpreter of the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod, require a high level of expertise, impartiality, and objectivity. In our present arrangement, Commissions on Adjudication and Appeal are elected, while the CCM is appointed by the President in consultation with the Vice-Presidents. Recognizing that both elective and appointive processes can be abused, I requested the Commission on Structure to study this question (including ways by which members of the judiciary are chosen in the civic realm) and make recommendations to the convention that provide for adequate checks and balances in the selection of competent and objective individuals for these commissions.

7. *Support for pastors.* Although the 1986 convention declined to initiate a new office for professional growth and support, the needs in the area of supporting pastors and other professional church workers, as well as providing for their continuing education, are readily apparent. For that reason I have given strong encouragement to the Board of Directors to include some such services in a reorganization of the Department of Human Resources, and I have also continued the existence of a synodical Committee on Continuing Education as authorized by the 1981 synodical convention.

Although our limited financial resources at the synodical level have made it impossible for us to provide the financial or staff resources necessary for this important area, considerable progress has been made in coordinating the efforts of the various colleges and seminaries, and in encouraging District leaders to develop more assistance and support. The Vice-Presidents and I continue to believe that this area merits considerably more attention and support than it has received to date.

8. *Seminary relationships.* In 1988 I requested the Standing Committee for Pastoral Ministry, which is associated with the Board for Higher Education Services, to develop efforts to improve relationships between the Synod and its seminaries. The need is two-directional, in that attitudes toward seminaries and their support on the part of the Synod and its congregations need to be improved, and at the same time attitudes of the seminaries toward the Synod they serve can also be strengthened. Initial ef-

forts in this area have been very helpful, and will continue to be encouraged in the future.

Recommendations

The President's suggestions, comments, and recommendations on a number of reports and overtures submitted to the convention will be shared directly with floor committees. There are, however, two actions that I wish to particularly recommend at this time:

1. *Nominations.* In the 1986 convention the Synod substituted the current Nominations Committee structure for a previous model in which Districts chose their representatives. Because of the press of floor committee and general convention business, alternatives to the present and former structure received very little consideration. In my judgment the present structure is somewhat more efficient than the previous structure, but is far less representative of the general constituency of our church body.

I am therefore asking the appropriate floor committee to review various possibilities and report its recommendation to the plenary convention.

2. *Faculty participation in boards and commissions.* At the last convention, an action was taken in Res. 5-05 that would eliminate the service of our synodical faculty members from commissions and boards of the Synod, except in cases where specific permission is indicated. I believe this action was a mistake, for it has contributed to the notion held somewhat generally by faculty members that the Synod is not making full use of their gifts and services. Moreover, in certain specialized areas the new provision has tended to deprive a number of our boards and commissions of the services of talented people. To be sure, it would not be desirable to have faculty members serving on boards where this would present a conflict of interest. But I believe that such instances would be the exception rather than the rule. I am therefore requesting the appropriate floor committee to review this matter and bring a suitable report and/or recommendation to the plenary convention.

Conclusion

When we describe the activities of the Synod and its administration, we are in effect telling what He has done through us. How richly He has blessed our church body throughout the years! What a privilege it has been for me, again this past triennium, to serve the Synod and its many Districts, boards, commissions, congregations, and individual members in our mutual efforts to proclaim Christ! May the Lord of the church continue to guide and sustain us all as we continue to "tell everyone what He has done"!

Part II

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Every Sunday, throughout the congregations of our beloved Synod, thousands of fellow Christians come to the altar to receive our Lord's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith and life. Then, when all have communed, we lift our voices in praise to our good and gracious Lord and sing: "Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what He has done."

In those words, we celebrate with joyous hearts what God has done: He has given us life and preserved it! He has sent His Son to live and die and rise again for us while we were yet in our sins! He has sent His Spirit into our hearts to enable us to believe and live for our Lord! He daily and richly forgives sins to me and all believers! He feeds and leads me and all Christians with His precious Word and His holy sacraments! And with hearts filled with love and praise for our good and gracious Lord, we respond in words based on the opening verses of Psalm 105, "Tell everyone what He has done!"

What a magnificent theme for our 1989 synodical convention, and indeed for our entire church body and every one of its congregations during the next triennium! In celebrational response to God's love for us and all humanity, our theme points the church simply and clearly to our mission, our message, and our audience. Our mission? Some outside the LCMS might say God wants us to change the world through revolution or politics. Some within the LCMS might focus on superior organizational skill or strength to accomplish our goals. But, no, our theme reminds us that God has called us to the humble and difficult and doable mission and ministry of *telling*, proclaiming, preaching, witnessing, talking about, demonstrating, exemplifying, getting the Word of God out in every way we can, employing every means at our disposal to *tell* about God—and to do so with word and deed, with life and lip.

Our theme reminds us, too, that our message is not about ourselves and what we have accomplished, but about God and His good and gracious action on behalf of humanity. As the ancient Israelites praised God in the words of Psalm 105, they focused on His wonderful works, His miracles, and His judgments (v. 5). They recounted especially His deliverance of His people from Egypt and the mighty deeds by which He accomplished that. "He led forth His people with joy, His chosen ones with singing," they sang (v. 43). And we, with them, tell about a God who has visited and redeemed us and all humanity through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and who daily and richly forgives sins to me and all believers. God Himself is the substance of our song and the focus of our message.

How simply, too, our theme emphasizes that our mission with its message of God's deeds on our behalf is intended for *everyone*! No one is left out! Telling everyone what He has done is the center of activity in every congregation as we gather for worship and as we teach one another. As we tell one another about God's good and gracious actions in Word and sacraments, God's Spirit comes again and again, daily and richly, to forgive our sins, to renew our lives, and to give us power for the mission and ministry He has given us to do. But our mission and mes-

sage is for everyone, not just ourselves, and especially for the world in which three out of four of our five billion people do not know Jesus Christ or the mighty acts of our good and gracious God—it is a world that begins in our own communities, includes our entire nation, and extends beyond our own borders into every nation on planet Earth.

What a glorious theme for our 57th regular convention, and for our entire church body! It's responsive! It's celebrational! It points to our mission, focuses on our message, and reminds us that God has sent us into all the world. What a fitting theme for the work that we do at local, District, national, and international levels! What a clear focus it provides for every action we take at our coming convention!

The conventions of our church body, as you know, play a very important role in our mission and ministry of telling everyone what He has done. If a convention is to be truly effective, its delegates, leaders, and committees need to understand its primary functions. Our Bylaws state that very well:

> The national convention of the Synod shall afford an opportunity for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information. It is the principal legislative assembly, which amends the Constitution and Bylaws, considers and takes action on reports and overtures, and handles appropriate appeals. It establishes general synodical positions and policies, provides overall program direction and priorities, and evaluates all such positions, programs, policies, directions, and priorities in order to provide responsible service for and in behalf of its members. Only a national convention of the Synod shall authorize affiliation or association of the Synod with other church bodies, synods, or federations, and the discontinuance of such affiliation or association (Bylaw 3.01).

The primary role of floor committees, simply stated, is to assist the convention in taking actions that help our entire Synod, and every individual congregation, to tell everyone what God has done, and to do so in the most effective way possible. To do that, we need to use our convention time wisely and well.

A convention does that when it devotes the major portion of its time to *major* issues and opportunities. As committees review the reports and overtures submitted to them, one important goal is to identify the priority items needing convention attention or action. If previous conventions have already dealt with items in a satisfactory manner, or if various tasks can be handled more effectively by boards, commissions, or other agencies of the Synod rather than by the convention itself, committees should not hesitate to recommend the usage of resolutions A or B, for by so doing, they can help the convention spend its time on more pressing issues.

Although a major task of the convention is to respond to overtures, it is important to understand that the reports of our elected and appointed boards, commissions, and officers also merit careful attention. There are 101 reports and 583 overtures before the convention; 352 overtures were submitted by 183, or 3.1 percent, of our congregations, and the remaining 231 overtures came from Districts, boards, faculties, and Circuit forums. It is essential that floor committees be not merely reactors to overtures, but informed and representative churchmen who address "big picture" questions, whether they are in overtures or not. This is another way of saying that with the limited time conventions have available to them, they must give primary attention and emphasis to the major opportunities, problems, and challenges facing the Synod as we seek to tell everyone what God has done.

It should also be noted that a synodical convention is not only our principal legislative assembly, but that it also exists to provide "an opportunity for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information" (Bylaw 3.01). In these words, our Bylaws remind us that the passing of resolutions is not the only way for a convention to exercise leadership.

For example, floor committees can assist the convention, and indeed the entire Synod, to learn more about the wonderful things God is doing through our beloved Synod, and to have a deepened sense of involvement in and thanksgiving for such ministries. To that end, the convention provides a number of informational and inspirational opportunities.

Committees are therefore encouraged to use the convention floor time allocated to them not only to present resolutions, but also to assist the convention in achieving all of its objectives. To that end, committee members should know that we will be utilizing a state-of-the-art electronic response system in Wichita for elections, voting on resolutions, and gathering data to assist boards, committees, and congregations. Not only will this system save several valuable hours of convention time, but it will assist us to conduct convention business with maximum fairness and impartiality. To the extent that time permits, committees may choose to use this simple and efficient system to gather data that will assist the Synod in various ways. Moreover, the random seating of convention delegates requested by the last convention will again enable us to utilize small-group discussions as part of the convention process. Combined with the electronic response system, we have the capability of involving every delegate in the discussion of major issues or questions, and of learning delegate preferences in ways other than voting on resolutions. Used sparingly and effectively, this process can also help the convention achieve its overall objectives in a fair, participatory, and democratic way.

But what I've been describing about the convention process, important as it is, does not begin to capture the significance of this convention for the future direction of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. As we prepare to enter the last decade of the 20th century, we are poised like a runner at the starting blocks, about to begin a race. Tremendous opportunity and challenge awaits us, not only to help one another to provide better, livelier, and stronger congregations, but to link our congregations to each other in new ways in reaching out to our communities and to all the world as we tell everyone what God has done. After many years of struggle and conflict in the '70s, the Lord of the church has blessed our efforts in the '80s to achieve a measure of healing, as well as an improved confessional and organizational stability. For the last five years, the leadership of the Synod and its Districts has worked very hard to listen to the needs and desires of our people through surveys, focused interviews, and various other listening techniques. Many of those efforts were reflected in

our last convention, when we adopted goals for each of our major areas of mission and ministry.

During the past triennium, aided by a special consultant firm, we have again gone to our people, in every District, to ascertain the kind of organizational model that would assist our congregations to meet their needs and achieve their goals—both within each congregation and as our congregations act together. The results, as you know from our publications, are quite clear. We want a stronger sense of solidarity, achieved in part by having a common vision for our future that is based on wide input and review and that generates broad commitment and support. Our people, particularly in leadership levels, seek a stronger coordination of our various efforts (with appropriate accountability), rather than the fragmentation and duplication that often is found today.

Our congregations want greater diversification of resources, together with more effective ways of sharing and utilizing them, and they seek more relational, personal ways of being linked to one another throughout the Synod. And underlying it all, emphasized by our people again and again, is the strong conviction that our congregations are the heart of the church and the primary unit of our mission and ministry. As our leadership has met, studied, and weighed various alternatives in two meetings of the Planning Council this spring, we have concluded that three areas are particularly important and need immediate implementation: vision planning, networking, and coordinated relationships.

We will, of course, be hearing more about these efforts as we prepare for the convention, especially through the work of Committee 8. But as we begin our floor committee sessions, it is important for all of us to understand that the people of our Synod expect this convention to help us to achieve these outcomes. I am excited about the possibilities, and I hope that you are, too. Although most church bodies today face many of the same organizational problems that we do, *our* church body has been doing something about them, and this convention can do much to affirm that process and direction. I therefore invite each committee to respond to two questions as it goes about its work:

1. What would the LCMS be like in 1995, two conventions from now, if the Synod as a whole and each of its congregations would carry out the Great Commission as faithfully and effectively as we can?

2. What steps do we need to take now and during the next triennium to help that to happen?

To that end, let me share some of my dreams with you in several areas of the Synod's work that correspond roughly to the major areas of responsibility assigned to the floor committees.

1. Missions

By 1995, I see The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as the senior partner in a world-wide association of confessional Lutheran churches engaged in common, mutual mission and outreach throughout the world—a partnership in which every church body, regardless of size, is not only actively engaged in evangelizing its own area but is also a sending church to other areas of the world.

By 1995, I see a church body in which funding for missions and outreach as a percentage of income has increased significantly in congregational, District, and national budgets, and for which intensive direct and special giving has been encouraged to supplement budgeted funds.

By 1995, the LCMS will be a church body in which twice as many congregations are engaged in personalized missionary support, not only to provide additional resources for North American and world mission work, but to give congregations a personal identification with missionary personnel.

By 1995, most congregations will use budgeting processes that identify missions and evangelism as first-fruits expenditures from the gifts of its members in an amount that never falls below 10 percent of congregational income.

By 1995, I see a church body busily engaged in planting and growing new congregations at an accelerating rate, largely through the initiative of neighboring congregations or Circuits and prioritized among the Districts through a mutual and collegial process—funded cooperatively, and with the highest priorities given to new starts in those major population centers where the percentage of unchurched members is highest, and without racial or ethnic distinctions of any kind.

In the Missouri Synod of 1995, congregations will be busily involved in strong mission education programs in every Sunday school, vacation Bible school, parish school, congregational society, and voters' assembly. In short, I believe The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod of 1995 will be known and perceived by one and all as a mission church, a church body that takes seriously its responsibility to tell everyone what He has done.

2. Congregational Ministry

By 1995, I believe that at least two-thirds of our congregations will have developed more relational approaches to each other, in which a wide range of congregational needs are addressed through linkages and networks with those who can help to meet those needs.

By 1995, at least a third of our confirmed members will be engaged in Bible study efforts—with LifeLight having proved to be a blessing to more than half of our congregations. Attendance at Holy Communion will be more frequent, and at least half of our membership will attend church services each week (compared with our current average of about 39 percent). Celebrational, innovative, dignified, liturgical worship will characterize the vast majority of these congregations, and their hymns and music will reflect the likes of the people while retaining a sound, theological content.

By 1995, congregations will have learned how to substantially reduce the number of members lost through the back door each year.

By 1995, most pastors will have received additional post-seminary help to develop solid preaching, communication, and counseling skills. Support for pastors, teachers, and other church workers will be strong, not only financially, but also in terms of attitude. Continuing education programs will be the rule rather than the exception for each professional church worker.

By 1995, lay ministries will be more carefully defined so as to preserve the distinctiveness of the pastoral office,

while encouraging more and more laity to carry out both full- and part-time ministries.

By 1995, I believe our system of elementary and secondary schools will be even stronger than it is today, largely because of a stronger emphasis on evangelism and the fact that a higher percentage of teachers will be synodically trained and certified.

By 1995 our Concordia Publishing House will be more widely recognized as the premier religious publisher in the nation because the materials produced there are both pedagogically and theologically superior.

In short, by 1995, the LCMS will recognize itself—and be recognized by others—as a church body whose congregations are not only strong and lively, but central to the work of the Synod.

3. Theology

By 1995, I believe The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will continue to be the strongest confessional Lutheran church body in the world, not only in terms of size, but in terms of the clarity and faithfulness of confessional witness. Discussions over the ministry of women, inter-Christian relationships, church and ministry, and other topics will have helped the Synod to achieve an even stronger theological consensus on the basis of the Word of God than that which characterizes us today, and to do so with a clear focus on the forgiveness of sins as the center of the Biblical Gospel.

By 1995, our theological commitment will be expressed through a stronger International Lutheran Conference of confessional churches around the world, the publication of major theological works, and strong graduate schools of theology that equip many of the teachers of theology and religion in seminaries and colleges around the world.

By 1995, Missouri's conversations with other Lutherans will have brought about closer ties with the Wisconsin and Evangelical Lutheran Synods, and many in the ELCA, too, will look upon us and our position with increasing favor. In short, as we prepare to celebrate our 150th anniversary in 1997, we will do so by praising God for the continuing strong theological convictions of our members.

4. Funding

By 1995, the people of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will be providing as much as one-third more financial resources for the total work of the church at congregational, District, national, and international levels. Although a wide variety of successful stewardship programs will be readily available to each congregation through the many networks and linkages that have been established by District and national offices, it will be recognized that the key to better stewardship performance lies in the cultivation of the spiritual faith and life of every member of every congregation.

Moreover, by 1995, I see every dimension of the Synod allocating financial resources in ways that reflect our mission and nurture priorities. As more and more individual members have learned the joy of firstfruits giving, so more congregations, Districts, and the Synod itself have allocated their firstfruits for work beyond themselves. Budgeting processes at congregational, District, and national levels will have learned to distinguish between maintenance items, such as necessary administrative costs, and mission and ministry items.

By 1995 or sooner, necessary maintenance costs for the Synod and its Districts will be increasingly met by member congregations through a proportionate or "fair share" system, with the multiple mission and ministry challenges of the church at every level being met by voluntary covenanting for specific projects. Planned giving and special giving will continue to be a major element in our total stewardship effort, with the excellent efforts of the '80s already providing substantial resources beyond the regular Sunday offerings, thereby enabling the Synod to have its mission opportunities, as well as its colleges and seminaries, on a sound financial basis.

In short, by 1995 we will have made substantial progress both in giving more dollars for the Lord's work and in spending them for high priority mission and ministry projects.

5. Organization and Leadership

By 1995, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will have made adjustments to its structure (without changing its basic polity) in order to provide for broad representative decision-making at every level, with decisions coming as close to the action as possible, and with widespread ownership of the people in the process. Planning will be done in coordinated ways, with parallel structures existing between national and District areas. Strong Districts will continue to have considerable autonomy in providing leadership within Districts, but the linkage between each District and the rest of Synod will be equally strong—in both confessional and organizational solidarity. Synod's traditional polity, with its decentralized, democratic decision-making, will remain intact, but the national synodical offices and structure will have taken on new importance and appreciation for the entire Synod, not only because of the success of networking and other relational ways of serving congregations, but because Synod's leaders exercise their responsibilities evangelically, fraternally, and with full and clear accountability to the congregations of the Synod.

6. Higher Education

By the mid-'90s, the Synod's colleges and seminaries will have begun to emerge from two decades of grave difficulty caused by inadequate resources and declining population growth. Solidly confessional seminaries will be clearly in tune with congregational needs and will receive more generous support from the synodical budget.

By 1995, adequate scholarship resources will enable both colleges and seminaries to attract significantly more minority students to prepare for church-work careers. Seminaries will have completed a curriculum restudy and revision which rightly underscores their essential role as schools of theology, and not merely professional trade schools for the teaching of technical ministerial skills—but with greater attention to contemporary needs and opportunities enabled by an improved financial base. Seminary faculty members, as servants of the Synod, will be seen as teachers, not only of tomorrow's pastors, but of today's—

as they take their programs increasingly out into the church, both at home and abroad.

In short, by 1995 our colleges and seminaries will be significantly stronger in terms of ecclesiastical orientation, educational quality, financial support, and world-mission outlook.

7. Human Care

By 1995, the Synod's commitment to providing help for the poor, hungry, hurting, unborn, elderly, and underprivileged members of our society will be even stronger and better financed than today. *Deed* ministries will be closely linked with *Word* ministries in the Synod's efforts at home and abroad to tell everyone what He has done. While other denominational groups continue to escalate their involvement in social and political issues, the Synod's focus will continue to be on human care—helping people in need, recognizing that whatever we do to the least of Jesus' brethren, we do unto Him.

By 1995, the Synod's efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the hungry and to assist refugees and immigrants will be supported by virtually every congregation of the Synod, and each synodical congregation will have accepted its responsibility to join hands with other community and religious agencies in the long, hard fight against drugs, disease, and poverty.

These seven major areas present a long list of goals and challenges! And linking them all together—and linking us together, too—are three broad areas that assist our total mission and ministry:

1. *Communication.* By 1995, I believe that we will have learned to listen to each other better than we do today, and we will know more about our common needs and opportunities at home and all over the world. The *Lutheran Witness* will be received in every home of every congregation. Electronic mail and video magazines will help us know and respond to each other in quicker, more helpful ways. Luther-Net, employing the latest computer technology, will link our offices, congregations, and pastors together in exciting ways.

2. *Auxiliaries.* By 1995, our International LLL and International LWML will be even stronger and larger lay organizations than they are today. The LLL's use of electronic mass media will be bringing the Gospel to hundreds of thousands of people around the world. The LWML's programs of mission education and Bible study will be vital factors in the life of every congregation.

3. *Trust.* By 1995, we will have a vastly improved climate of trust throughout the Synod, together with a better appreciation of the diversity that can legitimately exist among the members of a confessional church who walk together on the same road—motivated by the same Lord, confessing the same Gospel, pursuing the same goals, and travelling toward the same heaven—but not in a "lockstep" march—and helping each other along the way as we move at different paces and in different ways.

Does it all sound like an idle dream? Is it too much to hope that our Synod, having studied and discussed our needs for several years, can now begin to take specific actions to accomplish such goals? I not only believe that such goals are possible to achieve, but that we are ready to begin that process now by taking some decisive first steps. To be sure, there are some voices of fear and concern, and even a little suspicion among us, but most of our people are ready to move forward . . . and to move *now*!

Moreover, this convention will again give us the opportunity to learn from our past, as we review, remember, and celebrate the dedication, commitment, and courage that led our forefathers to emigrate from Germany 150 years ago and to found our St. Louis seminary in Perry County in 1839. Their faith is our faith, their dream is our dream, their commitment is our commitment. They knew that changes needed to be made, not only to preserve their heritage in a new country, but to accomplish the Lord's mission.

In many respects, the world of today is not like the world of yesterday. Continuing change is the order of the day, not only in science and technology, but in the very fabric of our life and society with all its precious values. Much has changed in the institutional church, too, including The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Declining denominational loyalties, fewer children, more elderly people, continuing movement from rural to urban communities, increased opportunities among ethnic and minority populations—all of these things and more are true of our church body, as well as others. We seek no change in our faith and doctrine, and in fact we must work hard to preserve them. But organizationally, we cannot simply stand still or, even worse, attempt to recreate the past.

Where are we to find the resources for what awaits us and for what we must do? The answer, my brothers and sisters, is to be found where it has always been found, namely in the Word of God, as it points to our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Our convention theme points us to Him and to all He has done, continues to do, and will always do on behalf of His people and their needs and opportunities.

Let this, then, be our challenge, as we move toward the convention, that we rededicate ourselves to telling everyone what He has done—*in* us and *through* us, but especially *for* us and all people—confident that in that telling, done by every individual, congregation, District, and national dimension of the Synod, God's Holy Spirit Himself will be present, empowering, encouraging, and directing us into the future He has prepared for us—zealous in mission, focused on congregations, strong in theology, providing financial resources to carry out our priorities, organized for action, educating our leaders and one another, and bringing God's love and care to a hurting world—all for the sake of Him who died that we might live. In Him, and guided by His Spirit, I pray that this convention will help us move forward decisively and boldly as the mission-driven, Gospel-based, people-oriented community of Christians that God has made us to be. Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what He has done!

Part III

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am honored and delighted to welcome all of you—the delegates, advisors, representatives, and friends of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who are here to transact the business of our beloved Synod in this 57th regular convention.

The Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod requires the President to "give an accurate report to the Synod of his administration at all sessions of the Synod." In keeping with that constitutional requirement, I am pleased to call your attention to two parts of my report that have already been shared with you in writing.

Part 1 is in the *Convention Workbook*, pp. 1–6. In that portion of the report, I have sought to call to the delegates' attention some of the major areas of activity that have engaged the President, Vice Presidents, officers, and staffs of the Synod during the last three years.

The second part of the President's convention report was given at the meeting of the Floor Committees in St. Louis on May 19, 1989. That report is found in *Today's Business*, pp. 24–28. You are wonderful delegates if you have read all of the pages that have been sent to you in the official mailings of the convention, including those from my office. Words, words, words—it sometimes seems that we're going to strain and crack under the burden of so many words!

It isn't only the reports of the President and others in the *Workbook* that you've had to work your way through! In the last two weeks you have also received a tremendous amount of mail from various parts of the Synod. Much of this has contained misleading information. Some of that was no doubt unintentional, inasmuch as we many times see things from different perspectives or don't have access to all of the facts and the figures. Although I have avoided mailing anything to the delegates of this convention that would appear to be arguing for the programs of this administration or defending it against criticisms, I came to realize in the last few days that much of what was sent to you affects not only the President of the Synod but the lives, careers, and activities of many others who serve in the administration of the Synod. I have therefore prepared some corrective information and asked the District Presidents to share it with the delegates yesterday. If you were not able to be present in the caucuses of your respective Districts, perhaps you did not receive that handout. In that case, I invite you to see your District President to receive what I have written by way of response to some of the misinformation that was sent to you. If the District Presidents no longer have copies, you can get copies from the President's staff.

A number of the items treated in that document do not pertain directly to the President's office. Those of you who are familiar with the structure and Constitution of the Synod know that the Board of Directors has the primary responsibility for the fiscal and legal management of the Synod's affairs; some of the mail you have received deals with that general area. You should know that the Board of Directors, like me and other administrators of the church, take these questions and concerns very seriously. Yesterday, for example, the Board of Directors took the initiative and arranged for conversations with some of those who had expressed criticisms. Perhaps at some point early in the convention the board can share some of its thoughts on that with you.

I wish you well as you do your job as a delegate. As I mentioned to some of you in the orientation meetings yesterday, for the next week you are the leaders of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. This leadership role will continue throughout the next three years according to our Bylaws, as you go back home and share what you did here. Not only do I wish you well, but even more I pray for the blessings of the Lord of the church as He leads and guides you to make decisions on behalf of us all.

Responsibilities of the President

As the delegates review the reports of the President in part 1 and part 2 (and we're going to do that together for a few moments in order to highlight certain areas), I believe it's also important to remind you of the responsibilities which the Synod in its Constitution lays upon the office of the President. I quote from Article XI: "The President has the supervision regarding the doctrine and the administration of all officers of the Synod, all such as are employed by the Synod, the individual Districts of the Synod, [and] all District Presidents."

According to the Constitution of the Synod, the President must "see to it that all the aforementioned act in accordance with the Synod's Constitution. "What power does he have to do this? Please read it carefully: he has the power to "advise, admonish, and reprove." The Constitution says: "He shall conscientiously use all means at his command to promote and maintain unity of doctrine and practice in all the Districts of the Synod," and he shall "see to it that the resolutions of the Synod are carried out." As many of you know, the Bylaws of the Synod spell out those responsibilities in greater detail. Please understand that these important responsibilities of the President were not placed in the constitution or Bylaws in just the last few years but have been a part of our way of life since the Constitution of the Synod was first adopted.

But nothing in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod suggests that this office is an authoritarian, dictatorial, or hierarchical office. It simply is not. Its incumbents have understood that its responsibilities and accountabilities far exceed the actual authority the Synod has placed into the office. In my judgment, that's the way it ought to be—even though it can be quite frustrating at times. Why do I say that? Because the presidency of our church body is a spiritual office. It is a ministry, a pastoral office. To be sure, it's a specialized ministry. People are in a different relationship to the President than they are to their own spiritual leader and pastor in their congregations, but much of it—like the call to service—is the same. We nominate people for consideration. We ask the Spirit's guidance on our voting, and we truly believe that God has given us someone in this office to exercise a pastorate, a

spiritual ministry among us. The presidency is an office exercised by a pastor on behalf of and in support of congregations, the people of God. And the primary authority of the President, like that of all pastors of the church, lies not in some constitution or bylaws, but in the Word of God. It's an authority he exercises by preaching and teaching, encouraging and holding up the arms of people, and leading and guiding—and, once in a while, by disciplining and reminding some that a certain behavior or position was not in accord with the Word or will of God or the will of the Synod itself. So I ask your understanding of my understanding of the call to the presidency of this church, which for me has always been a call from God to serve His people—a call that is considered every three years to determine if God wants to continue that call or to extend it to another to lead and guide His people as the presidential pastor of the church.

I want you to know how humbled I have been to have been privileged to serve in this office for eight years. What an honor you have given me! I know better than anyone else, unless it might be my wife or my secretary, that I have not been perfect in the performance of my responsibility. I have many weaknesses and many limitations. I hope that you will be charitable as you evaluate those, even as I know that the Lord of the church is charitable with all of us as He looks upon our sins and then covers them with His own blood.

I do want to thank you for the privilege of being cheered on by you, the wonderful people of God of this church. My predecessor, Dr. Preus, was surely correct when he told a convention that one of the great gifts to him from this ministry was being able to travel all over the world, especially all over this nation, and to see the men and women and children of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod carrying out their high and holy callings in response to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Of being able to walk the streets of Brooklyn or the valleys of Texas where the immigrants live and work, or to visit the homes for the developmentally disabled, or to talk with the farmers of Kansas or Nebraska about the plight of rural America. Or to visit Washington, where the President of the United States, cabinet officials, and government officers have honored our church body by listening to us speak on behalf of the church—a church that wants to speak only when the Word of God speaks. Ours is a wonderful, caring, loving church, doing God's ministry in countless ways all over the world. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is something very, very special—a beloved Synod — a *beliebte Synode,* as my father used to say.

Comments on Part I

In the few remaining moments that we have together, I'd like to highlight some of the things that are especially important in the previous sections of my report. For example, in the *Workbook*, page 1, I called attention to coworkers whom God has called home to Himself in heaven, and we now add to that number the name of Dr. Carl Heckmann, the previous President of our Texas District, who was laid to rest earlier this week. We ask President O'Shoney and other members of the Texas delegation to express to Mrs. Heckmann and the family our Christian sympathy and hope in these very difficult days.

I paid tribute as well to the people on the President's staff. They are a very special kind of family in ministry. I especially commend my coworker, close friend, and colleague, a man of extreme patience and wonderfully fine humor, a Christian gentleman, Dr. August Mennicke. He has been a special blessing to me and to the church. There are many others, too, who share their criticisms and suggestions, and do so in a loving way. The Council of Presidents, the Council of Administrators, and the Board of Directors are all people with whom I continue to enjoy a very close collegial relationship.

Please note the material on pages 1–2 dealing with discipline. I have not written to the delegates about the generic criticism of some that the leadership of this church does not carry out doctrinal discipline. But I do ask you to understand how the Bylaws of this church describe the conduct of ecclesiastical supervision. The President does not have the authority to remove people from the clergy roster of this church by fiat. The people primarily responsible for exercising supervision of doctrine and life are the District Presidents. It is the President's task to counsel with them, support them, and help them in every way possible. If it should happen that a District President fails to do his duty, we have procedures that enable the synodical President to step in and take a stronger role. I would especially like the delegates to understand that the word *discipline,* if I may play the role of professor for a few moments again, comes from the Latin word for "teach." Discipline is teaching. It's no accident that the Western church for centuries referred to its bishops as a "magisterium," because that word, too, refers to a "teaching" office. The church is in many senses like a giant school. There are some people who lack proper knowledge, while others know but do not act on the basis of their knowledge, and who need to be "disciplined," that is, educated, taught, or helped to do the right thing. I'm referring and appealing here not only to Bylaws or etymology but especially to the Word of God. Please recall, for example, last Sunday's Epistle from Galatians, chapter 6: "Brethren, if someone among you is overtaken in a fault, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness." The word for "restore" is the same word used in the Gospel for mending or preparing nets. What we do in "restoring" such a one is to "repair the net" so that he or she can again be used effectively in God's great fishing expedition for souls.

I want to assure you that your leadership (meaning especially the President, Vice-Presidents, and District Presidents) regularly review discipline cases in Council of President's meetings and elsewhere. And I want you to know that we take that responsibility very seriously, and that we endeavor to carry it out in a very pastoral, personal, evangelical, fraternal, and patient way.

Other items in part 1 of the report are also worthy of note, for example, the comments there about the doctrinal review process. I would like to pay tribute to each of the 90 people or so who day in and day out read and review everything from *My Devotions* to major theological works. Their names are never known, but they're chosen for their doctrinal orthodoxy and their care. Again this triennium,

we've had an excellent group of doctrinal reviewers who have taken their work very seriously.

Government contacts are especially important these days. As you may have read, the LCMS filed an *amicus* brief in the *Webster* case on abortion that the Supreme Court ruled on the other day. Our brief, which is cited twice in footnotes in the opinion of one of the justices, is very typical of the leadership we have been able to give as a church body in this critical issue. The LCMS today has the strongest, most compassionate pro-life position of any church body in the United States, a fact that is recognized and appreciated throughout the length and breadth of this nation. Our efforts are not supportive of those whose actions violate the civil rights of others. Although we have a strong pro-life position, we must also uphold law and order in our society. The *Webster* decision, although it disappoints us in some ways, is a step in the right direction. It also demonstrates that the legal processes of this great nation do work. Even when we disagree with government positions, we have the freedom to say so and to become a part of the democratic process to seek change. Because abortion remains an important issue for the future, I hope that during this convention delegates will have opportunity to speak out on the current pro-life questions facing our nation.

I would also like to call your attention to some items on page 4. First, I want to emphasize that nothing is more vital for our church body than the spiritual growth of every one of our members, and that happens best through the ministry of our congregations. Passing resolutions at conventions is important. (We have 132 of them ready to go, which means passing 19 a day.) Predictably, however, we're going to go home thinking that because we've passed all of these wonderful resolutions, we've done the work of the Lord. But nothing is more important in the Lord's work than the spiritual life and growth of the people of God. What presidents and secretaries, vice-presidents and staffs—and even conventions—do is to support and encourage the growth of God's people through Word and Sacraments. The number one priority of the LCMS is the spiritual growth of our people through the Word of God and the Sacraments of God. As we know, through these means, wonderful things are done by our good and gracious Lord through the gift of His Spirit.

I also call your attention to a very brief report on congregational ministries. It goes without saying that congregations are the heart and center of the Synod's life and work. Our Constitution and Bylaws make it quite clear that the Synod is not some far-off organization that exists in St. Louis, or in District offices, or in other similar places. Ultimately, the Synod is nothing other than *we*, the people of God in the 6,100 congregations of the Synod. The Synod exists to help ministry happen in parishes, and it functions on behalf of and in support of our parishes. We have realized that, I believe, with growing clarity and conviction in the life and work of the Synod again in this past triennium. Some new and exciting things have been going on and we're going to be talking about them in this convention—and I hope reporting enthusiastically on them to the folks back home. Some new things are happening in the way the LCMS hopes to develop networking and vision and relationship-building within the Synod, all based on our solid theology of the Word of God, and done in a way that will help congregations better than we have done for many years.

I have also addressed the issue of our financial difficulties, but the Board of Directors does it more thoroughly in its report.

Comments on Part II

At this point, I'd like for you to turn to the second part of my report in *Today's Business*. Several of you heard this report when we met together in St. Louis at the excellent floor committee meetings in late May. (Parenthetically, I want to commend the committees for their hard work in responding to 101 reports and 583 overtures in the resolutions that are before us for action.) Near the bottom of page 25 you'll see two questions that I asked the members of the floor committees, and that I would like to put to all of you this morning, and again and again as you transact the business of this great convention.

Question 1: What would the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be like in 1995, two conventions away, if the Synod as a whole, and each of its congregations (and I suppose we could add, each of us individually within our congregations) would carry out the Great Commission as faithfully and effectively as we can?

Somehow we all know that we are not doing that as faithfully and effectively as we can. When you pose this question, you are doing what the organizational theorists call "visioning." You're trying to develop a picture of what you want our beloved church body and all of our congregations to be like through being faithful to God and effective in God's service. I'd like you to think about that. What kind of a church would we be? How large would we be? What would we be doing, if we were really faithful and effective in carrying out God's Great Commission given us by our Lord Jesus Christ?

Question 2: What steps do we need to take now, at this convention, and during the next triennium in our congregations, Districts, Circuits, institutions, colleges, and seminaries, and what do *I* need to do as a person, as a member of my family, and with my children—what do all of us need to do to move us toward those goals that we believe are possible and attainable for us in 1995?

In the following paragraphs, I shared some of my personal dreams of what the Synod, under God's blessing, might be like in 1995. As you read my dreams, you will also understand something about the direction and the emphases of the President's office, and the kinds of things that I've been committing my time to. A reporter asked me the other day what I consider to be the biggest issue facing this convention, and I said almost instinctively, "Missions! Getting into the people's hearts once again the great zeal for carrying out the Great Commission of our Lord. And in order to do that, congregational ministry for spiritual growth is right behind it." (By the way, neither of those emphases appeared in the article, evidently because such matters are not considered newsworthy.)

By 1995, in the area of missions, I see The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as a senior partner in a worldwide association of confessional Lutheran churches en-

gaged in common, mutual mission and outreach throughout the world. I see a partnership in which every participating church body, regardless of its size, is not only actively engaged in evangelizing its own area, but is also a sending church to other areas of the world. This idea is, in a sense, already in force. We're meeting in Korea in early September with more than 25 partner churches, and churches related to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, to talk about the idea of a worldwide association of confessional churches who work together in carrying out Christ's mission. Whether a church body's membership is 2.6 million, as ours is, or 650, or 1,920, all churches should be engaged in mission activity as a primary focus. As new Christians are brought into the family of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, they should immediately become mission churches—not only as receivers but as senders. By 1995, I see a church body in which the funding for missions and outreach as a percentage of income has increased significantly in congregational, District, and national budgets. I see a church body in which twice as many congregations as today are engaged in personalized missionary support, so that the congregation actually gives a good part of its mission money to support one or more persons who become that congregation's missionaries for support and especially for prayer.

What a wonderful thing that would be, not only for the financial support of world missions, but also for the personal and prayer support that comes from that kind of effort! I would see congregations using budgeting processes that identify missions and evangelism for firstfruits giving, and not merely leftovers, and in amounts that never fall below 10 percent.

By 1995, I see a church body engaged in planting and growing new congregations at an accelerating rate. Although our statistics don't clearly show it at this point, the LCMS has planted more new churches and ministries in North America in recent years than all other Lutheran churches. But I see us doing much, much more through Circuits and congregations in the coming years. I also see a prioritization of the way in which we do it, so that if the influx of population is heavier in California than it is in Kansas, then we in Kansas or Nebraska or Illinois or Missouri help those congregations in Florida or California or Texas or the inner city that need our help to plant new churches.

The list of mission needs goes on and on. We already have in place a special mission task force led by the chairman of the Board for Mission Services. Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, Dr. Johannes Gedrat, the chairman of the International Lutheran Conference and a guest at this convention, the Presidents of LLL and LWML, and several others are assisting the Mission Board and staff to design a blueprint for the '90s for the North American and international mission of our great church body. We hope and pray that this is not some idle dream, but that by 1995, we will have become a much stronger mission church than we are today.

Exciting things are going on in congregational ministry, too. An important goal is that at least a third of our confirmed members will be engaged in Bible study by 1995 (it's only about 20 percent at the present time!), and that attendance at Holy Communion will be more frequent. Do you know that as many as 25 percent of our people don't even go to Communion once in a given year? That calls for a very special ministry on the part of all of us. Church attendance goals are critical. Do you know that the average church attendance in the congregations of the Synod is now at 39 percent? What would happen, for example, if by the year 1995 we would raise that by 6 percent, 2 percent a year? If you have 100 people in church on Sunday, next year you set a goal of 102, only two more people per Sunday! Is that attainable? I believe it is, not only by bringing new people into our congregations who don't know Jesus Christ, but also by visiting with those who don't attend now and helping them to be nursed and nurtured into a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ through Word and Sacraments. What a great, magnificent gift this would be for the congregational life and general well-being of our church body!

Please take the time to read and think about the rest of my dreams and goals, too, and then add your own dreams and goals. Let me put the question to you again: What would the LCMS be like in 1995, two conventions from now, if we really did what God has enabled us to do? This great and wonderful church body, led by its faithful pastors and teachers, its excellent seminaries, and its wonderful laymen can do so much more! I doubt if there's another church body in this world where pastors, teachers, and laymen have learned to work together so effectively and so well. It's my prayer that this convention will enable all of that to happen, and to do so with power and enthusiasm, and with celebration and shouts of joy. My brothers and sisters, God has given us great gifts and great opportunities, not only in this week but in the closing decade of this century and well into the next.

Conclusion

As we move toward our future, let us remember that in the midst of constant change we have a constant and never-changing Jesus Christ. He's the same yesterday and today and forever! And we have a constant Word of God that's holy and inerrant and inspired and sure. We don't argue *about* that Word, but rather argue *from* it in order to preach and teach and exhort one another. What precious gifts God has given us in the midst of constant change! The only thing we have to fear, if I may paraphrase Franklin D. Roosevelt's statement of some years ago, is fear itself. Sometimes it appears that we have become almost crippled by the fears and doubts that lead us to mistrust and be suspicious of one another, and even to pounce and "score points" on one another. Let each of us admit it: I, Lord, am a poor, miserable sinner. I am imperfect and incomplete. I haven't done the job. I have no defense. But God be praised! He is a God of grace and mercy! He doesn't call me to justify myself! He has done that for me in Jesus Christ! And the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which announces that to you and to me and to all of us is the one great hope and the life of this church. And it frees us to serve one another as we serve our Lord Jesus Christ!

As we cope with fear in an age of change, we can also be greatly helped by the legacy given us by the founders of this church 150 years ago. We're going to have special

opportunities in this convention to praise God for their gifts and guidance. They have helped us to be a doctrinally strong church, interested in growth and mission, caring about the needs of others, seeking to do God's will, and especially dedicated to telling everyone what *He* has done.

I would like to close my report to this convention with the same words used by Dr. C. F. W. Walther, the first President of our beloved Synod, in concluding his synodical address in the year 1850. Here are his words:

> Let us now go to work in the name of the Lord. May God's Word, the sole judge of all controversies, also be our only judge and guide. May the church of God be our witness. May the glory of God and the salvation of the redeemed be our sole objective. May the awareness of God's presence, genuine and pure brotherly love, unhypocritical humility, and inexhaustible patience govern our every word. May the promise of God to hear our prayer for light and wisdom and to grant success to the upright in heart be our comfort. But let all bitterness and obstinacy be far from us. Then Jesus Christ, the invisible head of His church, will graciously be present with us and will bring our work—which of course is not *our*, but *His* work—to a glorious conclusion, and will soon turn our present sighs in the midst of testing into joyful psalms of praise and thanksgiving for His help.

So be it. Amen.

Ralph A. Bohlmann, *President*

CONVENTION SERMON

Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

Delegates, friends, and guests of the 57th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, my brothers and sisters in Christ, please listen to the Psalm that is the basis of our meditation this evening—the basis of our convention theme, "Tell Everyone What *He* Has Done," written in Psalm 105, verses 1–6:

"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known among all nations what he has done.
Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Look to the Lord and his strength;
seek his face always.
Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he has pronounced,
O descendants of Abraham his servant,
O sons of Jacob, his chosen ones. [NIV]

You and I have made the trek from the pew to the altar and back to the pew again many, many times, haven't we? And every Sunday throughout the more than 6,000 congregations of our church body and in many congregations of Christian churches all over the world, brothers and sisters in Christ proceed to the altar of the Lord, often with heavy heart, laden with sin and guilt, feeling weak, only to eat and drink the body and blood of the Lord and then return. And when all have communed, the organ breaks forth and we stand and sing that marvelous canticle, "Thank the Lord and sing his praise, tell everyone what he has done."

What has He done? Ask any one of us again and again, "What has He done for me?" We have just tasted with our lips and with our mouths that the Lord is good, and good indeed! Even *my* sin, taken upon Himself in Calvary, buried with Him in the grave, is forgiven. He has renewed me, forgiven my sin, and said to me in that beautiful and personal way, "My son, My daughter, take and eat. Know what the Lord has done for you." And then we come back refreshed, having joined in this great confessional act that unites us all as Christians, thanking the Lord for all He has done, telling everyone what He has done.

What a marvelous theme these words are for this convention, for our church body, for every one of its congregations, and for every one of its more than two and one-half million members, because it reminds us in a beautiful, strong, simple, responsive, celebrational way of what the mission of the church of Jesus Christ really is. Let's look at those words together briefly and simply this evening as a way of focusing on the mission God has given us and His beloved Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The first word in that Communion canticle is *Tell*. Tell everyone what He has done. So many times it seems that we forget what we're here for. Even churches and congregations, and sometimes even their pastors and other leaders, seem to be groping around for something to explain what the church is here for. What is the mission of the church, we ask. Theologians dig and explore and write learned treatises on the mission of the church, and sometimes it seems to many of us that the answers aren't all that helpful. Sometimes churches act as though we're here to make things happen on earth in terms of political or social change or even revolution. We seek to be something that we aren't really called to be. Now, maybe that doesn't happen so often within the congregations of the LCMS, that we forget our mission, but I dare say that sometimes it does—that at times we are tempted to substitute power, or renewed structures, or organizational change, or simply out-powering someone else as the task at hand.

Our mission is really very simple, according to the canticle we sing after Communion, and very simple in the words of Psalm 105—"Make known among the nations what He has done. . . . tell of all His wonderful acts." *Tell* everyone what He has done. The mission of the church of Jesus Christ, yours individually, your congregation collectively, and of this Synod, this collectivity of congregations, is *telling* what God has done.

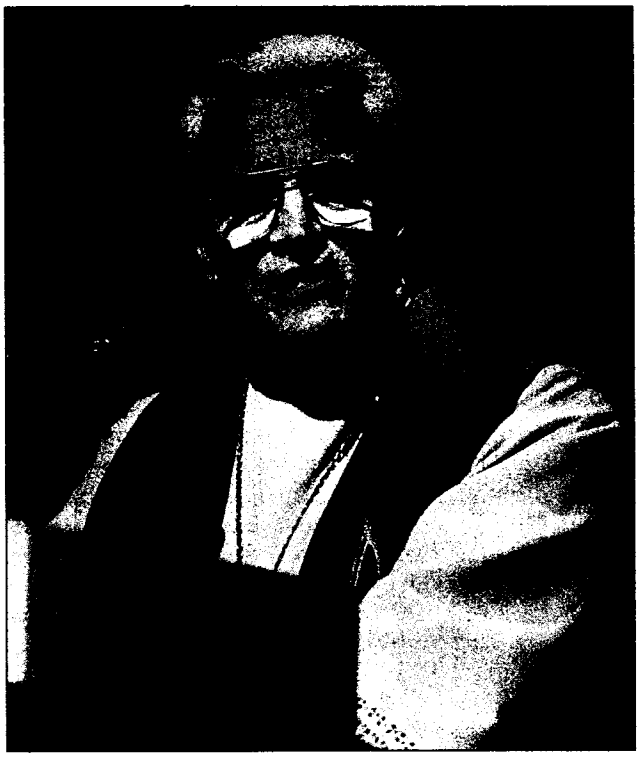
Tell *everyone* what God has done. That second word says it all, doesn't it? To whom do we exercise the mission of telling? The psalmist said it in terms of "all the nations." The canticle after Communion says "everyone." "Everyone" includes, may I suggest very simply, two groups of people. It includes *us*—one another, fellow members of our congregations and fellow congregations united with us in the confession of faith around the world. The church is always engaged in telling *itself* what He has done. That's what Christian education programs are really all about as we tell our children and our teenagers and our youth groups and our ladies' and men's organizations, and the many, many other groups with whom we have contact. We tell ourselves again and again and again the mighty acts and deeds of God, and the promises of God. What God has done is the content of the church's preaching and teaching and service to itself.

But our mission is not limited to telling ourselves what God has done. The mission of the church is to tell *everyone* what God has done. And in many respects, the people who don't know it are the primary object of that mission. We tell one another so that God can build us up and create in us the power and the enthusiasm to tell those who don't know what God has done, what in fact, He has done for them and their salvation.

In this world of more than five billion people, three out of four people don't even know what God has done for them in the person of Jesus Christ. So the task of the church is always the mission task of telling, not only ourselves, but telling the whole world in our communities, in our nations, and indeed, all over the face of the earth.

And then the content of our telling is said so beautifully and so simply in these words from the postcommunion hymn of praise, "Tell everyone what *He* has done." We've tried to capture that in our convention logo by enlarging the word *He* to remind us that the message of the church is not about itself.

Have you ever noticed how the old, sinful flesh in all of us is always very ready and very well prepared to tell everyone "what *I* have done" or "what *we* have done." You'll



even notice it in the convention, I dare say, for it's all too easy to forget that it's not *we* but *God* who lives and moves and works in us. Sometimes it sounds as though we in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are really telling everybody what *we* have done! We tell about those marvelous colleges and seminaries and those strong congregations, about the new congregations that have been planted and started, about the work that we do together in some 35 countries of the world, and the story goes on and on and on.

If you're like me when I come walking back to my pew, I'm not thinking about what Ralph Bohlmann has done, not even those sinful things that Ralph Bohlmann has done, because it's what God has done for me that is the song in my heart and upon my lips. So it was, too, with those ancient Israelite audiences who sang Psalm 105 again and again and again. We'll say it to each other and sing it to each other in this convention. There was no doubt in their minds, as the 45 verses of this lengthy Psalm relate, that it was God's praise and God's acts and the judgments and the words and the miracles of this good and gracious God that were the content of their song and their telling. He is the Lord our God, says the psalmist, His judgments are in all the earth.

"He remembers His covenant forever!" People around us may forget the contracts and the pledges and promises that they have made with one another. But not our God! Not Yahweh, the God of mercy and love, the God of the covenant, the pledging God who has said, "I will be your God, and you will be my people." He remembers His covenant forever! And the psalmist begins to recite those marvelous acts of God—the covenant with Abraham, then with Isaac, then with Jacob, and especially the experience of Israel as God led His people out of Egypt and how He remembered His holy promise, the psalmist says, given to His servant Abraham. He brought out His people with rejoicing, His chosen ones with shouts of joy. Those words become the background and the basis of the Christian telling everyone what He has done.

We Lutherans usually capture that in Trinitarian ways, even as we did in that magnificent hymn a few moments ago. In stanza 1 we sang about the Creator God, the God who has given us our life and sustains it. And in stanza 2 we sang about this great Redeemer God, the God who sent His Son Jesus Christ to take on our flesh and walk in our feet upon this earth in this world of sin and sorrow and shame and wickedness. He became us, He took our sin upon Him, and He took it to the cross, buried it in the grave, and rose with the power of God the Father to newness of life. And now as we sang in stanza 3, that wonderful doing, acting, giving, covenanting God has sent His Spirit into our hearts, even yours and mine. He says to us again and again and again, "You are forgiven. In Christ you have newness of life and in His Spirit you have power to do all that God has given you to do." What a wonderful God this is, this God we praise!

There is even a theological explanation for all of this. In God's way of doing things, He has chosen to use the telling of people like us as the way He brings people to faith. You can call it the efficacy of the Word, or you can refer to it as the Lutheran doctrine of the means of grace. When we tell in Word or in deed or in Sacrament about the marvelous redemptive deeds of God, something happens—God's Spirit unites Himself to those words and Sacraments. And the doing and faithful and acting God opens hearts and gives life and power through our telling about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now admittedly, some people may not think that that's much of a divine program. It would be ever so grand if God had had some more glorious scheme for dealing with the problems of this world. But make no mistake about it, says the psalmist, these are the words of the covenant God that He has promised forever and ever. His power is in the telling that you and I do in this world and beyond.

And do you notice something else about this telling mission that God has given His church? The very first words of this psalm are, "Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, . . . sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. . . . He brought out his people with rejoicing, his chosen ones with shouts of joy." And we capture that in our postcommunion song as well. "Thank the Lord and *sing* His praise." There's a note of great celebration, joy, and praise as we tell everyone what *He* has done.

So often we act like such a sad church, such a dour church. We do our liturgy and worship without this sense of praise and celebration. But when you were a member of that ancient Israelite audience that sang this psalm, and you remembered all that God had done, you could do no less than to shout and praise and sing and celebrate. Surely there is a message in that for us in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and for this wonderful convention, too. We must confess particularly this evening, as He touches our hearts and our lips again with His blessed Sacrament, that we are really not very good at telling everyone what He has done. When I think about myself, I

realize how many times I am really tongue-tied or don't feel like telling anyone anything. There are many times when I feel like I just can't tell at all, just like Moses and other saints of God when God called them to tell someone of His wonderful deeds.

Once in a while our telling becomes concentrated on ourselves or our own congregation or our own family. We emphasize Christian nurture and all of the programs of telling about God that go on within congregations. But too often we fail to do a good job of telling our communities and our world and all those who don't know Jesus Christ. So we tell ourselves and not the world! And we never seem to get away from focusing on what *we* have done instead of what God has done, or acting as though it's our doing, our coming together, our passing resolutions, our organizing more effectively, that will make the kingdom of God come, and come more effectively. For all this, and for ever so much more that we have failed to do for our beloved Lord, we confess our sins this evening. But even as we do, we know that God, even tonight, and even tomorrow and every day of every life of every week, continues to act on our behalf with the gift of His Spirit and the new life of forgiveness.

There are many examples all around us of people who tell what God has done where this has become a special blessing. For in spite of it all, in spite of our weaknesses and sins and shortcomings, wondrous things are still done by the people of God. Ask my friend, George Wollenburg, who got a call this afternoon that a 12-year-old boy in his congregation in Montana died this afternoon in an accidental death. We weep with those who weep, and yet deep down inside, Pastor Wollenburg and the mother and father and friends of that child are grateful to God for those who told him what God had done for him and continues to do in all eternity.

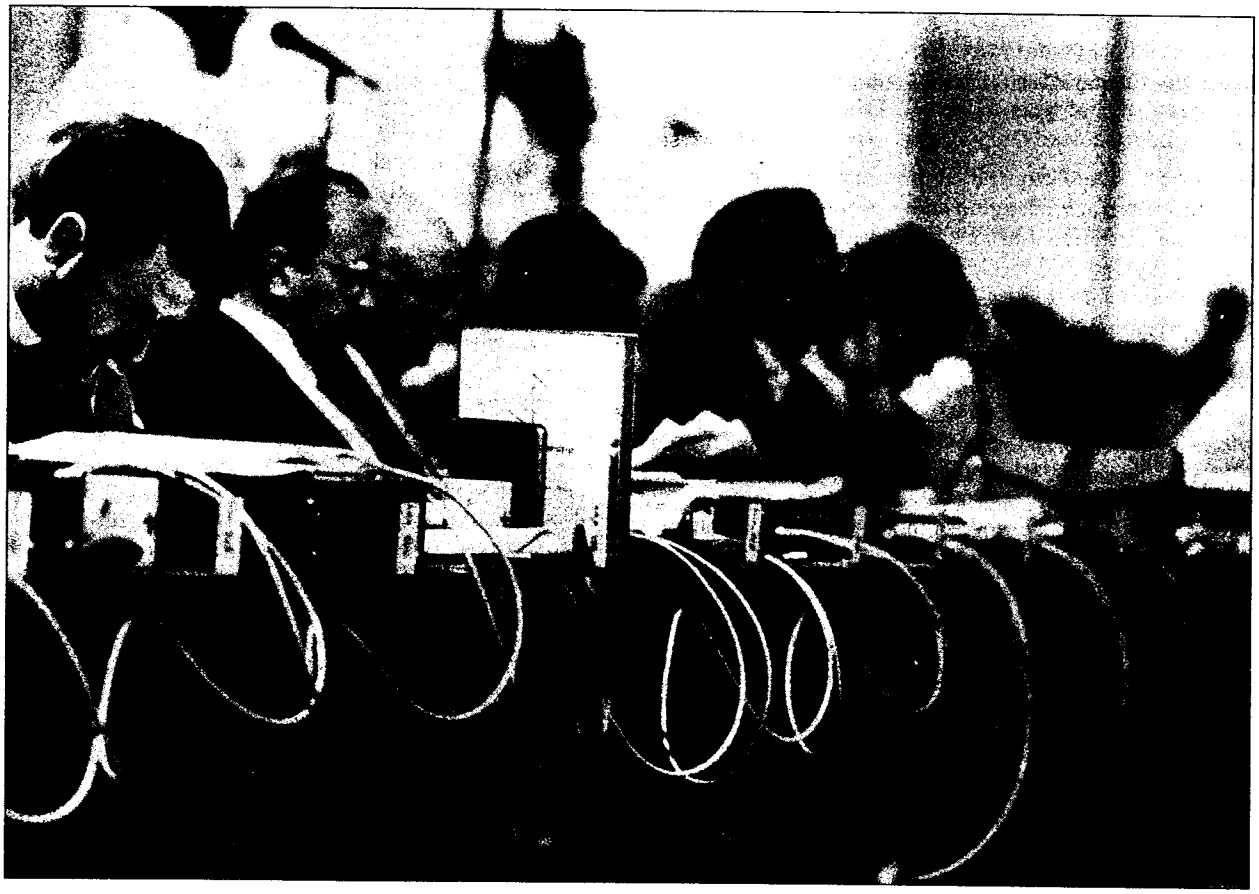
Perhaps during this convention we'll get to hear the story of the little seven-year-old girl that the women at the LWML convention heard about last week in Rapid City. A publication put out by CPH called "The Worldwide Evangelist" told about the pressing need for Bibles in various parts of the world. One day a letter came to CPH written by this young girl, and enclosed with it was a check for $40 which she had just received as a birthday gift from her friends and her family. With the letter and check were the instructions to please use her money to buy some Bibles for those people who didn't know about Jesus. She wrote, "P.S., How many Bibles can you buy for $40?" And when President Gerber at CPH shared that story with his coworkers (and I don't know the exact figure, because I understand that fund continues to grow), several thousand dollars came in from the employees of CPH to help this young girl's gift grow even larger. When President Gerber invited her to come to the LWML convention to tell the story of her interest in telling everyone what He has done through the Bible, the Word of God, her mother responded after thinking about it just a little bit. She said no, that wouldn't be proper, because, you see, she must understand that she didn't do anything special, that the glory really doesn't belong to her, but to God Himself. That little girl had caught the secret of the mission God has given His church—the mission of telling everyone what *GOD* has done.

Ask Missionary Henry Rowold, who wrote some of us a few weeks ago, about the experiences he is having in China, Hong Kong, and other parts of Asia, in the wake of what has happened in the People's Republic of China in recent weeks. Listen to him tell about the persecution of God's church there. When you've been there, as some of us have been, you've had some experiences of meeting fellow Christians in China—that mysterious land inhabited by one-fourth of the world's population, more than one billion people. I will never forget the worship service one Sunday morning in Gwanzhou when 12 of us had arrived a little early with a brochure with our pictures on it, and our names in Chinese. A beautiful old lady came around matching the pictures with the faces, and we asked, why was she doing that? Then they told us: "She is checking out your names to match your faces so that she'll recognize you when she sees you in heaven." Then you thank your good and gracious Lord that someone, somewhere, told her everything that God has done.

So, my brothers and sisters, in spite of all of our sins and shortcomings, we in the church of Jesus Christ have not only been blessed in our own lives with God's forgiveness and life and love for us, but in our congregations and in our Synod, too. That word of the good and gracious and acting covenant God of Israel, who has led us from our own Egypt of captivity to sin and the devil—that has become the message that can capture us and this church body, too. May that happen, my brothers and sisters in Christ. May everything we do in this convention help us individually and congregationally and synodically to *Tell Everyone What HE Has Done*, and to do it with the joy and the celebration of a truly happy and thankful church.

God grant that to each of us, and to all of us together, as we now stand and confess what He has done in the words of the Nicene Creed.

Ralph A. Bohlmann, *President*



LIFELIGHT™ BIBLE STUDY

Introduction

In the spring of 1986 the International LWML passed a resolution:

> WHEREAS, a need is recognized for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to have available a Biblically sound in-depth Bible study; and
>
> WHEREAS, an in-depth Bible study will be comprehensive, doctrinally pure with evangelical emphasis, and stress practical aspects of living a Christian life; and
>
> WHEREAS, an in-depth Bible study will call for a commitment to the study of God's Word through advance home preparation by participants, small-group discussion of homework, and large-group lecture; and
>
> WHEREAS, the President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod fully supports this project and is willing to be involved in the entire process; and
>
> WHEREAS, the magnitude of developing, writing, and producing an in-depth Bible study for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will require special funding; therefore be it
>
> RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League allocate $100,000 to fund a new in-depth Bible study.

The resolution adduced the following: "*Supporting information*—Women of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are in community Bible studies where they learn questionable and false interpretation and doctrine. Because of their desire to find acceptable Bible study materials, many women have asked the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and/or The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to produce an in-depth Bible study."

In two subsequent meetings, President Bohlmann met with the presidium of the LWML (president and four vice-presidents) and representative Synod staff. The meetings resulted in the establishment of an in-depth Bible Study Committee, appointed by the President:

Editorial Committee—LWML/LCMS In-depth Bible Study

- Alberta Barnes (LWML)
- Roy Bleick (LCMS Stewardship)
- Alice Cross (LWML)
- Anita Gaede (LWML)
- Earl Gaulke (LCMS Parish Services)—committee chairman and managing editor
- Betty Haar (LWML)
- Erwin Kolb (LCMS Evangelism)
- Richard Krenzke (LCMS Social Ministry)
- Samuel Nafzger (LCMS Theology and Church Relations)
- Sandy Thompson (LWML)
- *Ex Officio* Frank Starr (pastor, First Lutheran, Lufkin, Texas)—project editor

This committee blueprinted LifeLight, an in-depth Bible study series for adults.

Purpose

Consistent spiritual growth begins with consistent personal study of God's Word. LifeLight is an in-depth Bible study program designed to get every adult in every congregation into God's Word on a daily basis.

But LifeLight takes its participants one step further. Through the weekly LifeLight gathering, participants are encouraged to share their burdens and blessings as well as discuss their answers from their personal study of the Scripture. Participants experience a unity and fellowship that will encourage them to continue studying God's Word and to live out the truths learned.

A Walk through LifeLight™

LifeLight is described as "in-depth" because passages of Scripture are examined in a variety of ways—through personal study, group worship and discussion, lecture, and review notes. The following represents a typical week of LifeLight study.

1. Personal study

Students individually study a passage of Scripture as outlined in the study leaflet, a 5-day lesson plan. Students spend 20 to 30 minutes on each day's lesson in preparation for the weekly LifeLight gathering.

2. Worship

After five days of personal study, all participants meet in a large group to open the class session with worship (5–10 minutes).

3. Discussion

Participants then gather in preassigned small groups (8–12 per group) to share their answers to the study questions. A prepared small group leader facilities the discussion (55 minutes).

4. Lecture

Next, the small groups reassemble to listen to the lecture, which recaps the lesson. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the lecture will open even deeper insights into the Scripture studied and will move participants to act on these truths (20 minutes).

5. Review

After the lecture, participants receive review notes that summarize the week's lesson. They also receive a new study leaflet for the following week. And the process begins again.

Materials

A Five-Year Plan of Study

Written by experienced Lutheran pastors and teachers, each week course presents in-depth studies of selected books of the Bible.

The LifeLight *Planning Manual* suggests scheduling three studies per year (during fall through spring) in order

to implement the following five-year plan. However, some congregations may wish to add a fourth course.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Matthew I	Genesis II	John I
Matthew II	Romans I	John II
Genesis I	Romans II	1 Peter and 1 John
Year 4	**Year 5**	
Exodus I	Acts I	
Exodus II	Acts II	
Hebrews	Revelation	

Student Materials

Each week, participants receive the following two student leaflets:

- **Study leaflet**—Outlines five days of Scripture reading, related questions, and daily suggestions for personal worship.
- **Review leaflet**—Brings further clarity to the lesson studied. Participants receive their review leaflet after hearing the lecture at the weekly LifeLight gathering. They also receive the study leaflet containing the next week's lesson.

To ensure complete understanding of LifeLight planning and procedures, the Synod has developed a training program. Synodical LifeLight leaders train District leaders, and District leaders train local congregational leaders to plan and implement this comprehensive program. Participation in these training workshops is vital to the success of LifeLight.

LifeLight teaching and promotional materials include:

- **Training manuals**—Used in the training workshops, the manuals explain the responsibilities of the LifeLight Leadership Team, which includes the director, presenter, and small-group coordinator.
- **Planning guide**—Gives congregational decision-makers a complete overview of the program.
- **Leaders' guide**—One provided per course. Outlines the lesson plan and helpful tips for each member of the leadership team.
- **Video**—Shows LifeLight in action at a Lutheran congregation to give congregational decision-makers a better feel for the program.
- **Audio Cassettes**—The presenter uses these to help him prepare the group lecture. Small groups unable to meet during the weekly LifeLight gathering may simply listen to the prerecorded lecture.
- **LifeLight for Littles Ones**—a program for 2- to 4-year olds, provides parents the assurance—and the convenience—of Christ-centered child care while they attend their own LifeLight class. 27 session plans—enough for one complete year of adult LifeLight—provides child care workers with step-by-step instructions for each session.
- **Promotional Supports**
  Banner pattern
  Poster
  Bulletin
  Certificate of Completion
  Button
  Lapel Pin
  Notebook

Training

To find out about training workshops in any area of the Synod, interested congregations or individuals should contact their LCMS District education office or write

LifeLight
LCMS International Center
1333 S. Kirkwood Road
St. Louis, MO 63122-7295

Earl Gaulke, Ph.D.

Bible Study 1

Jesus Teaches, Preaches, Heals

(*Matt. 9:35–38*)

Good morning to all of you.

Open your Bibles with me to Matt. 9:35–38. *Sending the disciples on His mission.* That's our theme for the week. We start with the shortest section of all, only four verses, but how powerful they are.

Verse 35: "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness" [NIV].

We don't start with *our* mission, *our* strategy, *our* planning, *our efforts*. Matthew starts with *Jesus'* mission, and that mission is summarized with the words *teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.*

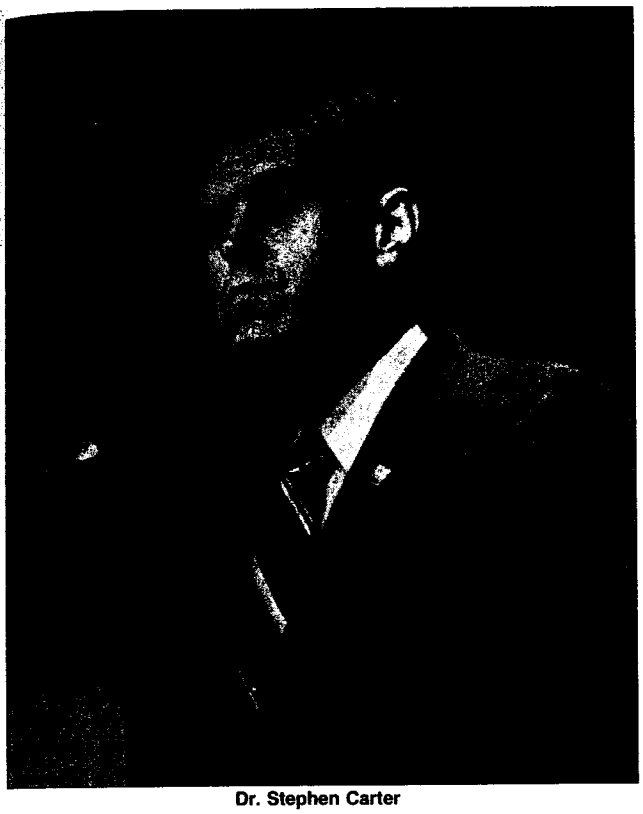
You might be saying that it's hard to start with lesson 7 in a nine week course, but this verse helps to capsulize what has come before.

When Jesus first burst onto the scene in Galilee, as recorded in chapter 4 verse 23, we read similar words: "Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people."

Fresh from the waters of His Jordan River baptism, emerging victorious from the challenging temptation of the wilderness, Jesus comes proclaiming the kingdom of heaven, teaching in synagogues, like the ones of Nazareth and Capernauum, going to the seashore and calling disciples to Him, gathering disciples around Him on a hillside, and presenting what we know as the Sermon on the Mount—identifying Himself as the Messiah, by grace pointing out the Kingdom, and showing the implications for Kingdom-living.

And then the rapid fire events—the healing of the unclean leper whom He touched, encounters with demon-possessed people, and a centurion's servant, raising the ruler's daughter, and many other miracles—all showing Him clearly as the Messiah on a mission. Yes, that mission involved teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness.

Now in verse 36, we learn the focus of that mission, as well as the attitude, or the motivation: "When He saw the crowds, He had *compassion* [italics added] on them, be-



Dr. Stephen Carter

cause they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Crowds—always crowds around Him—bringing the sick, listening to His words, following Him wherever He would go, crowds that He identifies as "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

I guess we know what "harassed" means: troubled, wearied. But when you look at that Greek word for *harassed*, at least in the active voice, it means to flay skin. In a sense harassed means to have your skin laid open, to have open wounds. The crowds were in need. And helpless, helpless as an animal lying on the ground unable to defend itself. Yes, helpless like sheep without a shepherd.

Immediately we think about the problems Ezekiel talks about in the Old Testament, when the leaders had let God's flock down spiritually and as a result (Ezek. 34:5), they were scattered because there was no shepherd—and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. What a predicament.

We think of crowds today as well. Recently, in St. Louis I attended the VP Fair over the fourth of July weekend, where on the riverfront, by the Arch, 500,000–750,000, even a million people at fireworks time, gathered together. Everyone was milling around. I wondered, What's behind all of the looks of the people, and what are the needs that are there? We could hardly move.

We think about yesterday's stirring mission presentation in the morning. We were reminded of five or six billion people around the world, so many of them not knowing the Shepherd. We think about the fact that more and more people are being crowded into cities around the world, where many languages and cultures and religious backgrounds are all thrown together. Crowds, harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

But dare we move by this verse without being willing to count ourselves among the crowds? Are we ever harassed and helpless? Externally, we're a crowd at this convention, and there are many things to harass or distract us—to make our way through a huge book of reports and resolutions, to try to settle into a new city and a convention, to figure out parliamentary procedure and amendments and amendments to amendments and substitute motions to validate our boxes for voting purposes, to stand in food lines and ride on buses. All of these things can cause us to feel harassed and helpless. But on a deeper level, what is it like in your life right now? You're here, you're official, you're serving the Lord in the church. But how is it going in your heart and life, as spouse, as parent, as worker in some capacity. What needs are there. Do we sometimes lose purpose and run dry? We have so many needs, yes, even open wounds.

How wonderful it is that our Lord on a mission looks at the crowds and has compassion on them, on us. Compassion. Not a pretty word from our understanding, because the Greek suggests bowels or intestines, a very visceral word. We would say heart. But what it means is that from the very depths of His being, Jesus the God-man had compassion—and has compassion on the world. Just taking the word in Matthew, we travel back, and we think of crowds following Him when He was trying to go to a lonely place to be refreshed, and He sees the crowds, and He interrupts his vacation to have compassion on them. Or preaching out in the wilderness. He didn't ask them to come there, and they're hungry, and they ought to take care of themselves, but with compassion he feeds 4,000 people. Or in the parable He tells about the king who had a servant who owed $10,000 talents, millions of dollars. With compassion he forgives the whole debt. And then on His way to Jerusalem, there to pour out His lifeblood with the sins of the world upon His shoulders, He stops outside Jericho for two blind men, and with compassion He heals them.

Oh, what a compassionate Messiah we have! Thank God for that. How I love the words of that hymn "Love Divine, All Love Excelling," which says: "Jesus, thou art all compassion, / Pure, unbounded love thou art; / Visit us with thy salvation, / Enter every trembling heart." Jesus, on a mission—teaching, preaching, and healing, showing compassion for the harassed and helpless crowds like sheep without a shepherd. We remember the Ezekiel 34 verse attributed to the sovereign Lord: "As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness." And we move on.

Jesus' mission. He begins to prepare the disciples to go on that same mission. Verses 37–38: "Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' " A shift in imagery: from sheep to a harvest. Around Him the fields white unto harvest. Everyone knew when it's ready, you gotta get out there with the workers and take care of it. And how well many Missouri Synod Lutherans understand that living in the wheat

fields of Kansas. When there's corn and oats and barley, they see the need, the urgency to get out and harvest it.

The harvest. Oh, how we've been exposed to that harvest here by Dr. Nelson Unwene and Pastor Wynn Nguyen and many others. That has been pressing itself upon my heart in the last months. About a year ago Concordia Publishing House was asked to assume responsibility for ethnic resources, and Rev. Carlos Puig came to join us at CPH. Since that time I've been traveling with Carlos around the country, visiting with Hispanics, with Mandarin and Cantonese-speaking Chinese pastors out west, with Koreans, Vietnamese, Cambodians, Laotians, Hmong, also North American Indian peoples, and many black ministry leaders. I think about the harvest in our own lands and beyond. After visiting a Buddhist temple in Hacienda Heights, California, I pondered about the impact of that non-Christian religion right in our back yard.

The harvest also includes our own neighborhood whether or not there are many ethnic groups present. I remember vividly my ministry in Peru, IN, where an Air Force major about to be transferred heard the Gospel in my adult information class, along with a single parent with five children needing much help, or ministering to a woman, recently having embezzled some funds, on her way to the state prison. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

Thank God. We do need more pastors, and we thank God for Concordia Seminary's 150th anniversary of preparing pastors. We do need pastors and other church professionals who are compassionate, who are saturated in the Gospel, and who have that vision of the harvest and want to, with God's grace, bind up wounds. But we also need harvest workers from the whole people of God, bricklayers and commercial bankers, university professors and computer technicians, teachers and government officials. The list goes on and on. Workers to go out into that harvest. But here Jesus says "pray." "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers" with the implication you may well be tapped on the shoulder to go yourself. Pray, and go.

Yes, in these few short verses we have a compassionate Jesus, preaching, teaching, and healing to the harassed and helpless crowds like sheep without a shepherd. We have Him coming to us, asking us to pray for the harvest and for workers prepared to go: "Hark, the voice of Jesus calling, / 'Who will go and work today? / Fields are white and harvest waiting, / Who will bear the sheaves away?'/ Loud and long the master calls you, / Rich reward he offers free. / Who will answer, gladly saying, / 'Here am I, send me, send me'? "

Bible Study 2

Sending the Disciples

Let's pray: Lord of the harvest, send workers out into your harvest. Amen.

I pray because He asked me to, my master. I follow Him. And what a mission He has. He teaches in the synagogues—and how boldly. He proclaims the kingdom of heaven at hand. He preaches. And He heals all manner of diseases.

I hear and I've observed. He's opened my eyes to see the crowds in a new way, harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd, and to look around to see the harvest. Of course, when He asks me to, I'll pray for workers in the harvest. But what's this? He's calling us together to surround Him, and He's sending *me* on His mission? How can that be? I'm not like He is. Praying is one thing, but going is another.

Who am I? I'm Simon, who is called Peter. I'm Bartholomew. I'm Thaddaeus. I'm a no-name. I'm a fisherman, a tax collector, a zealot—not too happy with the Romans. But an ambassador sent out, how can that be?

Pray with me. Lord of the harvest, send out workers into the harvest. I'm willing to pray that because I follow Him. And what a mission He has: teaching, preaching, and healing all manner of hurts. He's opened my eyes to see—to see the crowds, the world, their problems. They're like sheep without a shepherd. I'm more than willing to pray. I'll take part in mission celebrations, and I'll even walk forward and place my offerings in the box. I will read a convention book of reports and memorials, and I will vote on resolutions, but what's this? He's calling us together around Him, and He's sending *us* on His mission. How can that be?

Who am I? I'm a Missouri Synod Lutheran pastor. I'm a teacher. I'm a deaconess. I'm a layperson. A no-name. Listen for His instructions, because it says in the first verse of chapter 10: "He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority." His authority stands behind it all. The crowds were amazed at His teaching because He taught as one having authority and not as the teachers of the Law. A centurion, a man under authority, recognized His greater authority and said "only say the word, and my servant will be healed." The paralytic is brought forward and Jesus heals him so that everyone might know that "the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." And with that tiny band of followers, ready to be given a great commission, He says "all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

The disciples, the *apostles* as they're called here only in Matthew, have a special role never to be repeated. Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, we also as pastors and laypeople, have the authority of His word of forgiveness, and so we can listen. And we want to listen. This is field work. This is continuing education. We're being sent, no academic matter. We want to listen because we're going to be out there on the firing line.

And He starts out, "do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel," a clearly focused mission. At this time, not the Samaritans, not the Gentiles, but there are plenty of lost sheep in those villages to be reached.

I might add parenthetically that we still have a mission to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. I'm very thankful for our Jewish evangelism effort and for people like Milton Kohut out in California that I've worked with, devoted to reaching out to Jewish people with the Messiah who has come.

Our mission, too, needs a clear focus in our backyard, in our families, in our churches and communities, and in

the world that we can reach. But it is a focus that includes Jews and Gentiles and many ethnic groups and many backgrounds, as we said yesterday. The instructions go on. Verse 7: "As you go, preach this message: 'the kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons" [NIV]. What a comfort! Our message is His message. Our mission is His mission.

A message about a kingdom at hand—in the King, the Messiah, who will have the nail-pierced hands as He pours out his life blood, who will rise from the dead. We call it the ministry of Word and Sacraments. We call it the Gospel, which is the heartbeat of all that we are as Lutheran Christians. As long as His message is our message, we can go and lives will truly be changed. That message will touch people in their physical, as well as their spiritual needs, and many wounds will be bound up.

The instructions continue, and I will skip to verse 11 for now [NIV]: "Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town." A strategy and a warning or a predicted response. He says when you go into a village, find a worthy, respected citizen and offer, or ask, to stay in their midst so that you have a home base for operation and you can reach out to the rest of the people in that town. Good advice. Paul used it on his missionary journeys, with Lydia and others; and we can use it today as we plant churches, as we reach out in many ways to people and areas that are not reached.

But the warning or the predicted response is that there are some risks. You come bringing the message of peace and offering "shalom" in the full sense of that complete relationship between God and man which is ours to share with others and sometimes that peace will be rejected. When that happens, Jesus asks His disciples to shake the dust off their feet, to separate themselves even from the dust of the ground upon which that home stands or that village is located and move on from there. A word of judgment here, that a worse state than that of Sodom and Gomorrah will await those who reject.

And now we move back to the final instruction in verses 9 and 10: "Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep" [NIV]. Sounds almost nonsensical in some ways, like asking a football player to play without equipment or a baseball player not to be able to use a bat or glove. Standard equipment for the traveler certainly was a staff and sandals, a tunic and a bag with some food, and some gold or silver at the belt; yet He's saying, "Don't do that." He's saying, in effect, "*I'm* sending you; trust *Me* for your provision. The laborer is worthy of his keep. I'll be with you."

He's also perhaps saying, "Be so focused on the mission that you don't get too absorbed with all of the things you need." I don't know what the implications of that would be—for congregational budgets and synodical budgets and all of the apparatus of the modern missionary effort. I can only hear Him saying, "I'm sending you on the mission. Go out there and trust Me for provision." I don't know if you noticed, but I left one little phrase until last. Right at the end of verse 8, "freely you have received, freely give." Whether you are Simon or Thaddaeus or a pastor or a teacher, that mission is something far beyond our ability to do at all. He has freely given Himself on Calvary for us. And He provides us with all that we could ever need by His grace. And so having received, we freely give and start out on that mission. As the popular Christian song goes,

> Freely, freely you have received;
> Freely, freely give.
> Go in My name and because you believe
> Others will know that I live.

Bible Study 3

Jesus Prepares the Disciples for Opposition and Trials on the Mission

(*Matt. 10:16–25*)

Jesus sets the example by His own mission activity. He calls the disciples on the same mission and gives them His authority to minister. He supplies instructions and promises resources. Now He prepares them for the harsh realities of carrying out His mission. He uses animal imagery. "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves" (v. 16). Helpless sheep, pursued by wily, hungry, ferocious wolves—hardly a fair match!

Jesus continues, "Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves." The serpent in Genesis 3 was more crafty than any of the other animals in the garden. The disciple on a mission needs wisdom and practical shrewdness in dealing with others. Planning and strategy are important. There are times to witness and times to withdraw until a more opportune moment. Yet that shrewdness never becomes plotting or manipulating. The caring disciple on a mission lives with the innocence of doves, not preying on others with the intent to maim and kill.

With the analogies in mind of sheep among wolves and shrewd snakes living as innocent doves, Jesus describes the terrifying possibilities awaiting faithful witnesses. In every case the anticipated suffering recapitulates His own suffering. "Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles" (vv. 17–18). The chief priests and elders plotted to arrest Jesus and kill Him (Matt. 26:3–4). They arrested Him and handed Him over to the Sanhedrin, the Jewish high court (26:50, 57). They struck Him and spit on Him (26:67). He was brought before a Gentile governor, flogged and condemned to die (27:11–14, 22-26). A similar fate awaited the apostles as is recorded in the book of Acts. Peter and John were thrown in jail after healing the crippled beggar and dragged before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:1-22). Stephen was dragged before the Sanhedrin and stoned to death

(Acts 6:8–15; 7:54–60). Paul was frequently thrown out of synagogues, flogged, and forced to testify before Gentile rulers (2 Cor. 11:23–27).

Jesus promises, though, that the disciples will receive power to witness in these perilous circumstances: "When they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you" (vv. 19–20). Jesus spoke before the high priest (26:64) and before Pilate (27:11). Peter and John testified boldly before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:8–14). Stephen courageously proclaimed the message of the kingdom before the Sanhedrin (Acts 7:1–53). Paul preached forcefully in synagogues (Acts 13:14–48) and before accusing crowds (Acts 21:37–22:22).

Jesus proceeds to describe the horrible persecutions awaiting His disciples on a mission. "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another" (Matt. 10:21–23a). The growing opposition to Jesus culminating in His death on a cross would indeed rear its ugly head in the early church, not only in Jerusalem but throughout the Roman Empire. Persecutions would arise with martyrs crucified upside down and others destroyed by lions in the Roman arena. What a grim picture! Jesus then reinforces the understanding that the disciples will simply experience the same suffering He endures. "A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household" (vv. 24–25).

How do we relate to these terrifying words of Jesus? We rejoice that He has called us as disciples. We want to go on His mission to proclaim the kingdom. But how do we understand the opposition and trials He describes? We don't want to suffer and incur the hatred of others. We fear such rejection. On the other hand, in America we have not experienced the severity of persecution described by Matthew. Are we failing to witness boldly enough or does the opposition take a different form in today's world? We search our own lives and witnessing opportunities so that we may serve more faithfully as students and servants of our teacher and master.

Bible Study 4

Jesus Promises His Grace and Daily Provision for the Mission

(Matt. 10:26-33)

Jesus does not leave the disciples with a glum picture of opposition and trials. He richly promises His grace and help in time of need. Three times in verses 26–33 He offers the comforting words, "Do not be afraid." "Do not be afraid of them" (v 26). The hidden will be revealed. Speak in the daylight what Jesus tells in the dark. What He whispers in your ear, proclaim from the housetops. In other words, Jesus' saving message goes with us wherever we go. That message forgives us, strengthens us, and through us reaches a world in need. Don't be afraid because you have His Word.

Second, "do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul" (v. 28). Yes, people will persecute and ridicule. Rulers may arrest and convict Jesus' disciples. But they cannot destroy God's free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. He gives us life and health now but more wonderfully promises us life forever with Him. No one can take that away from us. Don't be afraid because you have eternal life in both soul and body.

Third, "don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows" (v. 31). God provides for the tiny sparrows worth only half a penny each. He knows and cares for each sparrow. He also numbers every hair on your head. Surely God will also provide every daily need as you carry out His mission. He will supply daily bread, physical resources for the task, as well as the grace to speak just the right words of witness to others. Always the crucified and risen Christ stands with you in your suffering to empower you for mission. As the writer to the Hebrews says, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Heb. 4:15–16). He helps us to acknowledge Him before people because He has acknowledged us before His Father in heaven. Don't be afraid because Jesus provides for our every need.

Bible Study 5

Jesus Describes the Mission as Losing Life for His Sake

(Matt. 10:34–42)

Jesus prepares the disciples for His mission by describing the true meaning of discipleship. "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (v. 39). Jesus came to earth to lose His life for the sake of the world. He lived as the suffering servant. He ministered tirelessly to the multitudes, sheep without a shepherd. He showed compassion even to His enemies. He permitted Himself to be arrested, tried, convicted, and nailed to a cross. By losing His life, He made it possible for the world to find life through faith in Him. He also found life through His glorious resurrection from the dead.

Disciples with Jesus' new life are free to lose their lives for His sake. They do not seek their own security or personal gain, but rather they live for others. They stand willing to lose their own lives or reputations as they boldly proclaim Christ from the housetops.

The message of life in Christ is a message of peace from Christ, the Prince of peace. However, those who seek to find life for themselves oppose those who lose their lives and bring Christ's peace. As Jesus instructed His disciples, "If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you" (Matt 10:13). Therefore, losing life for Christ's sake may bring divisions within families, turning "a man against his father, a daughter against

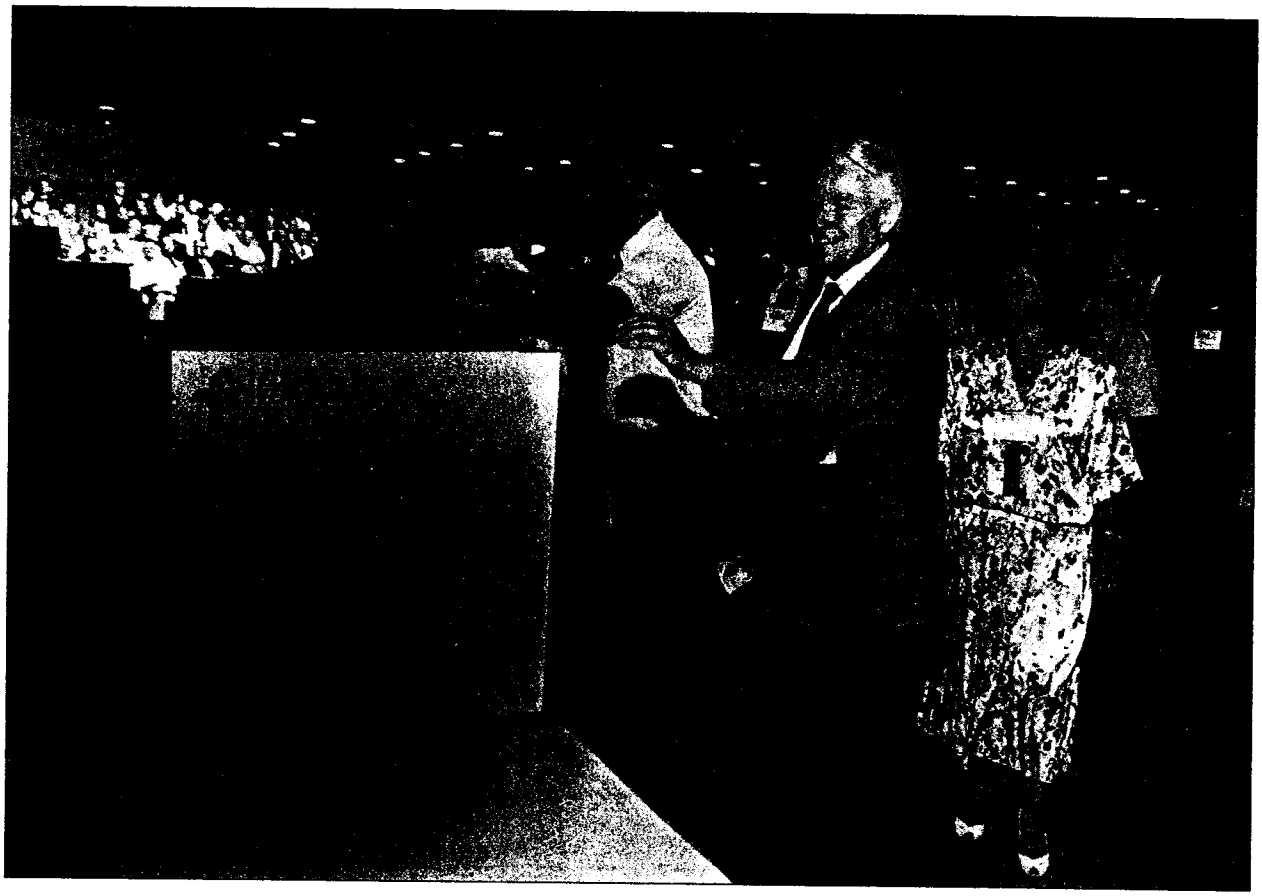
her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man's enemies will be the members of his own household" (vv. 35–36). When a disciple loves father or mother more than Christ or son or daughter more than Christ, that person is trying to find his own life rather than losing it for Christ's sake.

Actually, the disciple who loses his own life for Christ's sake loves Christ so much that he also loves father, mother, son, and daughter with a self-giving love. Even when Christ's sword divides relationships because people reject Him, the disciple continues to proclaim the Savior's life and peace for the world. How blessed those people who receive the disciple, the prophet, and the righteous man, even with a cup of cold water (vv. 40–42)!

In a world that emphasizes gaining life through success, power, popularity, and material wealth, we pause to let God's Spirit search our own hearts. Do we want to lose our lives for Christ's sake or hang on to our lives so that others will accept us? Christ did not come to bring false peace but a sword. We confess our sin of not taking up our crosses and following Jesus.

Yes, Jesus sends the disciples on His mission. He teaches, preaches, and heals. He has compassion on the crowds like sheep without a shepherd. He sees the fields ripe for harvest. As the good shepherd who gives His life for the sheep, Jesus also calls 12 disciples and sends them on a mission to the lost sheep of Israel. They likewise teach, preach, and heal. He gives them His authority and instructs them how to enter the villages of Galilee. Jesus prepares them for the opposition and trials they will face as they carry out His mission. He also promises them His grace and daily provision. Finally, Jesus describes their mission as losing their lives for His sake.

We stand with the disciples and receive our instructions. Called by His grace, vested with His authority, flooded with His compassion for lost sheep, we march forth into the world to lose our lives for His sake. Aware of opposition and trials, we seek His grace and provision for our daily tasks. Most of all, we look to Him for life and peace as we confess our sins and receive His forgiveness. We, too, are sent on Jesus' mission!



THEATRE
RESTAURANT

WORSHIP SERVICES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The legislative activity of the convention is, of course, extremely important. Nevertheless, delegates frequently expressed their greatest appreciation for the opportunities for daily Bible study and the special worship events scheduled throughout the convention.

Dr. James Brauer, executive director of the Commission on Worship, who served as organist, had provided leadership in designing several inspiring major services as well as daily devotions for which the canticle "Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what He has done" formed the theme. Highlights of the convention were the opening service with Holy Communion on Friday evening with President Bohlmann serving as preacher, together with the special Sunday morning worship service with Dr. Edward Westcott, Jr., retiring executive director of the Board for Mission Services serving as speaker. The Sunday morning service with its parade of flags from countries in which The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is involved in telling everyone what He has done, together with the special offering for mission projects brought by delegates from the circuit congregations which they represented was inspiring. Throughout the convention, Dr. Arnold Kuntz, convention chaplain introduced and led the daily devotions and received the prayer requests of delegates, offering petitions for many situations on the basis of them. The special anniversary services in recognition of the anniversaries of Lutheran immigration and of Concordia Seminary provided the opportunity for praise and thanks to God for these blessings.

The large amount of business allowed time for only a few special events. Delegates enjoyed an evening out at Cowtown and joined in a celebration of the anniversary of the Kansas District featuring buffalo burgers and entertainment from a number of local groups. As usual, Monday evening was set aside to allow alumni and friends from the colleges and seminaries to gather in their individual groups to renew acquaintances, hear reports on current activities at the institutions, and be apprised of future plans.

Each daily Bible study was introduced by Dr. Earl Gaulke, editor for the LifeLight Bible study series, and included a short summary and application of the particular lesson by Dr. Stephen Carter. These summaries and applications have been included in the *Proceedings*.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

1. Address of the President of Concordia Seminary

The theme for the 150th anniversary of Concordia Seminary is, as you know, "Light for Our World." And we do well to ask, Who or what is that Light for the world of both 1839 and 1989. Is Jesus the Light? He said, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." Is that Light Holy Scripture? The psalmist already confessed, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Or is the Gospel the light? Indeed, St. Paul told his Corinthian friends, "God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness . . . has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." Perhaps we are the light? That's precisely what our Savior said in the Sermon on the Mount, "Your are the light of the world . . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Yes, all these truths, drawn from the rich mine of Holy Writ, make this a beautiful theme with application to every part of our lives.

And the text, that glorious word about the priesthood of all believers, the text that was a favorite of Dr. C. F. W. Walther, brings together the Light theme with the theme of this convention. On the one hand, the words before us tell us that God has called us out of darkness into His marvelous, wonderful, remarkable light. On the other hand, they tell us that God has done this so that we might show forth His praises for calling us to light. And to say that is simply to say, "Tell everyone what He has done." May the Lord, then, bless these few moments together in the Word by His powerful Spirit as we consider "Light for Our World." The division is simple: We have been brought to that Light. We are to bring it to others.

I

We have been brought to that Light. Some 20 or 25 years ago 30 million people in an 80,000 square mile area covering eight states and part of Canada were thrown into darkness by a power failure. 850,000 people were trapped underground in New York subways alone. Suppose it were to happen again—here—at the convention—some night—no light, no air-conditioning, no refrigeration in the hotels—just darkness. It wouldn't be pleasant. But it wouldn't be the greatest power failure in history. The worst power failure in history took place thousands of years ago in the Garden of Eden when our first parents pulled the switch of disobedience and plunged the entire world into darkness, the darkness of sin and death and hell. We still feel the effects. We feel it in our personal lives, which fall so far short of the glory of God. We feel it in our corporate lives with our pettiness and seeking after vainglory, forever wanting to be master and not servant. Indeed, we have felt it right here in this convention hall, have we not?

But *God has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.* He has called us to the light of His mercy and grace in our dear savior Jesus Christ—oh, blessed truth. He who is the Light of the world has carried our sins into the very darkness of hell and buried them in His tomb. The Spirit of God, through Word and Sacrament, has called to us, "Awake, thou that sleepest, and Christ shall give thee light." And we have come forth into the sunshine of His love by faith in His saving work as our Sin-bearer. No longer need we stumble blindly, unable to see the lights in the Father's house. He who is the Way, without whom no one comes to the Father, leads us on the way to life everlasting. *This message is made clear in the four titles which St. Peter gives us* in the opening words. "You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people." Time does not permit us to look at the beautiful Old Testament roots from Exodus and Isaiah of these titles. Suffice it to say with Phillips in his paraphrase, "All the old titles of God's people now belong to you." "Chosen" even before the world began as those who would be heirs of life and light through the Savior. "Royal priests" who need no mediator or advocate save Jesus the Christ whose blood has opened the door to the very Holy of holies in heaven. A "holy nation," counted so through the merits of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. "His own special people," who by grace belong to Him forever. Think of what *he* has done! He has done it all. We are *God's* elect, *God's* servants, *God's* saints, *God's* possession.

Our fathers gloried in that message, that light. For 13 years Dr. Walther, our first president and the first president of Concordia Seminary, lectured to the Western District on just one theme, that the doctrine of the Lutheran Church alone gives all glory to God for calling us out of darkness into His marvelous light. And that's why he and the others were so concerned about doctrine in general. They weren't trying to be cantankerous isolationists. They weren't anti-intellectual "Biblicists." Their concern for the doctrine of Scripture, for the doctrine of election, for every doctrine was a concern for *the* doctrine, the Gospel as it is here so beautifully proclaimed in this verse. And so, as Walther, at the dedication of the 1883 seminary in St. Louis described how this "small, despised congregation" had grown so marvelously that this expensive building had to be erected for seminary training. He recalled the spirit of the church when he said, "Our Synod did not ask: What must we do to become large and numerous? It only asked: What must we do to be found faithful before the Lord of the church?" Yes, our fathers, like we, were brought to the Light. They gloried in that Light. They sought above all to be faithful to that Light.

II

But now, even as we have been brought to the Light, so *we are to bring that Light to our world.* Why has God made us "a chosen generation, a holy priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people"? "That you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

This was the firm resolve of our fathers in Christ who began Concordia Seminary and a few years later organized themselves into what is today The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. That's why the school was started. Just 11 months after the settlers landed in Perry County, the little log cabin school opened its doors. The early days were difficult indeed. In just four years the four founders were gone. There was sickness and disease and poverty. Their leader had to be deposed. Spiritual doubts gnawed away at the very vitals of the community. But it endured. And for 150 years it has had no other aim than to educate and train men for the ministry, men who with their sheep and lambs would proclaim to others the praises of God.

That devotion to proclaiming the praises of God is *seen in more than in the founding of the seminary*. Let us be done with the old idea that these people sat around guarding their orthodoxy. To read the history of the *Reiseprediger*, for example, is to read a chronicle of grand heroism for the sake of the Gospel and for the sake of Gospel proclamation. They forded streams, slept under the stars, suffered separation and every kind of deprivation, they endured cold and heat, sickness and death so that they might proclaim to them Jesus Christ and Him crucified. They shame us who today often seem so unwilling to suffer anything, who seem so intent on our own honor, comfort, and ease. Here were men, women and children, who saw their task as God's special people to tell everyone what He has done.

And this must be our resolve as well, to bring the Light for our world to our world. At this convention we consider many questions dealing with structure, finances, communications, and now with the new "in word," networking. Good and well—nothing wrong with that. But all must serve this task. And this is not something forced upon us, something we are called to do against our will. This is our privilege and joy as those washed in the blood of the Lamb and brought to the Light that we might proclaim His praise.

Let me close with words spoken by Dr. Walther at the 1848 convention of the Synod. They combine so well an appreciation and concern for the Gospel light with the assurance of success in bringing that Light to our world. He said, "Let us above all . . . be concerned about this, that the pure doctrine of our dear Evangelical Lutheran Church may become known more and more completely among us, that it may be in vogue among all our congregations, and that it may be preserved from all adulteration and held fast as the most precious treasure. Let us not surrender one iota of the demands of the Word. Let us bring about its complete rule in our congregations and set aside nothing of it, even though for this reason things may happen to us, as God wills. Here let us be inflexible, here let us be adamant. If we do this, we need not worry about the success of our labor. Even though it should *seem* to be in vain, it *cannot* then be in vain, for the Word does not return void but prospers in the things whereto the Lord sent it. By the Word alone, without any other power, the church was founded; by the Word alone all the great deeds recorded in church history were accomplished; by the Word alone the church will most assuredly stand also in these days of sore distress, to the end of days. Even the gates of hell will not prevail against it. 'For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away; but the Word of the Lord endureth forever.' " AMEN.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Karl Barth, D.D.

2. Address of the Former President of the Synod

Dr. Bohlmann, members of the convention, and friends:

First, permit me to congratulate Drs. Bohlmann and Mennicke on their reelection as President and First Vice-President. Let's support them with our prayers and good words.

I had not intended to attend this convention. I have been at every convention since 1962, and General MacArthur's words, "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away" apply to old synodical presidents and other old synodical officers. But certain old friends convinced me to attend, and when Mr. Gerber of Concordia Publishing House informed me that Martin Chemnitz's *Loci Theologici* on which my dear wife, Delpha, and I had been working much of the time since I retired, was going to be unveiled at this convention, I began to have second thoughts.

Now Martin Chemnitz is not some shadowy figure out of the past, but a man whom the LCMS should put right up next to Luther and Walther. He can properly be called the father of normative Lutheran theology, the father of Lutheran orthodoxy, and most important of all for a church which constantly talks about the Scripture and Lutheran Confessions, he is a primary author of our beloved confessional writing, the Formula of Concord of 1580. The Formula of Concord is important to us at this convention because it was a uniting and unifying document, signed by 8,000 Lutheran clergymen (more than have ever signed any document in our history) and the only Confession ever adopted at the grassroots level at the time of its adoption. The Formula is especially important to our Synod because it dealt with problems *within* the Lutheran family which had arisen in the 35 years since Luther's death. The three chief culprits were Melanchthon who erred on the Lord's Supper and conversion, Osiander who ran afoul regarding justification, and John Agricola who denied the Third Use of the Law. Yet none are mentioned in the Formula by name; there are no personal attacks. Chemnitz and his coworkers dealt with issues, not personalities. There was more effort to honor the First Commandment than to fracture the Eighth.

Now it is just exactly 20 years ago that I was elected president of the LCMS, and the situation was not unlike that of the period of the Formula of Concord—brother

against brother, distrust and confusion, attempts to lead the Synod in new and unwanted directions. We had before us the presidential election itself, the ALC fellowship question, a new seminary president who had his own ideas as to the direction the Synod should take. The effort to keep the Synod on its historic doctrinal and constitutional basis was met with almost a civil war, the details of which are known to most of you and are too tragic to repeat. I tried to carry out the duties of my office as properly as possible, but must confess many failures. But, finally, by God's grace, the problems were settled, peace returned to the Synod, and the great Forward in Remembrance thankoffering demonstrated the unity and vitality of our beloved church body.

But there were and are those who wanted to prolong the war. I was elected and served during the Vietnam war and felt that continued battle would harm us irreparably. During those years, when the St. Louis faculty's *Concordia Theological Monthly* and its various public relations outlets within and outside of the Synod, Elim, *Missouri in Perspective,* and all the rest, the periodical *Affirm* and its parent Balance, Inc. were of help in the struggle, and for this we give them and owe them thanks. But as time went on, I have come to feel that Balance, Inc.—*Affirm,* together with their stepchild, *Christian News*—and if this is contested, at our '86 convention to criticize *Christian News* was to be charged by *Affirm* with "forgetting Christian ethics"—would serve Synod best by going out of business—particularly in their divisive and irritating practice of issuing an election list, which by *Affirm's* own admission, resulted in the election of 90 percent of its recommendations.

The releases you have received from Mr. Gordon Nelson, himself dumped by *Affirm*, inform you that a prominent leader of *Affirm* who is also an officer and an employee of Synod, has stated that the *Affirm* election list is prepared by "unknown leaders," whom *Affirm* trusts and whose list *Affirm* prints. "Unknown" to whom? Certainly unknown to the Synod. If "unknown," how can we regard them as "leaders"? This is absurd.

I could go on at great lengths to document that *Affirm* is very selective in its support of "our priceless theological heritage." Some dissent from Synod's doctrine is conveniently and politically overlooked.

Nelson is correct in speaking of *Affirm* as primarily interested in power—not theology—and now more recently, seemingly it is just as interested in creating a family dynasty, with three members of one family submitted by the *Affirm*-dominated synodical Nominating Committee, with articles by three members of this family in the June–July issue of the journal!

My concern with this power politicking is directed to the virtual control which *Affirm* now exercises over the judicial branch of Synod.

Now don't get me wrong—not all *Affirm*-elected officers are incompetent, politically motivated or the captives of this group. Many of our officers know nothing about *Affirm*, and many have served well and should be reelected. But when *Affirm* takes credit for electing 90 percent of our officers and then attempts to influence them, we have troubles, and a shadow is cast over the work of every board member. While responsibility has constantly been laid at the door of President Bohlmann for loss of members, financial problems, decline of mission expansion, and theological problems, remember that *Affirm* has for years elected the majority of the members of the Evangelism Board, the Board of Directors, the Board for Missions, the CTCR, and the Regents of the seminaries. Perhaps they, too, bear some responsibility for our problems.

It has always worried me that the conservatives can win elections, but can they govern? We worked hard back in the '60s and '70s to restore sound synodical doctrine and constitutional government in the Missouri Synod. Let's not destroy this by power politics, cronyism, nepotism. Shortly you will be electing the rest of our synodical officers. Let's elect free men and free women to give openly debated and freely arrived-at decisions for the progress and well being of our church. We are a scriptural, confessional, and orthodox church. Let's run it that way.

As an old soldier who has faded away, I want to make three proposals to this convention in what I hope will be my last speech to an LCMS convention.

1. The men who run *Affirm* are also largely old soldiers, and the time has come for them to retire and fade away. I therefore ask that the leaders of *Affirm* stand before this convention and (a)tell us who the members of Balance, Inc. are; (b)give us a financial accounting of your receipts and expenses (over $1 million) in the face of the shortage of mission dollars and money for needy seminarians, and ask your surrogate *Christian News* to tell us about its $500,000; (c)tell us who the "unknown leaders" are who prepare your election list and their special qualifications as over against, e.g., District presidents, the Little Rock Circuit, St. John's Church of Ottumwa, Iowa, or President Bohlmann; (d)go out of business and let the freely elected officers of Synod supervise doctrine and administration and carry out their duties without constant carping and second guessing.
2. If these "leaders" refuse to do this, and I fear they will refuse, then ask the appropriate floor committee at this convention to frame a proper resolution thanking Balance, Inc.—*Affirm* for past services and asking them to shut down along with their agent *Christian News,* and include in the resolution a statement prohibiting synodical officers and employees from participating overtly or covertly in this or similar organizations.
3. I would also suggest that the President, the COP, the CTCR, the seminaries, and the Communications Department, and perhaps others, create, without a special editor or board, a publication under the Synod and the Eighth Commandment for an organ for orderly, open, signed discussion or dissent where issues of all kinds can be dealt with in a brotherly and positive way. We have too long left this aspect of our "walking together" in the hands of uncontrollable and often irresponsible people. Let's give it a try and perhaps thus we may be able to be the church we all want to be—alive, active, moving forward together in Christ and under his Word, so that we can "tell everyone what He has done."

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

3. Greetings of the President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

I greet you—all of you—in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ from your brothers and sisters in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

On the one hand, it could be said of us that we are a very old church. 1988 was the year when many in our church recalled the 350th anniversary of the coming of some of the earliest Lutherans to America's shores. As stream after stream of immigrants came to this land, they brought with them their Bibles and catechisms and hymn books.

In the course of time many of those streams came together. In 1988 three of them flowed into our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In that sense, we are a very young church.

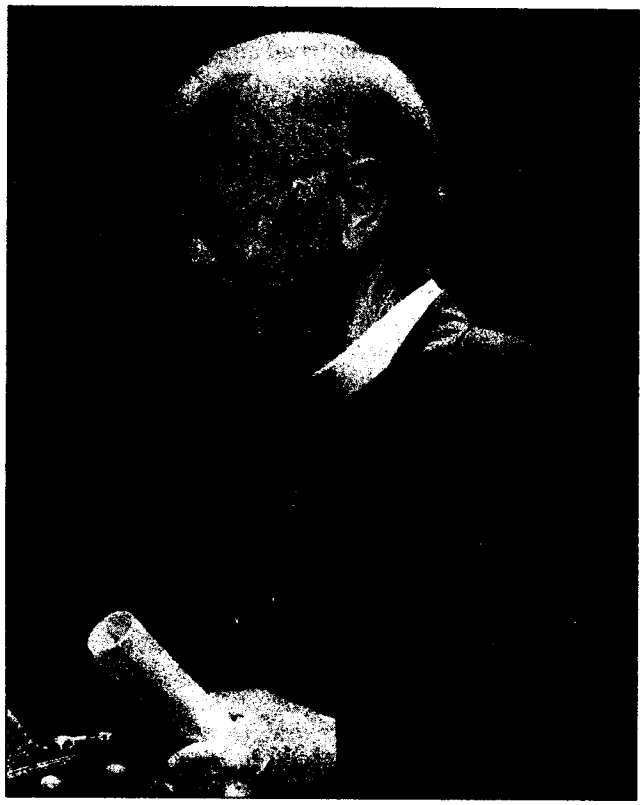
I need not tell you that the past two years since the constituting convention have been a time of enormous adjustment for us. It is no small task to bring together a church of over 5 million members, with 11,000 congregations, more than 16,000 pastors, and several thousand full-time lay workers. But after almost nonstop travel over the past two and one-half months to visit synod assemblies in every corner of the country, I can assure you that the spirit is positive, that our postnatal difficulties are surmountable, and that the long-range picture for our church is very good.

During these times of transition we have valued understanding friends. And I want to acknowledge in your presence the kindness and pastoral support of Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, your president. He was one of the first visitors to my office after I moved to Chicago. Since then we have been together on many occasions, both formal and informal. Out of these encounters has developed a relationship of respect and trust. We do not gloss over our differences. We find that we can be forthright and candid with one another.

But neither do we ignore our common heritage in the Scriptures and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church. No, that does not mean that we will always share an identical understanding of those resources. But our very allegiance to them obligates us to speak with one another and to search for increasing understanding. This is the mood that prevails in the meetings of our Committee for Lutheran Cooperation (CLC), the successor to the LCUSA. Those sessions have been characterized by the same spirit that has pervaded the meetings between your president and me.

I share with President Bohlmann the conviction that it is important to witness boldly, not only to those outside the church, but also to one another within the body of Christ. In so doing, we remind our respective churches of what is at the heart of the Gospel.

It is in that spirit that I come today with a witness from our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As our three predecessor churches began merger discussions in the early part of this decade it was assumed by many that there would be substantial theological differences that would hinder or even scuttle our quest for unity. What we



Bishop Herbert W. Chilstrom

discovered, however, was that there already existed a remarkable theological consensus between us. Out of that consensus came the most important section of our constitution—the part called "Confession of Faith."

The Confession begins with a clear, unapologetic witness to our belief in the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It then moves very directly to this proclamation: "This church confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe." When the Confession of Faith speaks about the Word of God, it begins where such discussion must always begin, namely, with Jesus Christ as the Word of God incarnate. His life, death, and resurrection are proclaimed as the source of all of life and as the only basis for our hope.

The Confession also reminds us that God's message is always heard as both Law and Gospel, beginning with creation and finding its fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

The canons of the Old and New Testaments are also acknowledged as the Word of God. We say that these are inspired by God's Spirit speaking through the authors, and that these are the authoritative source and norm for the church's proclamation, faith, and life.

Our Confession names the three historic creeds as true declarations of the faith and the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel. The other confessional writings are also accepted in our constitution as further valid interpretations of the faith of the church.

Finally, our Confession of Faith lifts up the Gospel as "the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world."

This is our witness to you, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Like you, our first and frequent reason for being is to "tell everyone what he has done." But, like you, we are frustrated over the fact that we are a church that is declining in numbers at a time when the Gospel of justification by grace through faith is more needed than ever. Like you, the decline from year to year has not been as dramatic as some churches. The first year—less than one-half of one percent—a fraction of what some critics of the merger had predicted. Yet the cumulative effect over the years has been substantial. Like you, we are distressed that the resources for mission are not sufficient. Like you, we are searching for ways to grow and to enlarge our mission and ministry. Like you, we are determined to do so without selling our Gospel birthright.

At our churchwide assembly in Chicago in August we will give consideration to a program we are calling "Mission 90." Its accent will be on the basics of our life together in Christ. Across the length and breadth of our church we will focus on such things as what it means to be a Christian; the discipline of daily Bible reading; tithing as a joyful response to God's grace; the need to become a more diverse church; Bible study and witness; partnership of our congregations and synods with other ministries around the world; concern for peace, justice and the preservation of creation.

Because we have much in common, it is crucial that we pray for one another. I ask for your prayers for our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. And we also will pray for you. The hosts of evil encamped against us are so formidable that we cannot afford to waste our precious time and limited energies in anything other than our common venture to make the Good News of Jesus Christ known as far and as wide as possible.

May God give you his Holy Spirit to guide you in all that you do.

Herbert W. Chilstrom, *Bishop*

4. Greetings of the President of the Lutheran Church—Canada

President Bohlmann, esteemed delegates to the 57th convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, brothers and sisters in Christ:

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, head of the church, Lord of the nations, I bring you greetings from the congregations, pastors and teachers of the Lutheran Church—Canada.

That's probably the official way of saying it, although not the appropriate way. It's too much like a respectful handshake. But when your children leave home to begin their own family and then return to visit their parents, they hurry into the house and shout, "Hi Mom, Hi Dad!" They do not just shake hands. They embrace. It's in that spirit that I come to visit you, like a son or daughter coming home. On behalf of your sons and daughters in Canada, I not only greet you, I embrace you sincerely, warmly, gratefully. You have been our spiritual mother. We love you, we think of you often, and yes, there are times when some of us get homesick.

You will always be our mother and we will always be your daughter, but not your child. We've made the decision to accept adult responsibilities for the mission God has given us. And God has blessed that decision. After 30 years of functioning as a federation of Canadian districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we have finally become an autonomouos synod. Our constituting convention a year ago brought together pastors and lay delegates from each of our 334 congregations—plus many advisory pastors, teachers, and hundreds of guests and visitors. Your synodical president, many synodical officers, and over half of the district presidents attended our birth. We cannot find words to express how important your participation and support have been to us.

I especially want to recognize before all of you the outstanding assistance we have received from Dr. Bohlmann and from each and every one of the staff officers, from the various boards and commissions, the seminaries and the colleges. You have been a good and caring mother to us. You have certainly not dumped us in a basket and left us on somebody's doorstep. And yes, Mom, we're doing okay. There's a tremendously positive spirit among our people, especially our laity. Our colleges and seminaries are growing, and there is an exciting interest on the part of our people that our new synod be active in carrying out its God-given mission.

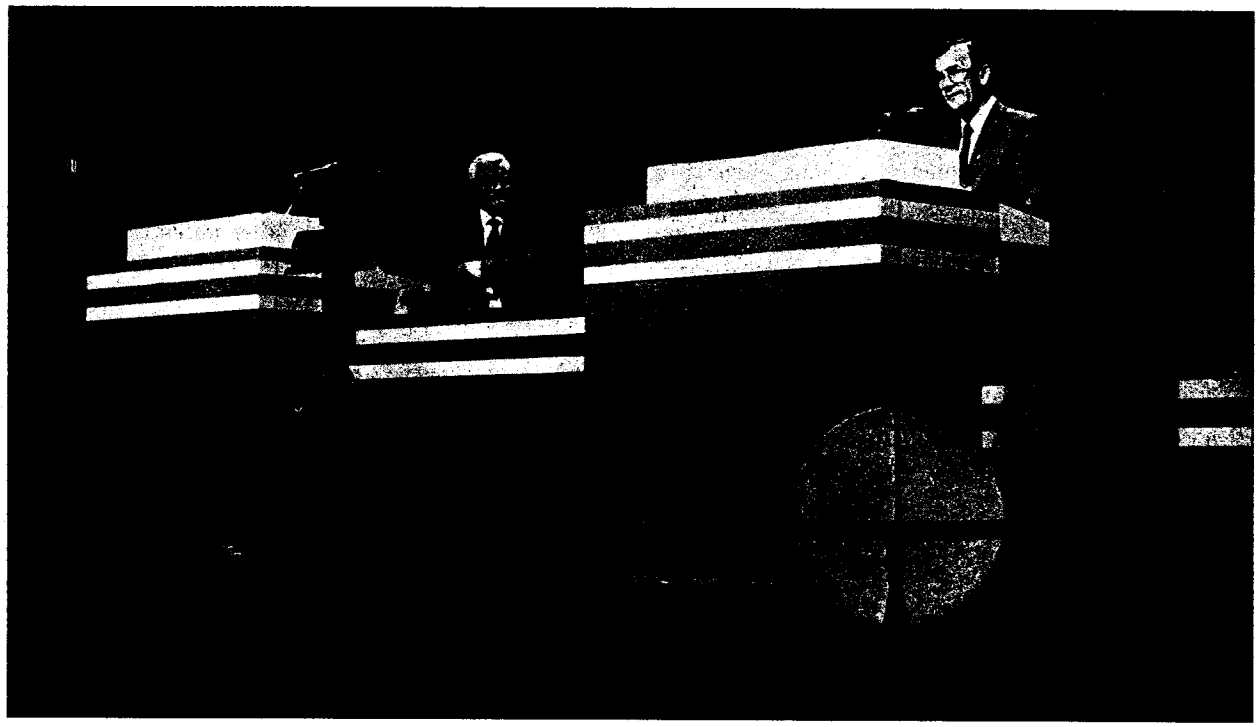
For our part, we are striving to be faithful to what we've learned from you. From you we've learned to stand on the sure and certain Word of God, inspired and inerrant. We subscribe unreservedly to our confessions. You've taught us what it means both to have sound theology and to confess it clearly.

From you we've learned to see that our primary purpose is to proclaim the good news of the Father's love in Jesus Christ as the only Savior of the world, so that the Holy Spirit can create saving faith in the hearts of men and women throughout the world.

From you we've learned to be evangelical in the way by which we live with each other, to seek to be gentle, compassionate, patient, forgiving because we ourselves have been forgiven.

And in those respects, we will consider it an honor if someday people say to us, "You've grown up to be just like your mother."

At the border crossing on the freeway between Vancouver and Seattle, there is a large market with the inscription: "Children of a common mother." The reference, of



LCMS President Bohlmann and LCC President Lehman

course, is to the common origins of the majority of Americans and Canadians.

Of the LCMS and LCC it can also be said, "Children of a common father." Through our common faith in the one and only Son of God, we have become children of one Father, the one who created us, redeemed us and still preserves us. That common faith also gives us a common mission: to tell everyone what He has done.

On behalf of the grateful people of Lutheran Church—Canada, I wish to present to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod a gift which seeks to symbolize our partnership in that worldwide mission. On the floor beneath me is a large globe. On one side, we have inscribed the theme from our own constituting convention, "Our Lord for Every Land." On the other is the theme from this convention, "Tell Everyone What He Has Done." It is our wish that this gift be placed somewhere in the area of the President's office as a reminder that everyone in this Synod, from the President to the member in the pew, is entrusted with this never-ending global responsibility for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And may it further be a reminder that in this holy task, we are partners, not only joint heirs of the gift of salvation but also children of a common Father.

In closing, let me congratulate you, Dr. Bohlmann, and all others who have been or will be elected to positions of service. We look forward to a continuation of the cooperation and support we've enjoyed in the past.

May God continue to bless our partnership and use each of us mightily for His purpose. We love you. We thank God for you. God bless you!

E. Lehman, *President*

RESOLUTIONS

1. Witness and Outreach

Introduction

This year and at this convention we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of Lutheran immigrations and of Concordia Seminary. Our convention theme, "Tell Everyone What He Has Done," is very fitting. During these 150 years, we certainly have had the treasure of the Gospel while we have been a rapidly changing world in urgent need of the pure Gospel—the Gospel of what Christ has done.

In 1839 there were only about 1 billion people in the whole world with only 17 million in the United States and only five places in the United States of over 50,000 people. In 1989, 150 years later, we almost have 5.3 billion people in this global village with almost 250 million in the United States and with 470 places in the United States of over 50,000 people. In just another 11 years we will have another billion people in the world. In another 30–35 years, one-fourth of the world will be Moslem. By the year 2000, one-half of the world will be urban dwellers with 433 megacities worldwide of over 1 million population each. A flood of immigrants is coming to our own country today from Asia, Latin America, and Africa where three-fourths of the world's people live. In the year 2000, Hispanics alone will number 10 percent of our United States population. What opportunities God is giving us in our 150th year since the Saxon immigration!

In his *Loci,* Dr. Martin Chemnitz (a Lutheran reformer following Luther) stated, "Without respect to or distinction of places, nations, languages, peoples or persons, Christ ordered the Gospel to be preached in the whole world, among all nations, to every creature." God is not only giving us opportunities today, but the matter of an aggressive mission outreach is urgent.

In that context, your Committee on Witness and Outreach reviewed the work and areas of the Board for Mission Services, the Board for Evangelism Services, the Commission on Black Ministry, and the Board for Communication Services. We praise God for these boards and this commission and all its members who are serving on our behalf. We praise God for the dedicated staff persons who serve these boards.

We especially want to single out some executive staff persons who will be retiring: Dr. Ed Westcott of the Board for Mission Services; Dr. Erv Kolb and Dr. Leroy Biesenthal of the Board for Evangelism Services; and Dr. Richard Dickinson of the Commission on Black Ministry. The Synod is grateful for the services these churchmen rendered for the sake of the Gospel. We also thank these servants together with Rev. Paul Devantier, Mrs. Florence Montz, Dr. King, and Dr. Schlecht for their assistance to our floor committee.

We also recognize the tremendous mission impact our auxiliaries have within our Synod and within our world—the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League and the International Lutheran Laymen's League and their respective presidents, Mrs. Betty Duda and Mr. Roy Schmidt. The listed service agencies of the Lutheran Bible Translators and the Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ also deserve our mention for the mission work which they carry out.

Committee 1 Chairman Wilbert Sohns

The Committee on Witness and Outreach brings before you resolutions to intensify and prioritze mission, to review and reaffirm the existing 10-year goals, to challenge congregations in evangelism, to establish a Black Ministry Task Force, to consider a study of the name identity of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, to have the *Lutheran Witness* in every Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod household, and many other resolutions that reflect the urgency of the day, the opportunities God is giving us, and God's plan that the church spread Christ's kingdom in the world for the salvation of the lost.

Our committee would urge the convention to take note of two very important matters taking place that have a bearing on and that temper the witness and outreach resolutions of this convention:

1. At the 1992 convention of the Synod, a theological statement of mission is to be presented. This is reflected in Resolution 3-01 of this convention as printed on page 49 of *Today's Business* and in Resolution 3-02 of the 1986 convention of the Synod. This is the basic foundation to any mission endeavor and thrust.

2. The Mission Blue Print for the '90s (and for that matter the beginning of the 21st century) is underway as indicated by the reports of Dr. Bohlmann and the Board for Mission Services as printed in the *Convention Workbook.* It is an analysis of all current world and North America mission activity, as well as a design and strategy for our future efforts. This mission initiative will determine

the direction mission activities ought to take in the next decade and century. Reports to the church will be given on an interim basis before the 1992 convention.

Therefore, as it considers the resolutions, this convention needs to recognize that we are right in the middle of these two major projects—the statement of our mission theology and the formation of our mission strategy. Therefore, the 1992 convention of the Synod will be a pivotal mission convention as we prepare for the next century.

In a paraphrase of Dr. Martin Luther, Dr. C. F. W. Walther stated, "Our gracious God only allows Christians to live on earth, so that they might bring others to the one saving faith. Otherwise God would immediately take a Christian to heaven as soon as he is reborn . . . But God says you must finish your earthly task of leading others to eternal life." In a pluralistic, multicultural, and multiethnic world rapidly expanding into urbanization, that is our task today, in the decade of the '90s and in the 21st century.

The Floor Committee on Witness and Outreach thanks the convention for the privilege of serving and comes before you now with this mindset from God's word, "Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 28:31).

Wilbert Sohns, *Chairman*

To Intensify and Prioritize Mission

RESOLUTION 1-01

Report R1-01 (*CW*, pp. 6–15); Overtures 1-10, 1-14, 1-30 (*CW, pp. 151—52, 154)*

WHEREAS, The mission which our Lord presented to His church is to "make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:18–20); and

WHEREAS, Worldwide 67 percent of all people do not know Jesus as their Savior; and

WHEREAS, Our Lord is presenting His church with both opportunities and challenges by bringing millions of people from many nations, races, cultures, and religions into our communities and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, The fastest growing of these cultures in the U.S.A. is the Hispanic; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, about 100 million (42 percent) out of 240 million do not belong to a church and about 69 million (29 percent) are church members with very little commitment; and

WHEREAS, A common mission statement by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) would help unify and coordinate the church's mission ministry; and

WHEREAS, In order to continue to *tell everyone what He has done* , a renewed and clear mission vision is essential; and

WHEREAS, Our gracious God allows Christians to live on earth so that they might bring others to the one saving faith; therefore be it

Resolved, That the message "that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself" continue to be powerfully and sweetly proclaimed so that all our members are united in their conviction that *telling everyone what He has done* is our highest priority and deserving of our ongoing commitment and constant prayers; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of our congregations, both individually and corporately, continue to be informed of the ever-present challenge of world missions as the Lord continues to open doors for our church; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations and Districts continue to be sensitized to and challenged with the mandate presented to us by our Lord as He brings people from a multitude of nations to our shores; and be it further

Resolved, That mission planting, both worldwide and in the U.S.A., become the highest priority for the LCMS at all levels; and be it further

Resolved, That the forthcoming comprehensive mission plan for the '90s (Mission Task Force) and the statement of mission (Commission on Theology and Church Relations) be completed as soon as possible and be commended to the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod instruct the Board of Directors to evaluate the structures of our Synod in the light of God's primary purpose for the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors recommend to the 1992 synodical convention a structure for mission and ministry which gives priority to God's primary purpose for the church; and be it further

Resolved, That each congregation and District and the Synod itself be encouraged to set an increased mission budget which represents a faith-filled commitment for the next triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That we, the Synod, be recommited to the mission and goal of telling as many people as possible *what He has done* in Christ; and be it finally

Resolved, That this convention pray that the Holy Spirit might fill us with His power to enable us to faithfully and effectively carry out the Great Commission.

Action: *Adopted as amended (4).*

(The original resolution was amended by deleting a resolve which stated, "*Resolved*, That amidst the necessary activities, programs, finances, structures, organization, planning, and administration of the Synod, that God's purpose for the church be given priority as we move into the 21st century, and that all such necessary activities be evaluated in the light of the mission of making disciples of every nation by bearing witness to Jesus Christ that the lost be saved." The sixth and seventh resolves above were substituted for it. The words *the highest* were substituted for *a high* in the fourth resolve and the words *the Synod itself* were added in the eighth resolve by common consent.)

To Review and Reaffirm Mission Goals

RESOLUTION 1-02

Report R1-01 (*CW*, pp. 6–15)

WHEREAS, The Synod in 1979, in the fear of God and counting on His blessing, adopted a number of measurable mission goals; and

WHEREAS, In the 10 years since the adoption of those goals in these areas we are compelled to *tell everyone what He has done:*

1. Goal: 10 new overseas mission fields opened (1 per year)
   Actual: Work initiated in 35 new nations
2. Goal: 10 Bible translation projects begun on 10 spoken unwritten languages
   Actual: 7 new—Moba, Togo; Kalanga, Botswana; Bako, Mbe, and Gokana, Nigeria; 2 cooperating with Lutheran Bible Translators—Kono, Sierra Leone; Kisi, Liberia
3. Goal: 600 new missionaries serving partner churches/mission fields
   Actual: 186—change in philosophy reduced number needed; 27 positions await filling;

and

WHEREAS, In other areas we are compelled to admit our lack of zeal and commitment to *telling our neighbors what He has done* for us:

1. Goal: New churches planted, 180 average per year,including 10 black, 5 Hispanic, 2 Native American, 2 Asian American
   Actual: Average per year of 73 Anglo, 5 black, 3 Hispanic, 1 Native American, 7 Asian American
2. Goal: 50 percent growth (5 percent per year) in baptized membership
   Actual: Negative growth average for 10-year period of .05 percent; and

WHEREAS, The Lord continues to set before our church new challenges and open doors in this country and throughout the world in order that we may continue to *tell everyone what He has done:*

1. Three new nations in West Africa
2. Unique opportunities in Asia
3. The people from nations from around the world living in this country
4. The 42 percent unchurched in this country; therefore be it

Resolved, That we admit our unwillingness to "make the most of every opportunity" to tell our families, friends, and coworkers *what He has done* for us personally, and for Christ's sake ask the Lord of the harvest to forgive us; and be it further

Resolved, That we lift our voices in praise to our God for the doors through which He has led us and for His rich blessing on the Word used to tell *everyone* behind those open doors *what He has done*; and be it further

Resolved, That with and under the Spirit's blessing we rededicate and recommit ourselves to the attainment by 1993 of the challenges, opportunities, and open doors the Lord sets before us as described in the mission goals adopted by the 1986 convention:

1,800 new churches planted in this country, to include each year 10 new black, 5 new Hispanic, 2 new Native American, and 2 new Asian American

25 percent growth in baptized membership

200 new campus ministries

200 new deaf ministries

300 percent increase in number of blind people served

work initiated in 7 new unreached nations

work begun in 7 new spoken unwritten languages

increase in missionary force from 148 to 500;

and be it finally

Resolved, That our reaffirming of these goals be a clear witness to our united determination to continue above all else to *tell everyone what He has done.*

Action: *Withdrawn (15).*

(Discussion of the resolution was begun in session 5 but was not completed.)

To Challenge Congregations in Evangelism

RESOLUTION 1-03

Report R1-03 (*CW*, pp. 16–19)

WHEREAS, The Lord of the church has given us the mission to make disciples; and

WHEREAS, We desire to accept the challenge from our Lord to become once again a growing church; and

WHEREAS, Many of the factors influencing the growth of the church are under the control of the local congregation; and

WHEREAS, The vision of ministry to the world begins at the local level; therefore be it

Resolved, That each congregation be encouraged to put in writing its mission statement, setting forth its reason for existence as a congregation, and develop a plan to carry out its mission which incorporates the following:

a. Emphasize the outreach dimension of every function and activity
b. Become a more caring, loving, friendly, warm congregation
c. Provide ways to help members learn witness skills
d. Train groups to make various types of calls (e.g., visitors, referrals, newcomers, etc.);
e. Develop an ongoing program of intentional assimilation;
f. Find a way for early identification and caring for inactives;

and be it further

Resolved, That each congregation be encouraged to finalize such plan within one year of adoption of this resolution, and that such plan be shared with its Circuit Counselor and District evangelism board/committee; and be it finally

Resolved, That we pray for the power of the Spirit to enable us to grow in a positive attitude toward outreach and to find and use those resources available to us to *tell everyone what He has done!*

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Establish a Task Force for Black Ministry

RESOLUTION 1-04A

Report R1-05 (*CW*, pp. 20–21); Overture 1-45 (*CW*, p. 155)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in convention in 1977 identified the need for renewed emphasis and special planning in black ministry (Res. 10-01A); and

WHEREAS, The 1977 LCMS convention established a Commission on Black Ministry to plan, to coordinate, and to expand black ministry (Res. 10-01A); and

WHEREAS, The 1981 LCMS convention established the Standing Committee for Black Ministry (Commission on Black Ministry); and

WHEREAS, The Board for Mission Services established the position of Counselor for Black Ministry which was filled Nov. 1, 1985; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Black Ministry, since its inception, has been a catalyst in coordinating the black ministry within our Synod; and

WHEREAS, Changing conditions within black communities are offering growing opportunities for mission and ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That the President of the Synod convene a special task force for thorough review and evaluation and to set goals and to create a vision for the ongoing work of black ministry in our church; and be it further

Resolved, That this task force (which shall consist of a majority of black members) be composed of the following:

(1) one representative of the Board of Directors
(2) two representatives of the Commission on Black Ministry
(1) one member-at-large who shall be a black pastor appointed by the President of the Synod
(1) one member of the Board for Mission Services
(2) two staff: the executive director of the Commission on Black Ministry and the executive director of the Board for Mission Services or his representative;

and be it further

Resolved, That this task force report its findings and recommendations to the President by Jan. 1, 1991, for implementation and assignment to the appropriate entity in the LCMS; and be it finally

Resolved, That we give thanks to the Lord for the blessings He has bestowed upon black ministry for the past 112 years.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Evaluate Church's Name in View of Church's Mission to Tell Everyone What He Has Done

RESOLUTION 1-05A

Report R1-07 (*CW*, pp. 5, 21–24)

WHEREAS, We thank God for our heritage and the history of our church and are proud to be known as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, The new Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has designated their districts as "synods," including their "Missouri-Kansas Synod," and this creates confusion and some loss of identity for us; and

WHEREAS, There is confusion overseas, within our own borders, and in Washington, D.C., as to the size and scope of our church; and

WHEREAS, Our church has not always been called The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (it was once called the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States); and

WHEREAS, Geographically our roots may be in Missouri, but our mission is to all nations, and we are called to tell the story to all; and

WHEREAS, There are many "nations" of people even within our own national borders (e.g., Asian, black, Hispanic, Indian, and other ethnic and cultural groups); and

WHEREAS, Our church's headquarters is called the International Center; and

WHEREAS, Our auxiliaries are known as international organizations (e.g., International Lutheran Laymen's League and International Lutheran Women's Missionary League); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Communication Services (BCS) continue the identity study of the Synod (see *CW* p. 23); and be it further

Resolved, That the BCS also study the question of changing or strengthening the name of our Synod to reflect an evangelical and international dimension that conveys our heritage, and our mission to *tell everyone what He has done*; and be it further

Resolved, That the study mentioned above include consultation with our partner churches in other countries and solicitation of names from the congregations and other entities of the Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That the BCS report back to the Synod in convention in 1992 for possible action.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Encourage Urban Ministry Planning

RESOLUTION 1-06

Report R1-01 (*CW*, pp. 11—12); Overture 1-12 (*CW*, p. 151)

WHEREAS, The continued influx of people into our nation's large urban centers means that 80 percent of our citizens will be living in metropolitan centers by the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, Millions of immigrants from countries around the world are settling in our nation's large cities; and

WHEREAS, The laborers are few for this challenging ministry; and

WHEREAS, There are hundreds of Missouri Synod congregations actively engaged in a variety of cross-cultural, evangelistic, transitional, ethnic, and educational minis-

tries in urban settings, with little or no intercommunication beyond narrow city or regional boundaries; therefore be it

Resolved, That a plan of action to coordinate a network of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod urban parishes, their pastors, and lay leaders, be undertaken by the Urban Task Force for the purpose of mutual support, encouragement, and the development and exchange of resources and ideas; and be it further

Resolved, That synodical seminaries and colleges be encouraged to participate in such a consortium by providing vicars, pastors, teachers-in-training, and other professionals to assist in the multiplication of urban ministry.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Encourage Rural Ministry Outreach

RESOLUTION 1-07

Report R1-01 (*CW*, p. 11)

WHEREAS, There has been a steady decline of population in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, Forty-eight percent of the population that resides in rural areas is unchurched and is in need of the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, Those who are laboring in this ripe field are in need of support, encouragement, and additional help so that the Gospel be taught and preached effectively; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage the continued and intensified efforts being done by the Rural Ministry Task Force especially in the areas of training vicars/pastors, in-service growth, and lay leadership training in bringing together dedicated and capable workers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Rural Ministry Task Force continue to develop plans of action and to coordinate a network of rural parishes so that pastors and lay leaders of those areas come together for mutual support, encouragement, and the exchange and development of resources and ideas; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod's Board for Mission Services Rural Ministry Task Force be encouraged to intensify efforts to undergird and strengthen the outreach efforts of congregations as they seek to meet the challenge of reaching these people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Increase Distribution of *Lutheran Witness*

RESOLUTION 1-08

Report R1-07 (*CW*, pp. 21–24)

WHEREAS, There are 850,000 households in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), with less than 400,000 households currently receiving *Lutheran Witness*; and

WHEREAS, *Lutheran Witness* is an excellent educational and motivational tool that brings us together as a body; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Communication Services (BCS) be instructed to investigate methods to place *Lutheran Witness* into every household of the LCMS; and be it further

Resolved, That the BCS in consultation with the Board of Directors and Concordia Publishing House explore and test funding methods to accomplish this goal.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

Subject: To Create a Comprehensive Marketing/Communications Plan

RESOLUTION 1-09

Report: R1-07 (*CW*, p. 23)

WHEREAS, The boards and commissions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) produce a variety of resources as listed in the Congregational Resource Catalog; and

WHEREAS, Many of our congregations, schools, and organizations are still unaware of, or do not fully utilize, these resources available to them; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Communication Services (BCS) has continued to seek methods to improve the quality of communication materials that interpret the mission and ministry of the people and the congregations of the LCMS; therefore be it

Resolved, That the BCS develop a comprehensive marketing/communications plan to better inform LCMS congregations, schools, and organizations of the resources and materials available to them.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Encourage Participation in "Together in Mission"

RESOLUTION 1-10

Report R1-01 (*CW*, pp. 14–15)

WHEREAS, The 1981 convention authorized a personalized missionary support program which is now known as Together in Mission (TIM); and

WHEREAS, A growing number of congregations throughout the Synod (400+ at present) have experienced a renewed mission vision through direct contact with missionaries; and

WHEREAS, Since in the beginning of TIM, nearly $4 million has been given by congregations in addition to their mission budget support of our church's mission program; and

WHEREAS, Congregations gain a growing sense of ownership in the missionary enterprise through their partnership with missionaries; and

WHEREAS, Missionaries are encouraged and supported through the prayers of God's people and their letters of encouragement; and

WHEREAS, In a growing number of cases, congregations

are learning to work together toward the accomplishment of a common goal by supporting a missionary in partnership with other congregations; and

WHEREAS, Children and adults are helped to understand God's mission and their part in it by direct contact with missionaries and their families which the TIM program provides; and

WHEREAS, God is providing a renewed impetus to the TIM program through the incorporation of retired missionaries who are sharing the blessings of the TIM program with congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the congregations of the Synod which are presently part of the TIM program be commended for their participation; and be it further

Resolved, That the missionaries and mission staff who are cooperating with congregations in the TIM program be encouraged for their assistance; and be it finally

Resolved, That all the congregations of the Synod be encouraged to prayerfully consider their participation in this unique program.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Praise God for Missionary Service

RESOLUTION 1-11

Report R1-01 (*CW*, pp. 6–15)

WHEREAS, Since 1895 the Lord has blessed our church with committed and dedicated expatriot missionaries—clergy, teacher and lay—who have been and still are *telling everyone what He has done*; and

WHEREAS, In the past triennium seven veteran missionaries—clergy and lay—retired from partner churches/mission fields with a total of 217 years of active service:

Evangelistic missionaries and their wives:
Luther and Juanita Meinzen 42 years, India
Arnold and Juanita Lutz—42 years, India
George and Sachiye Shibata—40 years, Japan
Douglas and Phyllis Johnstone—19 years, Venezuela

Lay missionaries:
Nora Mitchel—teacher 31 years, India
Mary McNabb—nurse 22 years, India
Dorothy Degnitz—nurse 21 years, Papua New Guinea; and

WHEREAS, Special note should be taken that the leaving of Missionary and Mrs. Meinzen closed the evangelistic missionary era begun by our church in 1895 since it is no longer possible to secure permission for evangelistic missionaries to work in India; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention assembled praise God for 94 years of faithful *telling everyone what He has done* by evangelistic and lay missionaries in 23 countries throughout the world, giving special thanks for those listed above for their combined 217 years in the Lord's service; and be it further

Resolved, That we lift our voices in praise to God for the 94 years during which He granted our church the privilege of sending evangelistic missionaries to India, and pray His strong power and blessing upon the India Evangelical Lutheran Church as they assume full responsibility for telling their fellow Indians *everything that He has done;* and be it finally

Resolved, That we dedicate ourselves to the continued sending of missionaries whenever and wherever the Lord opens the door for our church.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Strengthen Witness to Jewish People

RESOLUTION 1-12

Report R1-03 (*CW*, pp. 18–19); Overtures 1-16–17, 1-19–22 (*CW*, pp. 152–53)

WHEREAS, Our mission of making disciples is to all nations, including both Jews and Gentiles; and

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention has adopted resolutions supporting Jewish evangelism in each convention since 1977; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Mission Services is now responsible for this work and has assigned a staff person to work with the Task Force on Witnessing to Jewish People; and

WHEREAS, God has blessed this work with the result that Jewish people have come to faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior; therefore be it

Resolved, That we thank God for the positive results produced by those who have been involved in supporting this work, developing resource materials, and implementing Jewish evangelism; and be it further

Resolved, That we reaffirm our Synod's sincere commitment to an expanded emphasis in Jewish evangelism by accepting the goal set by its Task Force on Witnessing to Jewish People that teams of at least 3 trained workers in 5 major cities of Jewish population be established in the next 10 years; and be it finally

Resolved, That we as a Synod continue to pray for a mission concern for Jewish people throughout the world and encourage congregations and Districts with larger concentrations of Jewish people to reach out to them with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Action: *Adopted as amended by common consent (15).*

(The words *by accepting . . . next 10 years* were added to the second resolve by common consent.)

To Encourage Continued Participation in Laborers for Christ Program

RESOLUTION 1-13

Overture 1-25 (*CW*, p. 154)

WHEREAS, God has blessed our church with the Laborers for Christ program; and

WHEREAS, This program has made it possible for 358 full-time and 845 part-time retired laborers to complete 296 projects, with an additional 240 projects currently scheduled and/or under construction; therefore be it

Resolved, That we acknowledge this program as a special blessing and opportunity from our Lord; and be it further

Resolved, That our congregations and pastors continue to identify and encourage retired people to enroll in the Laborers for Christ program for participation in one or more of its projects.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Encourage Participation in Great Commission Convocations

RESOLUTION 1-14

Report R1-06 (*CW*, p. 21); Overture 1-50 (*CW*, p. 156)

WHEREAS, The Synod has been uniquely blessed through three Great Commission Convocations; and

WHEREAS, The 1988 Great Commission Convocation Committee recommended future convocations; and

WHEREAS, Financial support would be helpful in enabling greater participation by both laity and full-time church workers; and

WHEREAS, Traditionally, Great Commission Convocations have been carried out without financial assistance from the synodical budget; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage the scheduling of future Great Commission Convocations; and be it further

Resolved, That we challenge congregations, Circuits, and Districts to provide financial assistance through special offerings, grants, and other avenues to facilitate the involvement of a maximum number of people; and be it finally

Resolved, That we thank God for His abundant blessings on these Great Commission Convocations, which enable us to *tell everyone what He has done.*

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Facilitate Process of Securing Directors of Evangelism

RESOLUTION 1-15

Overture 1-23 (*CW*, pp. 153–54)

WHEREAS, There is a genuine need to assist congregations in identifying and securing individuals to serve as certified directors of evangelism; and

WHEREAS, The District offices can render valuable services to our congregations in locating such individuals; and

WHEREAS, The District Presidents already provide congregations with lists of candidates for such offices as pastor, teacher, or DCE; therefore be it

Resolved, That the District Presidents, in consultation with their staffs, develop and maintain a list of people who can serve our congregations as certified directors of evangelism; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage the colleges of the Synod which certify directors of evangelism (Christ College Irvine, Irvine, Calif.; and Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn.) regularly to supply the District Presidents with the names of individuals who are available to be consecrated as directors of evangelism; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage congregations seeking to obtain a director of evangelism to request a list of candidates through the office of their District President; and be it finally

Resolved, That when an individual accepts an appointment to serve as a director of evangelism, he notify the President of the District in which the congregation is located as well as the Secretary of the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Celebrate Centennial of Deaf Ministry

RESOLUTION 1-16

Overtures 1-60A–G (*CW*, p. 156)

WHEREAS, Lutheran congregational ministry with deaf people began in 1894 with a worship service in sign language conducted by Rev. Augustus Reinke in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, The Synod established deaf ministry as its mission at the 1896 synodical convention in Fort Wayne; and

WHEREAS, God has richly blessed this ministry, so that there are now 54 congregations of deaf people in the Synod and an additional 200 congregations with interpreted ministry for deaf people, with more than 5,000 confirmed members who are deaf; therefore be it

Resolved, That we give thanks to God for His blessings to this ministry and for the gifts that His Spirit has given to His people who are deaf; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the Synod consider initiating in the 1995 synodical convention the celebration of the Centennial of Deaf Ministry.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

(In connection with adoption of the resolution the John of Beverly Award was given by Mill Neck Manor to Dr. Elaine Costello, presently director and editor-in-chief of the Gallaudet University Press. The Detroit School for the Deaf presented its Ephphatha Award to Rev. Walter Busby for his ministry to and contributions to the education of the deaf.)

To Include Congregations in Formation (Missions) in the *Lutheran Annual*

RESOLUTION 1-17

Overture 1-34 (*CW*, pp. 154–55)

WHEREAS, Conservation of souls is important in the work of the kingdom; and

WHEREAS, Members should be referred to sister congregations when moving into a new area; and

WHEREAS, Many use *The Lutheran Annual* for vacation worship planning; and

WHEREAS, *The Lutheran Annual* currently lists the names of the congregations in formation (mission) when they are submitted by the District offices; therefore be it

Resolved, That all District offices be directed to submit to the Department of Human Resources the names of those congregations in formation (mission).

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Decline Certain Overtures

RESOLUTION 1-18

Overtures, 1-55 (*CW*, p. 156)

WHEREAS, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various reasons, that certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following overture be respectfully declined for the reasons given:

Overture	*Subject*	*Reason*
1-55	Names for Campus Pastors	Responsibility of congregations and Districts

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Consider Membership Status of Auxiliaries on Board for Mission Services

RESOLUTION 1-19A

Overture 1-40 (*CW*, p. 155)

WHEREAS, The International Lutheran Women's Missionary League (ILWML) and the International Lutheran Laymen's League (ILLL) are recognized as official auxiliaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, The ILWML and the ILLL are closely involved in and supportive of the programs carried out by the Board for Mission Services (BFMS); and

WHEREAS, A closer relationship between the Synod and the two auxiliaries would benefit both the mission of the Synod and the mission of the auxiliaries; and

WHEREAS, The Mission Task Force has as part of its responsibility a study of the composition of the BFMS including its advisory members; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Mission Task Force consider voting- or advisory-membership status for representatives of the two auxiliaries of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That until the task force recommendations are implemented, the BFMS continue to communicate and work with the ILWML and the ILLL to demonstrate their partnership in the task of *telling everyone what He has done;* and be it further

Resolved, That the respective presidents of the ILWML and the ILLL be invited to be present as advisory members of the BFMS following this convention and throughout the current triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the recommendations on this matter with appropriate Bylaw changes be brought to the 1992 convention; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod praise God for the mission and ministry of the ILWML and the ILLL.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

2. Congregational Ministries

Introduction

Committee 2 — Congregational Ministries — dealing with the general area of congregational services, addressed a potpourri of reports and overtures on *Workbook*, pages 26–55 covering work of

- the Board for Parish Services,
- the Board for Youth Services,
- the Commission on Worship,
- the President's Commission on Women,
- the Committee on Continuing Education,
- Concordia Publishing House, and
- the Concordia Historical Institute.

In addition, the committee wrestled with over 60 overtures submitted by congregations, boards, commissions, committees, faculties, Districts, Circuits and other eligible entities of the Synod.

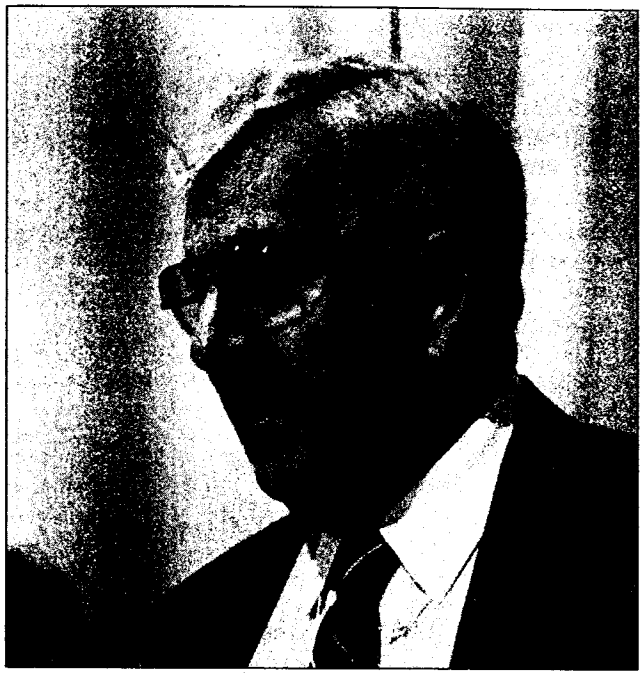
The largest entity with which we dealt was the Board for Parish Services, headed by its executive, Dr. H. James Boldt. We marveled at all of the services covered by this board and all of its facets—schools, Sunday schools, high schools, directors of Christian education, teachers, education, curricular materials, confirmation materials, etc. It's overwhelming! We thank God for all of the people—too numerous to mention—who work for us and our parishes providing personnel and programs and for the board that oversees this massive operation.

Who can measure, likewise, all of the things done by our Board for Youth Services and its executive, Dr. Richard Bimler, and his capable staff and huge network of volunteers across the Synod? After a synodwide successful youth gathering in Washington, DC, a couple of years ago they came back with an even bigger event with over 17,000 registered to participate from August 5–9, in Denver, Colo. We thank God for the thousands of youth and adults who work at youth ministry throughout the year in all parts of our church.

Week in and week out our members are affected by the work of our Commission on Worship, headed by its executive, Dr. James Brauer. It's difficult to be objective about worship materials, especially in a day and age of pluralism, and inclusivity and exclusivity. Our heritage favors catholic and liturgical worship, yet we are living in times of change when less formal styles of worship appeal to newer people whom we want to attract to our churches as we attempt to carry out the great commission in our Sunday and holiday offerings. So we must address concerns which serve all who come under our ministries.

One of the most significant and challenging issues of our day concerns the role of women in the church. Since a higher percentage of our members are female than male, there is a call for a more significant role and involvement of women in the life of the church. We commend Dr. Jean Garton and the Commission on Women for the outstanding work they have done in this vital area of our church.

It's important that our professional workers continue to improve themselves for their contemporary ministries through continuing education. We commend Dr. Stephen Carter and Dr. David Zersen and all others working in this emerging area of concern in our church.



Committee 2 Chairman Arnold Kromphardt

Concordia Publishing House is celebrating its 120th anniversary at this time. CPH has been an outstanding servant of our church in providing particularly the printed resources which our church has needed throughout its history, and in more recent years ecclesiastical arts, media, computer services, etc. We commend Mr. Jack Gerber, president, his staff, and the managing board for the continuing high standards which they have maintained in the quality products which they produce for our congregations, schools, and other agencies.

Finally, we commend Concordia Historical Institute and its directors, especially its executive director, Dr. August Suelflow, who is completing 41 years of service in leading the development of CHI to become one of the finest archives in the world.

We wish to assure all those who submitted overtures to the Synod within the purview of Committee 2 that we gave your concerns careful review and attention, and we pray that our Lord's will is done with respect to your concerns and those of the church and its people as we consider now the disposition of those concerns by our committee.

Thanks to Committee 2 especially Linda Stoterau, secretary and President Arleigh Lutz, vice-chairman.

Committee 2 has given careful review and consideration to all of the reports and overtures submitted to us so that we may *tell everyone what He has done.* We pray that we have responded appropriately to your concerns and that this convention will give them the attention which they deserve. It has been our pleasure to serve this convention.

Arnold Kromphardt, *Chairman*

To Strengthen Sunday Schools of Synod

RESOLUTION 2-01

Overture 2-36 (*CW*, pp. 163–164)

WHEREAS, Until recent years 85–95 percent of the infants baptized in churches of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at a later appropriate age received the rite of confirmation; and

WHEREAS, During the past 20 years this percentage has steadily decreased so that today only 55 percent of infants baptized in our churches either enroll in Sunday school or later receive the rite of confirmation; and

WHEREAS, Only 66 percent of our congregations report any kind of infant/toddler program (e.g., cradle roll) to minister to recently baptized infants and their parents; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod encourage every congregation of the Synod to establish and maintain a well-organized, active infant/toddler ministry to and with every infant baptized in our churches and their parents; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage every congregation of the Synod to maintain through its agencies of Christian education an intentional personal ministry with every baptized individual in the congregation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage every congregation of the Synod to evaluate and seek to strengthen its Christian education ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage every congregation of the Synod to strengthen its Sunday school program by enabling its Sunday school teachers to participate in the Tenth North American Sunday School Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Minneapolis, Minn., July 13–15, 1990; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod during 1990–91 make a concerted effort through a "Year of the Sunday School" to support its congregations in improving and strengthening their Sunday schools; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod direct, and provide with adequate funds, its Board for Parish Services to support and promote this "Year of the Sunday School" during 1990–91 by producing a variety of new administration and promotional resources for congregations to use to strengthen their Sunday school ministry.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Commend and Encourage Lutheran Teachers and Schools

RESOLUTION 2-02

Overture 2-20A–D, 2-24A–C (*CW*, pp. 159–160)

WHEREAS, "The most effective education agencies available to the church for equipping children and youth for ministry are the full-time Lutheran elementary and secondary schools" (*Handbook* 3.223a); and

WHEREAS, Gifted men and women offer themselves to God through service in the teaching ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, The 1969 convention (1969 *Proceedings* Res. 7-07) stated that "Congregations are urged to adopt salary scales comparable to that of other local educators with similar preparation and responsibilities," and the Board for Parish Services regularly provides a *Salary and Benefit Workbook for Congregations and Their Schools* to be used for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, Several LCMS Districts and the BPS make National Lutheran School Accreditation available for all Lutheran schools of all levels as a way to facilitate school improvement; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm its support of the ministry of Lutheran schools; and be it further

Resolved, that the Synod reaffirm its support of the ministry of Lutheran teachers and the vital role they serve in *telling everyone what He has done*; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be urged to make use of the *Salary and Benefit Schedule Workbook* in setting salaries that are worthy of the laborers who serve in the teaching ministry of our church; and be it finally

Resolved, That all congregations of the Synod which operate a Lutheran school be encouraged to seek District and National Lutheran School Accreditation.

Action: *Adopted* (3).

(Following adoption of the resolution, delegates expressed thanks to God for the gift of Lutheran teachers by singing the doxology. The Christus Magister award was granted by the Lutheran Education Association to Eugene Burger, teacher and principal of St. Paul's Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind., for outstanding service.)

To Involve Younger Adults in Leadership Positions

RESOLUTION 2-03

Report R2-02 (*CW*, p. 46)

WHEREAS, Many younger adults (ages 18 to 25) have expressed the desire to serve in significant capacities in the church; and

WHEREAS, Many younger adults have acquired leadership skills by a variety of training experiences; and

WHEREAS, Younger adults can provide a perspective and sensitivity easily overlooked by other adults; and

WHEREAS, Younger adults have served capably on the national Board for Youth Services (BYS) and in many other capacities when given the opportunity; therefore be it

Resolved, That all congregations of the Synod be encouraged to involve younger adults in the life and work of the congregation, including service on congregational boards and committees; and be it further

Resolved, That all District and national boards and commissions seriously consider involving younger adults on their boards, commissions, and committees; and be it finally

Resolved, That the BYS be directed to encourage and

assist congregations, Districts, and national boards and commissions in exploring ways to identify, recruit, and involve younger adults for service with these boards and commissions.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Put New Translation of Enchiridion in *Lutheran Worship*

RESOLUTION 2-04

Overture 2-39 (*CW*, p. 164)

WHEREAS, The new translation of the Enchiridion has been prepared, field tested, and approved (1986 *Proceedings*, Res. 2-16); and

WHEREAS, The new translation of the Enchiridion is now in print for use by our parishes; therefore be it

Resolved, That future printings of pages 300–307 in *Lutheran Worship* employ the new translation of the Enchiridion instead of the old.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

(During discussion it was proposed that the following whereas and resolve be added, namely, "WHEREAS, The new translation of the Enchiridion does not provide Luther's translations but instead inserts NIV translations which often vary widely from Luther's Enchiridon; be it *Resolved*, That the new translation be amended to conform to Luther's Biblical interpretation as Scripture is cited in the Enchiridion." The proposal was declared to be a substitute motion and the delegates declined to consider it. A motion to substitute Overture 2-38 for the resolution was declined as was an additional proposed resolve stating, "*Resolved*, That future printings of the Enchiridion in *Lutheran Worship* employ both the new translation and the old.")

To Include Bylaw Provisions for Council on Human Resources and Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support and to Dissolve Commission on Ministerial Health

RESOLUTION 2-05A

Overtures 2-65–68 (*CW*, pp. 169–71)

PREAMBLE

During the 1983–86 triennium a special Committee on Concern for the Church and Its Workers comprised of national, District, college, and seminary representatives proposed a synodwide Council on Human Resources, a Human Resources Committee at each location, an expanded International Center Human Resources Committee and expanded responsibilities for the Synod's Department of Human Resources. This committee saw the need for closer coordination of the Human Resources function throughout the Synod. The Board of Directors further refined this proposal and established a synodwide Council on Human Resources comprised of persons involved in the day-to-day personnel functions of varying entities of the Synod to advise the board and others regarding personnel and other policies and plans for the general concern of the Synod and its workers. This council has been functioning for over a year and the board recommends that its functions be included in the Bylaws for the general knowledge of the Synod. Provision for this council has been made in the budget.

While considering the council, the board also considered the need for a Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support. A special Committee on Continuing Education had previously recommended such a commission. The board supports the need for the commission and has proposed a close working relationship by it with both the office of the President and the Synod's Department of Human Resources.

In developing its proposal the board reviewed the work of the Commission on Ministerial Health. Much of the former work of this commission has over the years been transferred to the Districts. The board recommends that the Commission on Ministerial Health now be disbanded, that the responsibilities for remedial and therapeutic concerns be transferred to the Synod's Department of Human Resources which has provided staff services to the commission, and that responsibilities for preventative care be assumed by the proposed new Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support. The board also asked that the Board for Social Ministry Services Standing Committee on Health and Healing be advisory to this new commission. The board shared drafts of this proposal with the Commission on Structure and the Committee on Continuing Education and refined its proposal to reflect their input. Both groups now support the proposal. The new commission will be able to operate within the current budget; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Commission on Constitutional Matters be instructed to delete the word *Personnel* from the title "Personnel and Human Resources" whenever it appears in the *Handbook*. The department name presently being used by the Board of Directors is the Department of Human Resources; and be it further

Resolved, That a new Bylaw be added providing for the Council of Human Resources as follows:

3.741 Council on Human Resources

a. There shall be a Council on Human Resources, which shall assist the Board of Directors, the boards of other corporate entities, and the Human Resources Department in developing and approving programs, materials, and activities required in fulfilling their responsibilities.

b. Functions. The Council on Human Resources shall

1. review, evaluate, and recommend to the President, the Board of Directors, and other appropriate groups, policies and general plans for the general concern of the Synod and its workers;

2. study the personnel administrative policies and practices of the Synod in order to assist in determining what policies and practices are needed;

3. review personnel administration policies and practices that have been developed by the Department of Human Resources, Districts, colleges, and seminaries, or others, and that will be used by the Synod in its various activities;

4. assist in the adoption and implementation of personnel administrative policies and practices that have been developed and deemed appropriate for the Synod and its entities;

5. monitor all personnel administrative policies and practices in order to eliminate liability and exposure on the part of the Synod and its entities;

6. assist in the maintenance of talent pools throughout the Synod of individuals who might be available for service on boards, committees, or staff;

7. initiate proposals for programs, materials, and structure for the Department of Human Resources; and

8. assist in facilitating programs for the professional growth of church workers throughout the Synod.

c. Membership. The Council on Human Resources shall consist of the following: the director of Human Resources of the Synod, the director of Human Resources of Concordia Publishing House (CPH), three District business managers (or persons responsible for the personnel function) selected by the District treasurers and business managers, and two college/seminary business managers (or persons responsible for the personnel function) selected by the college/seminary business managers.

d. Staff. The Department of Human Resources shall provide staff services to the Council on Human Resources;

and be it further

Resolved, That the present Committee on Continuing Education be renamed the Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support and that it be provided for in the Bylaws as follows:

3.552 Membership

The Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support shall consist of nine members who shall be appointed by the President of the Synod: three ordained ministers, two commissioned ministers, one layperson, one college representative, and one representative from each of the two seminaries. At least two of the above shall be parish pastors, one of the above a District President or executive, and one of the above shall have professional expertise in clinical psychology and/or pastoral counseling. The executive director of the Board for Higher Education Services (or his designee), the executive director of the Board for Parish Services (or his designee), the President of the Synod (or his designee), the director of Human Resources of the Synod, and the staff person for the Standing Committee on Health and Healing shall be advisory members.

3.553 Functions

The Commission shall assist the mission and ministry of the Synod and its congregations by

a. providing opportunities and settings for all professional church workers to continue growing in Christ and in the knowledge, attitudes, skills, and personal well-being they need to serve Him in His church;

b. helping professional workers develop personal and professional growth plans on a continuing basis for more satisfying and effective ministry;

c. building a local and regional support system through the Districts for the care and growth of professional workers;

d. assisting congregations and professional workers to assess needs in the area of professional care and growth and enlist the aid of appropriate synodical institutions, boards, and agencies in meeting those needs;

e. "communicating to the Synod ministerial-growth expectations to achieve more effective ministry, based on a synodical definition in measurable terms of effective ministry for pastors and other professional workers";

f. communicating to the church-at-large the need for ministerial growth for church workers; encouraging congregational, District, and synodical support in terms of time, money, and resources; and attempting to motivate professional workers to improve their knowledge, skills, attitudes, and personal well-being through professional development programs;

g. developing and supervising a system of granting Continuing Education Units (CEU's) and encouraging the Synod through its Districts to monitor the credits of individuals and record such credits as reported by the individual worker for inclusion in the personnel file;

h. developing a system for reporting and evaluation of ministerial-growth programs in the Synod;

i. assisting Districts in building an ongoing structure for ministerial growth, providing them with resources and support services, and helping them establish liaisons with centers of education as well as with the commission;

j. developing programs of ministerial growth through the Districts;

k. encouraging the development of continuing education models in Districts and other appropriate entities that have potential for synodwide use;

l. seeking out, identifying, coordinating, and publicizing the current programs of ministerial growth offered by the schools, Districts, boards, and agencies supported or sponsored by the Synod;

m. assisting colleges and seminaries, boards, and agencies by supporting effective existing programs and in their planning of new ministerial-growth programs;

n. developing and sponsoring ministerial-growth programs of general value to the Synod, using the resources of the Synod, including Concordia Publishing House (CPH);

o. seeking grants and approving grant requests for funding from sources outside the Synod budget, including the Continuing Education Endowment Fund and authorizing budget development from synodical resources;

p. encouraging Districts in their responsibility to provide Christian therapeutic and remedial care for professional church workers and their families;

and be it finally

Resolved, That the Commission on Ministerial Health whose duties appear in Bylaws 3.561 and 3.563 be disbanded and that these Bylaws be deleted.

Action: *Adopted as amended (11).*

(Each of the three resolves was considered separately. A motion to substitute "Growth, Support and Health" for "Growth and Support" was declined. The proposed Bylaw on membership was amended by substituting the words, *At least two of the above shall be parish pastors,* for *At least one of the above shall be a parish pastor.* The word *Christian* was added by common consent before *therapeutic* in 3.553 p.)

To Transfer Records of Disbanding Congregations

RESOLUTION 2-06

Overture 2-58 (*CW*, p. 169)

WHEREAS, It is important for the church to preserve the records of congregations that go out of existence; and

WHEREAS, The language of the *Handbook* is only advisory and leaves room for a variety of practices in regard to the records of defunct congregations; and

WHEREAS, District boundaries may change from time to time as the Synod may determine; and

WHEREAS, The Concordia Historical Institute, as the Department of Archives and History of the Synod, is a permanent organization, well-known as a repository for annals and records of the church; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.607 h be amended to read as follows: "Congregations permanently disbanding (not merging) ~~are urged to~~ *shall* transfer all of their records,

such as registers of official acts, minutes, and other historical materials, to the ~~archives~~ *institute*"; and be it further

Resolved, That microfilm copies be made available, if desired, to the District in which the congregation was located.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Intensify Efforts to Curb Pornography, Violence, Obscenity and Indecency

RESOLUTION 2-07

Overture 2-16 (*CW*, p. 159)

WHEREAS, The 1986 convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod encouraged expanded efforts to curb pornography, violence, obscenity, and indecency; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Board for Parish Services' interdepartmental Task Force on Christian Values, Public Decency, and Morality continues to address these issues by monitoring resources and making available to Districts and congregations materials that will be most helpful to them; and

WHEREAS, The task force has prepared *The Battle against Pornography—Guidelines for Congregational Involvement*; and

WHEREAS, The problems and issues related to pornography, violence, obscenity, and indecency continue to plague our society; and

WHEREAS, The pornography, violence, obscenity, and indecency that permeate the media and much of everyday life are contrary to God's will and are demeaning to all of human life; and

WHEREAS, God in His Word has commanded His people to "have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them" (Eph. 5:11 NIV); therefore be it

Resolved, That 1986 Res. 2-08, "To Intensify Efforts to Curb Pornography, Violence, Obscenity, and Indecency" and the statement on pornography adopted as part of Res. 2-08 be strongly reaffirmed; and be it further

Resolved, That the pastors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be encouraged to teach and preach forthrightly regarding the issues of pornography, violence, obscenity, and indecency; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be urged to avail themselves of resources, several developed since the 1986 convention, such as *The Battle against Pornography—Guidelines for Congregational Involvement*, the Commission on Theology and Church Relations' document *Human Sexuality*, Concordia Publishing House's Learning about Sex: A Series for the Christian Family, *Valuing Your Sexuality* and *Sexuality: A Christian Perspective*; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations be urged to organize themselves to equip and enable members to become more actively involved in efforts to curb pornography, violence, obscenity, and indecency.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Continue Study of Structures for Congregational Ministry

RESOLUTION 2-08

Overture 2-12 (*CW*, pp. 157–58)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Structure has proposed grouping several elected boards and a commission—Board for Parish Services, the Board for Evangelism Services, the Board for Youth Services, the Commission on Worship, the Council on Stewardship (education function), the Board for Social Ministry Services (human care function), and the Board of Directors for Concordia Publishing House—into two new boards, namely a Board for Lutheran Literature and a Board for Congregational Ministries; and

WHEREAS, There has been too little time for the entities involved to discuss the proposal with its potential legal, fiscal, operational, and developmental ramifications; and

WHEREAS, The Synod's Planning Council is also encouraging, within the existing structure, more effective coordination in congregational ministries at all levels; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Commission on Structure in consultation with a member and staff representative of the Board for Parish Services, the Board for Evangelism Services, the Board for Youth Services, the Commission on Worship, the Council on Stewardship, the Board for Social Ministry Services, and the Board of Directors for Concordia Publishing House, along with representatives of the Synod's Planning Council, appointed by their respective entities, study the proposal and make specific recommendations to the next convention along with rationale for such recommendations.

Action: *Withdrawn.*

(The overture to which this resolution was intended to respond was included in Res. 2-15A.)

To Direct the Seminaries to Meet with President's Commission on Women

RESOLUTION 2-09

Report R2-04 (*CW*, pp. 47–50)

WHEREAS, The President's Commission on Women has five concerns as noted on *CW*, p. 50 ("Requests of Synodical Entities", topic II, subtopics a–e) which they would like to discuss with representatives of the Fort Wayne and Saint Louis Seminaries; and

WHEREAS, It would be in the best interest of the church for this dialog to occur; therefore be it

Resolved, That faculty representatives of the Fort Wayne and Saint Louis Seminaries be directed to meet with the President's Commission on Women for discussion within the next triennium.

Action: *Withdrawn.*

To Recommend Synodwide Study of LifeLight and Review/Renew

RESOLUTION 2-10

Reports R1-8, R1-09, R2-01 (*CW*, pp. 1–6, 25–44); Overture 2–35 (*CW*, p. 163)

WHEREAS, In a true spirit of cooperation the office of the President, the Board for Parish Services, the Board for Evangelism Services, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, and Concordia Publishing House (CPH) have endeavored to develop, produce and support a new in-depth Bible-study program, LifeLight; and

WHEREAS, Another Bible study program, Review/Renew, also published by CPH, is designed to involve members of the congregation in Bible study during Lent; and

WHEREAS, The faithful study of the Word of God is to be encouraged in every congregation and by every member; therefore be it

Resolved, That the synodical convention give thanks to God for those who have given financial support to these efforts and the workers who have made LifeLight and Review/Renew available to the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod, in convention, recommend and commend to the congregations and people of the Synod the use of LifeLight, including the recommended leadership training provided at the District level; and be it finally

Resolved, That Review/Renew also be recommended and commended for use in the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Maintain Use of Historic Liturgies in User-Friendly Formats

RESOLUTION 2-11

Overture 2-54 (*CW*, pp. 167–68)

WHEREAS, The Synod has a rich Lutheran liturgical heritage; and

WHEREAS, Some congregations are writing their own liturgies which do not reflect our Lutheran theological and liturgical traditions; and

WHEREAS, The liturgies in *Lutheran Worship* could be made more user-friendly and thereby promote greater uniformity and easier participation by the worshipers, including visitors; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Commission on Worship be instructed to field test user-friendly formats for Divine Services I, II and III; and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on Worship be instructed to make such user-friendly formats available to the congregations.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

(By common consent, *and III* was added to the first resolve. The committee had previously deleted the words *in pamphlet form* which were included at the end of the second resolve in the original resolution.)

To Address Inclusive and Exclusive Language

RESOLUTION 2-12

Overtures 2-30–31 (*CW*, p. 162)

WHEREAS, Language has power to shape thoughts, attitudes, and actions; and

WHEREAS, The meaning of words in our society is continually changing; and

WHEREAS, Christian writers and speakers have a responsibility to convey scriptural theology in a manner that shows the value which God places on all through the Gospel and also to use terminology in keeping with the Holy Scriptures; and

WHEREAS, The problem of inclusive and exclusive language with regard to gender has arisen in our society and within the church; therefore be it

Resolved, That we direct the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) to study the theological implications of utilizing inclusive versus exclusive language in our teaching, worship, and printed materials; and be it further

Resolved, That the CTCR make a recommendation to the church regarding this issue by the 1992 convention.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

(A motion to table the resolution was declined. The resolution was adopted after delegates agreed to cease debate on the matter.)

To Commend the Board for Parish Services and Concordia Publishing House for their Efforts in Providing Synod's Children with a New Sunday School Curriculum

RESOLUTION 2-13A

Reports R2-01, R2-06 (*CW*, pp. 39, 51)

WHEREAS, The Lord entreats us to "train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Prov. 22:6); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has from its inception established and encouraged the education and training of its children; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Parish Services (BPS) and Concordia Publishing House (CPH) have in cooperation developed and produced a new curriculum, Our Life in Christ, which is a distinct blessing to the church; and

WHEREAS, We rejoice that over 33,000 additional students are being served with this new curriculum; therefore be it

Resolved, That the synodical convention give thanks to God for the work of the BPS and CPH and pray for God's continued blessings on the children whose lives are enhanced by this joint ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the BPS and CPH be encouraged to continue the process of developing on a timely basis scripturally based, confessionally sound, Christ-centered materials with the goal of enlisting 100 percent of the Sunday schools of the Synod in their use.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Thank God for the Ministry of Synod's Publishing House on Its 120th Anniversary

RESOLUTION 2-14

Report R2-06 (*CW*, pp. 51—54)

WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House (CPH), the official publishing arm of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, has faithfully served the Synod since September 1869; and

WHEREAS, CPH has, through the grace of God, been self-sustaining, never having to rely on the Synod's benevolence in funding its publishing activities; and

WHEREAS, CPH has contributed greatly to the worldwide spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the distribution of many Bibles, books, curricula, worship resources, and other items for Christian nurture; therefore be it

Resolved, That the synodical convention give thanks to God for the work of Concordia Publishing House as it celebrates its 120th anniversary and pray for God's continued blessings on all those whose lives are touched by its mission.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Decline Certain Overtures

RESOLUTION 2-15A

Overtures 2-12, 2-29, 2-32A–B, 2-34A–B, 2-41, 2-42, 2-60A–B, 2-70 (*CW*, pp. 157, 161–65, 169, 171–72)

WHEREAS, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various reasons, that certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:

Overture	*Subject*	*Reason*
2-12	To Regroup Certain Boards into Board for Lutheran Literature and Board for Congregational Ministries	Committee 8 is handling same topic with a resolution
2-29	To Resist Intrusion of Feminist Theology and Language	Insufficient clarifying information
2-32A–B	To Develop Truly Modern-Language Instruction Material	LCMS does not foster sectarian translations
2-41	To Extend Age of LYF Membership As an Option	There is no age limit
2-42	To Restructure Synod-wide Youth Work	In 1977 the Synod established the Lutheran Youth Fellowship
2-60A–B	To Commend Southeast Lutheran High School, Southgate, CA and Designate Funds for Construction	In Saginaw, 1944, Synod set precedent to not fund elementary or secondary schools
2-70	To Affirm Right of Self-Government of Congregations	Article VII of LCMS Constitution clearly states this

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Promote Teen Chastity

RESOLUTION 2-16

Overture 2-45 (*CW*, p. 165)

WHEREAS, The problem of teenage pregnancy prior to marriage continues to escalate at alarming rates in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In many cases these pregnancies result in abortion; and

WHEREAS, The Bible speaks clearly to both issues of chastity and abortion; and

WHEREAS, The local congregation provides the best neighborhood location for the dissemination of moral teaching in the context of Gospel proclamation and nurture; therefore be it

Resolved, That the synodical Boards for Youth Services and Social Ministry Services, together with Concordia Publishing House and the Board for Parish Services, redouble efforts at producing materials for teens emphasizing the Biblical warrant for premarital chastity; and be it further

Resolved, That educational/teaching materials against abortion be produced that are explicitly directed at teenagers/youth; and be it further

Resolved, That these boards and agencies promote and encourage with various resources congregational support groups for teenage mothers; and be it finally

Resolved, That existing local models for these ministries be lifted up and supported.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

3. Theology and Church Relations

Introduction

We are thankful to God that the congregations, laity, and professional church workers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod desire so fervently to maintain solid scriptural theology and God-pleasing church relationships. This is evidenced by the great number of overtures that have been assigned to Floor Committee 3. Each memorial has been closely studied, researched, and counsel sought and received in order that the LCMS might retain its solid scriptural and confessional standard, and that an evangelical witness might be given in all church relationships. As the resolutions from Floor Committee 3 are offered to the convention, we ask God to guide and bless all deliberations in order that His church might remain strong in doctrine and practice.

We express our sincere appreciation to Dr. Samuel H. Nafzger, executive director of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, Rev. Jerald C. Joersz, assistant director of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, Dr. Philip Lochhaas, executive director of the Commission on Organizations, and Rev. John E. Meyer, Department of Stewardship. Our appreciation also includes members of the CTCR, namely, Dr. George Bornemann, Dr. Horace Hummel, Dr. Albert M. Marcis, Mr. Daniel A. Utter, and Vice-President Dr. August T. Mennicke.

John Heins, *Chairman*

Committee 3 Chairman John Heins

To Urge Participation in Mission Study

RESOLUTION 3-01

Report R3-05 (*CW*, p. 57)

WHEREAS, The risen and ascended Lord has entrusted to His church His glorious Gospel with the command that it be proclaimed to all people everywhere; and

WHEREAS, This mission of our blessed God remains for Christians of every age a task of great urgency, to be carried out with confidence and joy; and

WHEREAS, The church must continually seek to formulate this task in ways that are not only faithful to scriptural and confessional doctrine but also sensitive to the complex and rapidly changing world in which people live today; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) at its 1986 convention requested the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) to "initiate, facilitate, and develop a theological Statement of Mission" which will "reflect the urgency, vitality, and joy of our historic confession of Christ's forgiveness by grace alone through faith alone as taught in Scripture alone"; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has requested that this study be conducted in consultation with all the various boards, councils, and commissions of the Synod and that it involve pastors, teachers, and laity on the congregational level; and

WHEREAS, The CTCR has developed a detailed plan which calls for such widespread involvement as it prepares a Statement of Mission to be presented to the 1992 convention of the Synod (see *CW*, p. 57); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod strongly urge all of its members, at every level, to commit themselves to a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the mission which God has entrusted to His church; and be it further

Resolved, That all the members of the Synod be encouraged to participate in the Bible study on St. Paul's letter to the Romans being developed by the CTCR as a way of participating and contributing to the completion of the assignment to prepare a Mission Statement; and be it further

Resolved, That the CTCR be asked to present the assigned theological Statement of Mission to the 1992 convention of the Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod ask our gracious Lord's guidance and blessing upon all its congregations, pastors, teachers, and leaders as they devote themselves to His mission.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Formalize Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with Lutheran Church in Southern Africa

RESOLUTION 3-02A

Report R3-01, II, A (*CW*, pp. 60–61); Overtures 3-48–49 (*CW*, p. 182)

WHEREAS, The members of the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA) and The Lutheran Church—Mis-

souri Synod (LCMS) under God's blessings have enjoyed a long history of fraternal ties and relationships; and

WHEREAS, The LCSA and the LCMS, especially since the official formation of the LCSA in 1967, have experienced an informal fellowship relationship growing out of and based on their common ties with their sister churches in Germany; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS for many years has assisted the LCSA through the Bleckmar Mission of its sister churches in Germany by sending missionaries to aid in evangelistic work and seminary teaching in southern Africa; and

WHEREAS, The LCSA has requested through its bishop "the formal recognition of altar and pulpit fellowship" between our churches; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Mission Services, the Board of Directors, and the Church Relations Department have prepared a protocol document outlining a partnership agreement between the LCMS and the LCSA; and

WHEREAS, Discussion between the representatives of our two churches have revealed that complete agreement in doctrine and practice exists; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS express praise and thanksgiving to God for our brothers and sisters in Christ in the LCSA and for the many blessings that He has so graciously worked among them; and be it further

Resolved, That we acknowledge with gratitude to God the unity of confession that has been given to our churches under the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS formally recognize the existence of altar and pulpit fellowship with the LCSA; and be it further

Resolved, That we pray for continued blessings in the years ahead on our two churches and the fellowship that we have come to enjoy; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod officially recognize the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa as a partner church and that the President of the Synod be responsible for implementing this relationship as soon as possible.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

(During discussion, delegates declined an amendment stating, "*Resolved*, That the LCMS reaffirm its position on apartheid," since it is already clear that both the Synod and the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa are opposed to racism in any form.)

To Thank God for Lutheran Church—Canada Partnership

RESOLUTION 3-03

Report R3-01 II, d (*CW*, p. 61)

WHEREAS, Lutheran Church—Canada (LCC) (made up of the three Canadian districts formerly of the Synod) held its constituting convention in May 1988, and began functioning as an autonomous partner church of the Synod on Jan. 1, 1989; and

WHEREAS, Representatives from both church bodies have agreed to meet together twice a year to deal with issues of mutual interest and concern and in order to maintain and strengthen our confessional unity; therefore be it

Resolved, That we give thanks to God for our confessional unity and cordial working relationship with the LCC; and be it finally

Resolved, That we wish this partner church the Lord's richest blessings in its mission and ministry as an autonomous church body.

Action: *Adopted (8).*

(Adoption of this resolution was followed by the singing of "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty.")

To Encourage Services of Women

RESOLUTION 3-04A

Report R2-04 (*CW*, pp. 47–50)

WHEREAS, The Lord of the church has bestowed unique gifts upon the church to accomplish the mission of bringing the Gospel to the whole world; and

WHEREAS, These gifts have been bestowed upon both men and women of the church, the priesthood of all believers; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has not yet utilized the service of women to the fullest extent in the life and work of the church; and

WHEREAS, There continues to be confusion about the role and service of women in the church; and

WHEREAS, The Report of the President's Commission on Women entitled "God's Woman for All Generations" and the report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations "Women in the Church" (September 1985) are helpful resources; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod recognize with thanksgiving all of God's gifts to His church, in particular the gift of people; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage Districts and congregations to make full appropriate use of the ministry and service of women; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage study and discussion of the reports mentioned above in Bible classes, Circuit Forums, and other settings; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod encourage every District to establish a Commission on Women or provide other vehicles for the purpose of (1) sharing resources for the ministry of women; (2) encouraging women to recognize and accept their responsibility for what the church teaches; (3) identifying existing and further ministries ready for their qualified and joyful service; and (4) calling attention to the eagerness and desire of the women of the church to share their gifts.

Action: *Adopted as amended (9).*

(The words *Encourage women to recognize and accept their responsibility for what the church teaches* were first adopted as a substitute for "Sharing resources for the ministry of women." Later, it was agreed that those words should also be retained. An amendment stating, "*Resolved*, That the LCMS reaffirm its position that the pastoral office is restricted to properly qualified men as the Holy Spirit has clearly stated in the pastoral epistles of 1 Timothy and Titus," was declared out of order since the con-

vention had previously reaffirmed its position with regard to the service of women in that office. The ruling of the chair on this matter was sustained. An amendment calling for a change of "District" to "Circuit" in the final resolve was declined. The resolution, discussed in sessions 6, 8, and 9 and amended twice, was adopted after delegates agreed to cease debate.)

To Adopt Recommendations of Lay Worker Study Committee Report as Amended

RESOLUTION 3-05B

Report R3-06 (*CW*, pp. 69–73); Overtures 3-10–13, 3-15A–3-19, 3-24 (*CW*, pp. 173–76)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been and continues to be blessed with many dedicated full-time church workers; and

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention in 1983 adopted a three-category classification of our full-time workers: Minister of Religion, Ordained; Minister of Religion, Commissioned; and Certified Professional Church Worker, Lay (1983, Res. 5-09A); and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions clearly teach that there is only one divinely instituted office in the church; that is, the Office of the Public Ministry, commonly referred to as pastor (AC V, XIV); and

WHEREAS, "Except in exceptional circumstances or in emergencies" ("The Ministry," a report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, 1981, p. 35) the distinctive functions of the pastoral office are to be carried out only by those who have received a regular call (AC XIV); and

WHEREAS, Great care must be exercised in carrying out the Great Commission so that people not be deprived of Word and Sacrament when no ordained pastor is available; and

WHEREAS, The Bylaws of the Synod provide for the licensing of certain men "for special Word and Sacrament ministry, under the supervision of ordained pastors" (Bylaw 6.97 f); and

WHEREAS, The Synod in its history has met critical needs in its ministries by employing extraordinary means, for example, the *Nothilfern* ("emergency helpers"—pastors for special circumstances) in its early history; and

WHEREAS, The experience of some of our partner churches (e.g., The Lutheran Church of Nigeria and The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana) includes the use of specially selected, trained, and supervised laymen to assist in Word and Sacrament ministry; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 135 "lay ministers" are presently serving in the Synod in an ongoing Word and Sacrament ministry without the benefit of synodical guidelines for their service; and

WHEREAS, Concerns have been raised that the uniqueness of the divinely instituted pastoral office be preserved; and

WHEREAS, The Lay Worker Study Committee, appointed by the President of the Synod, undertook a careful study of the whole matter of recognized lay ministry in the Synod, including (1) the question of pastoral services, functions, and responsibilities being carried out by men who have not completed a seminary program and who are not ordained; (2) the questions of nomenclature, preparation, deployment, and supervision of the present Category III (Certified Professional Church Workers, Lay) workers; and (3) the review and identification of various and perhaps new ways of involving lay people in specific congregational ministries, and especially in the planting of new missions; and

WHEREAS, The Lay Worker Study Committee has completed its task and has submitted its report to this convention; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the Synod and an effective means of promoting the Gospel that the ministry of lay people be regarded as a way to multiply, enhance, and extend the ministry of the church; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Lay Worker Study Committee be thanked for its dedicated service in carrying out its responsibilities; and be it further

Resolved, That the entire report be commended to the members of the Synod and others who would be served by its review and consideration; and be it finally

Resolved, That the recommendations of the Lay Worker Study Committee (Section VII of its report), as amended, be adopted as follows:

VII. Recommendations

A. Forms of Lay Ministry

The focus for the ministry of the church, and therefore, lay ministry, is in the world. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" and "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself . . . and hath committed unto us the Word of reconciliation" (John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:19–20). All Christians are called to carry out ministry in the broad sense, and this ministry is accomplished by and through Christians in everyday life. In many respects, laypeople are on the front line of ministry. The individual is called to serve as part of the universal priesthood of believers. It is the task of the church to equip Christians for their ministry or service as Christians. Viewed in this way, clergy assist laypersons in helping them to fulfill their Christian vocation.

Laypersons also assist in the congregation's life by assisting in equipping each other for Christian vocations as they serve on boards, committees, as officers, elders, and in all facets of parish life. Such service is voluntary and is based on mutual accountability between pastor and people. Laypersons are vital to the church, they are its lifeblood, and without them the church does not exist.

Because of the fact that training and service of laypersons are not always uniform, it seems both wise and necessary to identify those qualities and preparation which persons who serve in positions of recognized leadership should possess.

Based upon its conclusions, the Lay Worker Study Committee recommends the following:

1. That the present Certified Professional Church Work-

ers, Lay programs approved by the Board for Higher Education Services be continued.

2. That Districts and other entities be assisted by the Synod through the Board for Parish Services in developing training programs for lay workers which are for a specific context and are locally available.

3. That the training of lay workers by Districts and other entities for service within the District be encouraged and that minimum standards, including personal qualities, skills, theological preparation, and academic training appropriate to the field of service for which the prospective worker is being prepared be established by the District.

4. That information and resources regarding the training of lay workers be gathered, developed, and disseminated by the Board for Parish Services reflecting current use, supervision, trends, and issues.

5. That conferences for leaders in Districts, Circuits, and other groupings of congregations training lay workers be sponsored by the Board for Parish Services.

B. Nomenclature

In order to aid in removing the confusion with regard to the nomenclature which exists at the present time, the committee recommends the following:

1. That the category Certified Professional Church Workers, Lay be changed to "Certified Church Workers, Lay."

2. That the present titles of positions in this category be retained.

3. That locally trained workers be referred to as lay workers and that those using these services be encouraged to use titles other than those used by synodically certified church workers.

4. That the title *deacon* be established by which a layman would be addressed while he is temporarily serving in Word and Sacrament ministry "in exceptional circumstances or in emergencies." This title would distinguish him from an ordained pastor.

C. Guidelines for Congregations regarding the Performance of Pastoral Functions When No Ordained Pastor Is Available

Lutherans believe, teach, and confess that God has instituted the office of the public ministry (AC V) and that "nobody should publicly teach or preach or administer the sacraments in the church without a regular call" to serve in this office (AC XIV). Therefore, only those who hold the office of the public ministry should exercise distinctive functions of this office. However, when no pastor is available, and in the absence of any specific Scriptural directives to the contrary, congregations may arrange for the performance of these distinctive functions by qualified individuals, lest God's people be deprived of the opportunity for corporate worship and the celebration of the sacraments. The following guidelines are presented in order to assist congregations in providing for an orderly way of carrying out distinctive functions of the pastoral office in the absence of an ordained clergyman.

These guidelines consider four distinctive functions of the office of the public ministry, as identified by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, namely,

- preaching in the services of the congregation;
- leading the formal public services of worship;
- the public administration of sacraments; and
- the administration of the Office of the Keys as it pertains to the public pronouncement of absolution and church discipline.

1. Preaching in the Public Services

In dealing with this function, a distinction should be made between the responsibility and function of composing and delivering sermons and the simpler task of serving as a "reader" who reads a sermon that has been composed and prepared by one who holds the office of the public ministry. In the latter case, the reader is serving as a kind of announcer or deliverer of a message composed by a pastor. The responsibility for supervision *(episcope)* will be exercised by the supervising pastor.

a. Reading Sermons Composed by a Pastor

i. In an emergency situation when the regular pastor or vacancy pastor of a congregation is unable to be present to preach because of illness, transportation problems, or some other circumstances in which the congregation or mission would be deprived of corporate worship, the elders of the congregation or responsible congregational leadership may with the consent of the pastor select a male member of the congregation to read in the public worship service a sermon composed by one who holds the office of the public ministry.

ii. In circumstances where no resident pastor is available and the regular pastor or supply pastor is unable to preach in the congregation for a prolonged period of time, the selection of the lay reader should be approved of in advance by the District President, who will assure that the individual possesses qualities which would commend him for this ongoing role (e.g., spirituality, exemplary Christian life, excellent standing in the congregation, good communications skills, and a readiness to grow and learn).

b. Composing and Delivering Sermons by Individuals Not Holding the Office of the Public Ministry

i. In circumstances where there is no resident pastor and no pastor available to lead worship and preach regularly, arrangements may be made by a congregation or the responsible board, in consultation with the District President, to secure the services of a layman, licensed to preach and serve under the supervision of an ordained pastor.

Such laymen shall have

1. successfully pursued appropriate courses of study at a synodical seminary and been recommended by the seminary faculty to serve as a field worker or vicar; or

2. been approved and licensed by the President of the District to which the congregation belongs.

ii. The license to preach in a given District shall be issued by that District's President in keeping with criteria and standards adopted and maintained by the Council of Presidents. The license shall be initially for no more than

one year and shall clearly state in writing the conditions under which the license may be renewed. Subsequent licenses may be issued for up to two years but must likewise identify the specific conditions required for renewal of the license.

iii. All sermonic preparation and composition by such lay ministers shall be guided and directed by the supervising pastor. All sermons delivered by the lay minister, whether prepared by the lay minister or by another, should receive the approval of the supervising pastor prior to delivery in a public worship service. It is understood that where consultation is not possible, the supervising pastor will have made appropriate arrangements for exercising his accountability for the proclamation of the Word in the congregation.

2. Leading the Public Worship Services

The lay worship leader will follow only such liturgical forms as are approved and provided by the supervising pastor and which are acceptable to the congregation.

3. The Public Administration of the Sacraments

The third distinctive function, namely, "public administration of the sacraments," will be dealt with as follows:

a. Holy Baptism

Holy Baptism will be administered by the supervising pastor or another rostered pastor. If not possible, the licensed layman will administer it.

b. Holy Communion

The supervising pastor will normally administer Holy Communion. However, "in exceptional circumstances, when no ordained clergy is available and the congregation would otherwise be deprived of the Sacrament for a prolonged period of time, the licensed layman will preside, when specifically authorized to do so by the congregation and with the approval of a supervising pastor and the District President.

4. The Public Administration of the Office of the Keys

The administration of the Office of the Keys by means of the personal pronouncement of the absolution as it pertains to church discipline, and possible excommunication, ought not be carried out by those who do not hold the office of public ministry, since this can always be provided for on behalf of the congregation by those who hold the office of public ministry.

D. Bylaw Stipulations—Review of *Handbook* Chapter VII ("Certified Professional Church Workers, Lay"), Part C ("Position Assistance and Listing")

In order to provide support for Certified Church Workers, Lay, and to assist congregations in securing these services, the committee recommends that

1. the Synod provide for the placing, supervising, listing, and referral of Certified Church Workers, Lay;

2. the Council of Presidents be made responsible for arranging for an appropriate way of providing for these services and that this be made a matter of first priority; and

3. appropriate Bylaws incorporating these two recommendations be developed and be presented to the 1992 convention of the Synod.

Action: *Adopted as amended (13).*

(Following presentation of the original resolution, a motion to refer it to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations was declined by a vote of 517-557 after delegates had agreed to cease debate on the proposal. Rather than extending time for discussion in session 10, delegates adopted a motion delaying the continuation of debate until the following morning. An amendment was offered to strike the word *ordinarily* from the first paragraph of section c, second sentence which had followed the word *should.* In addition, delete the words *whenever possible,* which had been the first words of the sentence of the section on Holy Baptism. Further, to strike the words *or in emergencies,* from the section on Holy Communion, to insert the words *for a prolonged period of time* after the word *sacrament* in the same section and to add the words *and the District President* at the end of it. An amendment to have the section on Holy Communion read, "The celebration of Holy Communion ought not be carried out by those who do not hold the office of the public ministry, since this can always be provided for on behalf of the congregation by those who hold the office of public ministry," was defeated. An additional amendment adding requirements for persons who do not hold the office of the public ministry but compose and deliver sermons was declined. The requirements would have been, "(3) been duly chosen by the congregation for the specific ministries, and (4) begun the synodically approved colloquy programs."

After the resolution was adopted as amended, a motion was made that the resolution be studied by the two seminary faculties and a report made to the next convention. Another resolution was proposed stating, "WHEREAS, Concerns regarding 3-05B are evident; be it *Resolved*, That the issues be studied by the faculties of the seminaries, the CTCR, and the Council of Presidents and report to the next convention." Both proposals were referred to the floor committee which later stated, "Floor Committee 3 believes that studies will continue on doctrinal issues raised by the passage of 3-05B, without the formation of a rather large and expensive special study committee, and that adequate evangelical procedures are already available to officially address concerns that individuals still may have concerning the passage of 3-05B."

During the course of discussion of the resolution, Dr. Samuel Nafzger provided the following statement which was printed in *Today's Business* and is reprinted below.)

Address by Dr. Samuel H. Nafzger

Thank you, Mr. Chairman:

The doctrine of the ministry is a very difficult and complex issue about which Lutherans have probably disagreed more in the history of Lutheranism than any other single issue.

It characterized the very birth of the Missouri Synod in Perry County, with C. F. W. Walther, who studying the Scriptures and the Confessions was able to articulate a view which holds together the high respect for the divinely instituted office of the public ministry, while at the same time encouraging and recognizing the ministry of all of God's people in the priesthood of all believers. It was precisely Walther's position which characterized the reports of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations in the '70s and again most recently in 1981, where for eight years the commission struggled with questions pertaining to the doctrine of the ministry. And it was precisely on these reports of the CTCR that the Lay Worker Study Committee took its start and formed as its foundation as the 11 members who voted on this committee deliberated and

considered the questions that had been placed to us. And these 11 members consisted of 3 people who are serving on the CTCR and 2 on the seminary faculties. So, 5 of the people on the voting membership of this committee were members of the CTCR or the seminary faculties.

Starting at this point with statements such as this from the commission's report, and I quote from our document, "When a congregation is temporarily without a man to fill the office of the public ministry in its midst, it may ask a properly supervised teacher or lay leader to perform some functions of the office of the public ministry. The oversight and accountability remain with the one whom the church has called and designated as a pastor and who supervises those who temporarily perform some pastoral functions." In conclusion, the commission stated in this report, "Functions that are essentially exercises of the ministry of Word and Sacrament should be performed by those who hold the office of the public ministry. Thus, preaching in the worship service, leading in public prayer, celebration of the sacraments, weddings, and funeral services should be carried out by those who hold the office of the public ministry. However, in exceptional circumstances, or in emergencies, members of the auxiliary offices and other individuals may temporarily be called upon to perform, under proper supervision, functions that are otherwise performed by the pastor."

It was just such statements as this from the Commission's report that formed the starting point and the basis and the boundaries upon which the Lay Worker Study Committee established its guidelines as presented in this resolution. Therefore, it is consistent with this position to recognize that at the present time, with the blessing of the Synod, there are 125 lay ministers carrying out ministries of Word and Sacrament. At the present time that's going on. It's also consistent with the statement that was made recently by the District of which I am a member, the Missouri District. And I want to read to you a statement that was sent out by the president of the Missouri District, Paul Spitz, in which he makes precisely the same point:

> It has come to the attention of the District Praesidium that nonordained workers in the District are being invited to preach on occasion from the pulpits of our congregations during the regular divine services. Such invitations place these workers in an awkward position, since they are not called by the congregations of the District to perform the ministry to which ordained pastors have been called. Our Confessions state, "Our churches teach that nobody should publicly preach in the church or administer the sacraments unless he is regularly called" (Augsburg Confession XIV).

And then, listen to this statement from the Missouri District Praesidium:

> Certified lay ministers are an exception because they work under the supervision of pastors, and they have been certified to preach by the Synod and the congregations they serve. Nor does this rule out special and emergency situations, in which a layman may be called to lead a service or read a sermon written by an ordained pastor. Because of our confessional basis and for the sake of good order in the church, the Praesidium requests that the congregations please take note of this concern. Nonordained men can certainly speak at graduation ceremonies, school chapel addresses, etc. This should be without vestments, and not from the pulpit. We suggest that when District staff are invited to speak during the worship service, that they give their message from the lectern and that the pastor also have a shorter sermon or homily. Another option is that the pastor have a shortened service and give the District worker time to speak before or after the service.

What we have proposed is exactly what is stated here. But at the present time in the Synod, there exists no provision for the proper supervision or accountability of those workers who have been asked to carry out distinctive functions of the pastoral office without having been placed in that office.

We have many dedicated lay ministers who for up to 20 years have been asked to carry out a ministry of Word and Sacrament without recognition or supervision, without roster or doctrinal oversight. If we want to undermine Art. XIV of the Augsburg Confession, the surest way is to leave things the way they are, and to have no accountability or supervision. The adoption of Res. 3-05 does not initiate a single new practice in the doctrine of the ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. It will, however, initiate proper supervision of those practices which we have long recognized as being consistent with our understanding of the doctrine of the ministry so that we may all together *tell everyone what He has done.*

To Strengthen Relationships with LCMS Partner Churches

RESOLUTION 3-06

Reports R1-8, R3-01 (*CW*, pp. 3, 60–61)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod enjoys altar and pulpit fellowship with partner/sister churches throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Many of these churches are small and in need of encouragement and additional resources; and

WHEREAS, The President of the Synod has called into being the Church Relations Department to coordinate church-relations contacts with partner churches; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has initiated and supported plans for an International Theologians' Convocation involving theologians from the Synod's partner churches to be held in Seoul, Korea, in September of 1989; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod rejoice and give thanks to God for the confessional unity that binds us together with these partner churches; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod commend the efforts that have already been made to strengthen these relationships; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage the President of the Synod and the Church Relations Department to intensify such efforts; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Directors give all possible priority to providing resources to support personal contacts, scholarships, student exchanges, other personnel exchanges, and such other activities that will continue to strengthen our relationships with partner churches.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

(The resolution was adopted unanimously.)

To Encourage CTCR to Complete Preparation of Guidelines for Inter-Christian Relationships

RESOLUTION 3-07

Report R3-01 (*CW*, pp. 55–60); Overtures 3-26–28, 3-43, 3-45 (*CW*, pp. 177, 181–82)

WHEREAS, The 1981 and succeeding conventions of the Synod have requested the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) to prepare practical guidelines to assist the officials, pastors, teachers, congregations, and individuals in the Synod in determining which practices and activities are appropriate for inter-Lutheran and inter-Christian relationships in which the Synod and its members are involved (1981 *Proceedings*, Res. 3-03A; 1983 *Proceedings*, Res. 3-01; 1986 *Proceedings*, Res. 3-13A); and

WHEREAS, The CTCR is presently preparing an instrument for study of inter-Christian relationships for distribution to and reaction from pastoral conferences; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage the CTCR to continue to give priority attention to completing and sharing with the church these guidelines for inter-Christian relationships before the 1992 convention of the Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That we encourage the widest possible participation in this study process.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Address The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Relationship with Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

RESOLUTION 3-08

Report R3-01 II A–B (*CW*, pp. 60–64); Overtures 3-33–38 (*CW*, pp. 178–80)

WHEREAS, The American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church in America, and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches have formed the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

WHEREAS, We gratefully acknowledge our common confessional heritage as stated and summarized in the Lutheran Confessions (*Book of Concord*, 1580); and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Lutheran Cooperation has been formed to provide an opportunity for the churches to give attention to their relationship and other matters of mutual concern; and

WHEREAS, In the past we have cooperated in external matters with the church bodies that formed the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and continue to do such cooperative work through the Committee on Lutheran Cooperation (e.g., Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Lutheran Education Conference of North America, and Lutheran Resources Commission); and

WHEREAS, Substantive differences regrettably exist between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in such areas of doctrine and practice as

1. the inerrancy of Scripture;

2. the ordination of women into the office of the public ministry;

3. official eucharistic sharing with church bodies not in agreement with confessional Lutheran doctrine; therefore be it

Resolved, That we commend The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod representatives on the Committee on Lutheran Cooperation for their resolve to initiate theological discussions with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and be it further

Resolved, That despite the differences between us, we encourage continued cooperation in those external matters that do not compromise our doctrine and practice; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continue to maintain a confessional Lutheran voice in every appropriate forum with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and be it finally

Resolved, That we encourage continued prayer that a confessional unity may be reached that is based on the truth of God's Word.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

(An amendment calling for the addition of (4) confessional subscription" to the fifth whereas was declined.)

To Address Recent Developments and Continued Concerns on Pro-life Issues

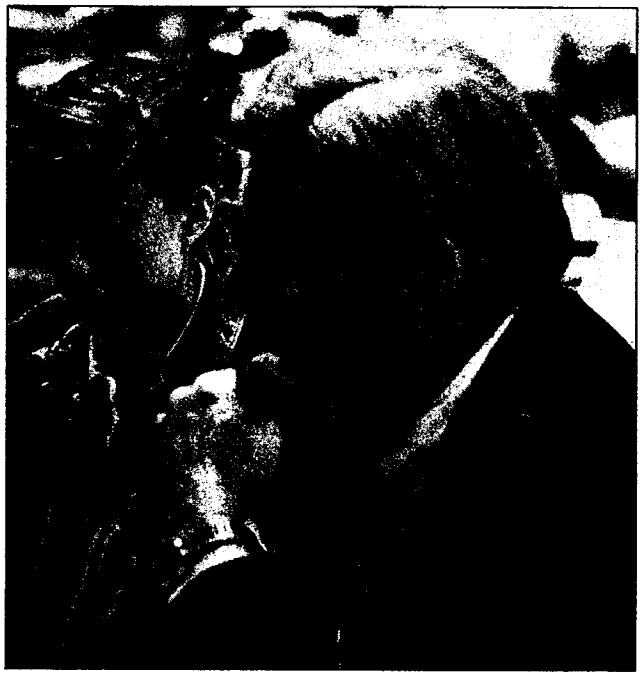
RESOLUTION 3-09A

Overtures 3-109–10 (*CW*, p. 200) (*TB*, p. 55)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has urgently called upon Christians to "hold firmly to the clear Biblical truths that (a) the living but unborn are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception (Job 10:9–11; Ps. 51:5; 139:13–17; Jer. 1:5; Luke 1:41–44); (b) as persons the unborn stand under the full protection of God's own prohibition against murder (Gen. 9:6; Ex. 20:13; Num. 35:33; Acts 7:19, 1 John 3:15); and (c) since abortion takes a human life, abortion is not a moral option, except as a tragically unavoidable byproduct of medical procedures necessary to prevent the death of another human being, viz., the mother (1979 *Proceedings*, Res. 3-02A); and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States has signaled the end of abortion on demand by its ruling in the case of *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services, Inc.*, in allowing governmental authorities greater latitude in protecting human life from the time of conception; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has



prayerfully and earnestly sought such actions through convention resolutions, citizen petition and participation, and the submission of an *amicus curiae* brief to the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, There continue to be developments in the area of the life sciences that cause concern; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod reaffirm its position that "abortion is not a moral option except as a tragically unavoidable byproduct of medical procedures necessary to prevent the death of another human being, viz., the mother" (1979 *Proceedings*, Res. 3-02A); and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod welcomes the Supreme Court's *Webster* decision as a necessary first step toward the full restoration of the right to life; and be it further

Resolved, That we call upon all members of the Synod to seek out all legal opportunities for extending the fullest protection of law for human life from the time of conception until natural death; and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on Theology and Church Relations continue to monitor and study various life-related issues, such as spiritual consequences to an aborted child, to the child's parents, and to those in complicity with the act of unjust killing; the use of abortifacient drugs; eugenic experimentation in human biology; the use of tissues taken from intentionally aborted fetuses, and advise the church on these issues so that we all might act responsibly according to the Word of God; and be it further

Resolved, That pastors and church professionals be encouraged to avail themselves of resources such as the training workshops that are cosponsored by the LCMS Sanctity of Human Life Task Force, Lutherans for Life, and various Lutheran social-ministry organizations to provide clinical skills for the diagnosis and treatment of post-abortion stress disorder; and be it finally

Resolved, That the members of LCMS congregations be encouraged to support Lutherans for Life.

Action: *Adopted as amended (11).*

The words, *the time of* were added to the proposed resolution in the third resolve, and the resolution was amended by addition of the final resolve. The resolution as amended was adopted unanimously or nearly so. During discussion, a proposal to substitute the first resolve of the original resolution as a third resolve of 3-09A was declined. That resolve stated, "*Resolved,* That we encourage our people to speak and act as responsible citizens in support of pro-life issues." The delegates also declined to consider a proposed amendment when it could not be determined whether or not it was a substitute resolution. In response to a question, it was stated that the phrase *until natural death,* in the third resolve does not contradict the Synod's position on capital punishment.)

To Address Practice of Women Serving Holy Communion

RESOLUTION 3-10

Overtures 3-88–89B (*CW*, p. 195)

WHEREAS, There is divergence of opinion in the Synod concerning women serving as assistants in the distribution of Holy Communion; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) has stated in its 1983 report *Theology and Practice in the Lord's Supper* (p. 30) and reaffirmed in the 1985 report *Women in the Church* that "the commission strongly recommends that to avoid confusion regarding the office of the public ministry and to avoid giving offense to the church, such assistance be limited to men" (p. 47); therefore be it

Resolved, That the CTCR report *Theology and Practice in the Lord's Supper* be commended to the congregations of the Synod for study and guidance in this matter; and be it further

Resolved, That the pastors and congregations of the Synod be urged to conform their practice to this counsel.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Declare Deaconesses Eligible for Synodical Membership

RESOLUTION 3-11A

Report R3-06 (*CW*, pp. 71–72); Overtures 3-21A–3-23, 3-25 (*CW*, pp. 175–76)

WHEREAS, The office of deaconess has Biblical precedent (Phoebe in Rom. 16:1); and

WHEREAS, Deaconesses continue to serve our church today through Bible studies; sick and shut-in visitations; youth, ethnic groups, and deaf ministries; social and medical capacities in hospitals and retirement homes; counseling; evangelism; etc.; and

WHEREAS, Deaconesses receive a five-year baccalaureate degree from Concordia College, River Forest, with a theology major of at least 72 quarter hours that includes the following:

12 credits—Biblical study

12 credits—Systematic theology

8 credits—Historical theology

12 credits—Christianity in society

4 credits—Elective theology

12 credits—Deaconess specialization courses

a 9–12 month internship (12 credits) and 6 quarters (150 hours) of field work; and

WHEREAS, We thank God for the office of deaconess and for the women who have faithfully served in this office; and

WHEREAS, It is helpful and desirable that synodically certified deaconesses be declared eligible for membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), and that they be rostered in the category *Ministers of Religion–Commissioned*; therefore be it

Resolved, That Articles V and VI of the Constitution be amended to read in their entirety as follows:

Article V Membership

Membership in the Synod is held and may be acquired by congregations, ministers of the Gospel, teachers, *and deaconesses* of the Evangelical Lutheran Church who confess and accept the confessional basis of Article II.

A. Voting Members

All organized congregations that have joined the Synod hold voting membership. At the meetings of the Districts of the Synod every congregation or parish is entitled to two votes, one of which is to be cast by the pastor and the other by the lay delegate. At the meetings of the Synod a number of congregations shall form a group which shall be represented by two voting delegates, one a pastor and one a lay delegate.

B. Advisory Members

Advisory members only are the following:

1. Pastors whose congregations do not hold membership in the Synod;
2. Assistant pastors;
3. Ministers not in charge of congregations;
4. Professors at the Synod's educational institutions;
5. Teachers of ~~parochial schools~~ *the Evangelical Lutheran Church*;
6. *Deaconesses*
7. Candidates for the office of the ministry, ~~or~~ for that of a teacher ~~in the parochial schools~~ *of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, or for deaconess.*

Article VI Conditions of Membership

Conditions for acquiring and holding membership in the Synod are the following:

1. Acceptance of the confessional basis of Article II.
2. Renunciation of unionism and syncretism of every description, such as;
   a. Serving congregations of mixed confession, as such, by ministers of the church;
   b. Taking part in the services and sacramental rites of heterodox congregations or of congregations of mixed confession;
   c.Participating in heterodox tract and missionary activities.
3. Regular call of pastors, ~~and~~ teachers , *and deaconesses*, and regular election of lay delegates by the congregations, as also the blamelessness of the life of such.
4. Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda, hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school.
5. A congregation shall be received into membership only after the Synod has convinced itself that the constitution of the congregation, which must be submitted for examination, contains nothing contrary to the Scriptures or the Confessions.
6. Pastors, teachers, or candidates for the office of the ministry or that of a teacher in a parochial school not coming from recognized orthodox church bodies must submit to a colloquium before being received.
7. Congregations and individuals shall be received into membership at such time and manner, and according to such procedures, as shall be set forth in the Bylaws to this Constitution.;

and be it further

Resolved, That the foregoing amendments be submitted to the congregations of the Synod for ratification in conformity with Article XIV of the Constitution.

Action: *Adopted (13).*

To Recommend Further Ministry Studies

RESOLUTION 3-12

Report R3-06 (*CW*, pp. 72–73)

WHEREAS, The Lay Worker Study Committee was unable to give its full attention to all the issues and questions assigned to it and has recommended further study of those issues and questions; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following recommendations of the Lay Worker Study Committee be adopted as follows:

Issues for Further Study

A. Bivocational (Worker-Priest) Ministries

That the President of the Synod form a committee including representation from the Council of Presidents and the Board for Higher Education Services to review the current situation regarding bivocational ministries with special attention to the preparation and supervision required for such ministries as well as the official status of such workers.

B. Ordination of Nonseminary Trained Men Serving in Word and Sacrament Ministry. Alternate Routes to the Pastoral Office

That a committee be appointed by the President of the Synod to study the question of whether laymen performing functions of the pastoral ministry should, in fact, be "ordained." In what circumstances and with what requirements? Should the Synod, in fact, establish "alternate routes" into the pastoral office?

C. Training for Ethnic Ministries

That the Board for Higher Education Services review the Theological Education by Extension program, which has been established for Hispanic workers, and study whether such a program should be established and encouraged for workers in other ethnic groups.

D. Continuing Education

That the Committee on Continuing Education be asked to study and develop guidelines and resources for continuing education as it applies to laymen involved in Word and Sacrament ministry and to other certified lay workers.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Study and Clarify Services of Women in Congregational and Synodical Offices

RESOLUTION 3-13A

Overtures 3-79, 3-84, 3-86A–87, 3-95, 3-122 (*CW*, pp. 192, 194–97, 205)

WHEREAS, The position of the Synod, in approving the 1970 opinion of the Commission on Constitutional Matters, based on a resolution of the Denver convention (1969 *Proceedings* 2-17, p. 88), is that women may not serve in the offices of elder, chairman, or vice-chairman of the congregation (reaffirmed in 1983 Res. 3-11, 1986 Res. 3-09); and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) has stated in its 1985 report *Women in the Church* that "women may hold any office and serve on any committee of the congregation which enhances the work of the priesthood of all believers . . . the only stricture would have to do with anyone whose official functions would involve public accountability for the function of the pastoral office (e.g., elders and possibly the chairman of the congregation) . . . everything depends on the nature of the functions assigned to various offices established by the church" (p. 46); and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has advised that it would be "inappropriate for women to serve on commissions on adjudication, if and when their official functions would in effect involve public accountability for the function(ing) of the pastoral office" (*CW*, p. 60); and

WHEREAS, Questions and concerns have been raised regarding the eligibility of women for service in all offices of the congregation, including that of chairman, vice-chairman, and elder, as well as District and synodical boards and commissions where their official function would in effect involve public accountability for the function(ing) of the pastoral office; therefore be it

Resolved, That the CTCR, in consultation with the Council of Presidents, prepare a study on the eligibility of women for service in all offices of the congregation, including that of chairman, vice-chairman, and elder and District and synodical boards and commissions where their official function would in effect involve public accountability for the function(ing) of the pastoral office; and be it further

Resolved, That in the meantime, pastors and congregations with patience and understanding be urged to conform to the position of the Synod concerning this matter.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

(Delegates declined to delete the words *be urged to* from the final resolve.)

To Address Appropriate Roles for Women and Men in Worship

RESOLUTION 3-14

Overtures 3-90–91 (*CW*, pp. 195–96)

WHEREAS, The Gospel images and expectations of women—particularly those associated with the incarnation, the resurrection, and the ministry of Jesus—present strong and persistent recognition of the active and vital roles of service that women can offer to our Lord and to others; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) has stated that there are certain distinct functions which should not ordinarily be carried out by the laity (who may hold auxiliary offices) but which are to be exercised by the pastor, including the following:

1. Preaching in the services of the congregation
2. Leading the formal public services of worship
3. The public administration of the sacraments
4. The public administration of the Office of the Keys (*Women in the Church,* p. 42); and

WHEREAS, The CTCR has also stated in its report *Women in the Church:* "There is no ceremonial law in the New Testament regarding the reading of Scripture in the context of public worship. Nor is there explicit apostolic prohibition of such reading by women. Nevertheless, it is the opinion of the CTCR that the reading of the Scriptures is most properly the function of the pastoral office and should therefore not ordinarily be delegated to a lay person, woman or man," (*Women in the Church,* p. 45); and

WHEREAS, The use of lay assisting ministers, both female and male, is permitted within the rubrics of *Lutheran Worship* for the reading of the lessons, except the Gospel and the leading of the prayers of the people; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod urge and encourage the continued service of women and men to our Lord and His church in accordance with His will as set forth in Holy Scripture; and be it further

Resolved, That the CTCR report *Women in the Church* and especially Section III, "Guidelines for Practice," be commended for study and guidance; and be it finally

Resolved, That the congregations of the Synod proceed with care and sensitivity in making decisions permitting the lay reading of the Scriptures, recognizing decisions in this regard lie in the area of Christian judgment.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Encourage Study of "An Evaluation of Some *RIM* Materials"

RESOLUTION 3-15

Reports R3-02–03 (*CW*, pp. 64–68); Overtures 3-65A–71 (*CW*, pp. 187–90)

WHEREAS, There was value in the three discussions conducted between synodical representatives and the representative charismatic pastors; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations at the request of the President of the Synod has evaluated documents of Renewal in Missouri (RIM); and

WHEREAS, "The commission has found statements in the RIM materials which, despite RIM's stated intention, are, in the judgment of the commission, not consistent with the doctrinal position of the Synod" (*CW*, p. 66); therefore be it

Resolved, That we commend to the church for study the CTCR's evaluation (R3-02, *CW*, pp. 66–68) of documents distributed by RIM; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the Synod facilitate discussion with representative RIM pastors with a view toward a God-pleasing resolution of differences; and be it finally

Resolved, That we strongly encourage the faithful use of Word and Sacrament as the source for all spiritual strength, through which the Holy Spirit gives His gifts to the church.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

(A proposal to add the words *no later than Jan. 1, 1991* at the end of the second resolve was defeated, as was a proposal to add *"as well as the documents distributed by RIM"* at the end of the first resolve and delete the final resolve.)

To Study Subject of Spiritual Gifts

RESOLUTION 3-16

Overtures 3-58–63 (*CW*, pp. 186–87)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) has presented the report *Evangelism and Church Growth* for study and guidance (*CW*, pp. 302–15); and

WHEREAS, This report deals in a general way with the subject of spiritual gifts; and

WHEREAS, Concerns have been expressed about the use of spiritual gift inventories and the general subject of spiritual gifts; therefore be it

Resolved, That the CTCR's report *Evangelism and Church Growth* be commended to the Synod for reference and guidance; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod continue to make use of the document and the principles it provides regarding the subject of spiritual gifts; and be it finally

Resolved, That the CTCR study in more detail the subject of spiritual gifts and specifically the use of spiritual gift inventories and report the results of the studies to the church.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Decline Certain Overtures

RESOLUTION 3-17A

Overtures 2-29, 3-14, 3-40–41B, 3-68, 3-81–82, 3-85, 3-94, 3-96–97, 3-99, 3-105, 3-107A–B, 3-120–21, (*CW*, pp. 161, 174, 180–81, 188, 193–94, 196–200, 204–5)

WHEREAS, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various reasons, that certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:

Overture	*Subject*	*Reason*
2-29	To Resist Intrusion of Feminist Theology and Language	Background information not available
3-14	To Change Nomenclature	Undemonstrated need
3-40	To Declare Churches in State of Apostasy	Contrary to synodical position to anathematize over error and nonfundamental doctrines
3-41 A—B	To Report Involvement in Inter-Lutheran Agencies	No action necessary
3-68	To Send Area Pastors Charismatic Dialog Report	Already published in 1989 *Convention Workbook*
3-81	To Return to Former Position on Women Suffrage	Insufficient evidence
3-82	To Return to Former Position on Women Suffrage	Insufficient evidence
3-85	To Restudy Functional Role of Women	Undemonstrated need
3-94	To Outline Voters' Assemblies Responsibilities	Unachievable request
3-96	To Assign CTCR Another Report on Women	Undemonstrated need
3-97	To Suspend 1969 Position on 1 Tim. 2:12	Insufficient evidence to support requested action
3-99	To Deal with Those Who Vote for Women's Ordination	Contrary to synodical position
3-105	To Request Analysis of Lutheran Church Growth	Undemonstrated need
3-107 A–B	To Request Opinions from Seminary Faculties	Option already available
3-120	To Thank Philip Lochhaas and Fill Executive Position	In process
3-121	To Thank Philip Lochhaas and Fill Executive Position	In process

To Amend Bylaws re Deaconess Membership in Synod

RESOLUTION 3-18A

Report R3-06 (*CW*, p. 71–72); Overtures 3-12A–3-23, 3-25 (*CW*, pp. 175–76)

WHEREAS, The convention assembled has adopted amendments to the Constitution, subject to congregational ratification, to grant membership in Synod to deaconesses; and

WHEREAS, Successful completion of the amendment process would require the amending of certain related Bylaws; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 2.07 a be amended as follows:

> a. ~~"Ministers of the Gospel and teachers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church," as used in Constitution Article V, have been designated by the Synod as "ministers of religion, ordained" and "ministers of religion, commissioned" respectively.~~
>
> *a. "Ministers of the Gospel" are designated by the Synod as "ministers of religion, ordained." "Teachers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and deaconesses" are designated by the Synod as "ministers of religion, commissioned."* These are the only individuals eligible for membership in the Synod. They will be referred to in these Bylaws as "ordained ministers" and "commissioned ministers" respectively;

and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 2.43 be amended as follows:

2.43 Clergy, ~~and~~ Teacher, *and Deaconess* Rosters

Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws, the District Presidents shall be responsible for the initial placement of the names of all ministers of religion on the clergy, ~~and~~ teacher, *and deaconess* rosters, respectively, of the Synod and also for their removal. An ordained or commissioned minister accepting a call to a congregation in a sister District, or to an institution which relates to such District, shall immediately report such decision to the District President of the District where presently serving and ask for a transfer of membership. The District President shall forward such transfer to the President of the sister District. Upon receipt of the transfer and of a request for installation from the minister of religion, the District President of the sister District shall install or authorize installation of such minister. The District President shall be responsible for maintaining records of transfers into and out of his District;

and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 5.61 a be amended as follows:

5.61 Official Pastoral, ~~and~~ Teacher, *and Deaconess* Conferences

a. In each District of the Synod there shall be an official conference for ordained ministers and ~~an~~ official conferences for commissioned ministers. Each official conference shall consist respectively of all ordained and commissioned ministers on the respective rosters. Conferences 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. Such major sectional meetings shall be regarded as sessions of the official conference;

and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 5.67 a be amended as follows:

The official pastoral conferences, ~~and~~ official teacher conferences, *and official deaconess conferences* shall be encouraged to meet also jointly for the purpose of discussing doctrinal, professional, and practical matters. Such a joint meeting will not be regarded as an official conference;

and be it further

Resolved, That the above Bylaw amendments be effective upon announcement by the Secretary of the Synod that the amendments to the Constitution granting membership in the Synod to deaconesses have been ratified by the vote of the congregations of the Synod;
and be it finally

Resolved, That the Commission on Constitutional Matters, if necessary, make further revisions to the synodical *Handbook* to bring it into harmony with the granting of membership in the Synod to deaconesses.

Action: *Adopted (13).*

To Establish Procedures for Certification of Deaconesses

RESOLUTION 3-19

Report R3-06 (*CW*, pp. 71–72); Overtures 3-21A–23, 3-25 (*CW*, pp. 175–76)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has declared its intent that synodically certified deaconesses be declared eligible for membership in the LCMS as Ministers of Religion, Commissioned; and

WHEREAS, There exists no formal procedure by which deaconesses presently serving in LCMS congregations or ministries can initially be certified for such membership; and

WHEREAS, There exists no colloquy program or other procedure or vehicle by which women who also have or will receive training as deaconesses from programs other than Concordia College, River Forest, or other synodically approved curricula can be certified for membership; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education Services (BHES), in consultation with the Council of Presidents, initially certify those deaconesses presently serving LCMS congregations or ministries who are eligible for membership in the LCMS as Ministers of Religion, Commissioned; and be it further

Resolved, That the BHES, in consultation with the Board of Regents of Concordia College, River Forest, develop a colloquy program or other procedure or vehicle whereby women trained as deaconesses at non-synodically approved schools or programs may be certified for membership in the LCMS as Ministers of Religion, Commissioned; and be it finally

Resolved, That currently uncertified deaconesses be encouraged to become certified as soon as possible and that congregations and other agencies of the Synod engaging an uncertified deaconess be encouraged to make provision for time and financial assistance for such certification.

Action: *Adopted as amended (13).*

(The final resolve was added by amendment. A suggestion was made to the effect that a resolve be added which would make it possible for deaconess graduates from Valparaiso University to be eligible for Commissioned Minister status. It was not pursued when it was made clear that such action would require a total redefinition of that category.)

4. Program and Finance

Introduction

Bylaw 9.53 of the *Handbook* of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod requires that the President of the Synod "appoint a floor committee on program implementation . . . consisting of a representative from each District." Thus, each of you has a representative from your District on Committee 4. Part of the committee's task is to "report to the convention on the mission, ministry, and stewardship performance and potential of the Synod."

At the outset of our report and recommendations to the convention, please allow Floor Committee 4 to express its deep appreciation to the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The board consists of persons of integrity and good will who have taken on the challenge of attempting to carry out the mission and purpose of the Synod in the face of diminishing financial support. They and the program boards of the Synod must face the anguishing tasks of cutting back while the church says that it wants to move forward in every area, especially missions and seminary support.

If truth were told, and let it be told here and now, we have found the Board of Directors struggling mightily with financial problems not of its making but of ours who are Synod where we live. We have found them and the financial officers of the Synod to be people of integrity who love their Lord, respect their church and its members, and are extremely competent in every area of fiscal management that can be reasonably expected.

Committee 4 thanks God for the Board of Directors, the financial officers, the Department of Stewardship and Financial Support, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, as well as those who serve on the staff at the International Center, for through them, we are convinced, God is truly at work.

With that background, Committee 4, Program and Finance, brings to the convention the resolutions that follow.

Richard Kapfer, *Chairman*

Committee 4 Chairman Richard Kapfer

To Encourage Adequate Funding of Theological Education

RESOLUTION 4-01

Appendix I (*CW*, pp. 291–300); Overtures 4-30, 4-32–35, 4-37–38D, 4-50–51 (*CW*, pp. 211–13, 216–17)

WHEREAS, The office of the public ministry is instituted by God and filled by those called to serve as pastors in congregations; and

WHEREAS, Scripture enjoins the church to give careful attention to suitable qualifications before it (the church) appoints or calls a man to fill this office; and

WHEREAS, The task of educating, examining, and declaring candidates qualified for the office of the public ministry has been entrusted by our Synod to seminary faculties (and, for certain cases, to the colloquy committees); and

WHEREAS, The colleges of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have as their historic and primary mission preseminary education and the preparation of full-time church workers for important service in auxiliary offices of ministry; and

WHEREAS, The congregations of the LCMS should rightly provide the seminaries and colleges with adequate funding for their fulfilling of this important mission; and

WHEREAS, The colleges and seminaries of the LCMS have been faithful stewards in the work entrusted to them and of the offerings and gifts given to them; and

WHEREAS, The men and women who present themselves for full-time service in the church, especially those men who through many years prepare to serve in the office of the public ministry, should not be called on to endure excessive financial burdens resulting from the cost of their education; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS has a history of high esteem for the office of the public ministry and of strong support for education of full-time church vocations; and

WHEREAS, There is a current concern and abiding generosity among the people of the LCMS for support of education for the pastoral ministry and auxiliary offices; and

WHEREAS, The patterns of giving by members of the LCMS have been changing and will continue to change; and

WHEREAS, In the last five years alone, more than $50 million in future gifts through wills, endowments, and trusts have been identified for the seminaries and the colleges, with the vast majority of this being designated for student aid; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Foundation presently manages over $71 million dollars worth of endowment and custodial funds of which approximately 30 percent support theological education; therefore be it

Resolved, To give thanks to God for

a. the Gospel, the means of grace, and the office of the public ministry;
b. our theological heritage and the synodical tradition of the high esteem for the office of the public ministry;
c. the manifold and generous support, past and present, by people of the LCMS for education for the pastoral ministry and other full-time church vocations;
d. the long years of faithful service to the church by its seminaries and their many faithful graduates and by the colleges and the many servants of the church they have educated;
e. the readiness for self-sacrifice on the part of many men (and their families) who present themselves for seminary education as potential candidates for service in the office of the public ministry and of men and women preparing for full-time service in other church vocations;

and be it further

Resolved, That our colleges, seminaries, and their supervising boards be encouraged to continue to exercise faithful stewardship in the work entrusted to them and in their use of the money provided to them to do it, including

a. careful delineation of the mission of the institution;
b. careful examination of the expenditures in relation to the mission;
c. prudent husbanding of available resources;
d. integrity in reporting to the LCMS in regard to the use of its peoples' gifts for this aspect of the Lord's work;

and be it further

Resolved, That increased financial support of synodical education for the ministry (and indeed, support of *all* of the Lord's work overseen by the synodical level of structure for member congregations) be encouraged through offerings devoted to the synodical budget by

a. encouraging everyone in our church body to hold high the vision of the LCMS as *our* church and of the Synod's work as *our* work in the Lord;
b. encouraging congregational voters' assemblies and District boards of directors to increase and fulfill their commitments to the Lord's work supported by the synodical budget;

and be it further

Resolved, To affirm the validity and desirability of Christian charitable giving to development programs (such as the Joint Seminary Development Project) and through planned giving/deferred-gift arrangements as an *appropriate ancillary activity* supplemental to the support given through the offerings to the synodical budget;

and be it finally

Resolved, To establish and promote a synodical endowment fund(s) for education of professional church workers in synodical colleges and seminaries, with these provisions:

a. The funds shall be raised primarily through the efforts of persons in the Department of Stewardship and Financial Support and especially through major gifts and estate planning.
b. The funds will be deposited with and managed by the LCMS Foundation.
c. Income produced from these funds will be counted as separate and distinct from subsidy apportioned from the synodical budget.
d. Income produced from these funds will be administered by the Board for Higher Education Services (with the counsel of the Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry) apportioned by them and assigned to pay expenses pertaining *specifically* to ministerial education, including (for example)
   - recruitment;
   - preseminary, teacher, and DCE and other professional church worker programs at synodical colleges;
   - seminaries' educational and general expenses;
   - student aid to professional church-work students for educational expenses
   - funding of internships, vicarages, vicarage and field-education supervisor training, and other practica for advanced students;
   - reduction of education-related indebtedness of graduates serving as synodical professional church workers, and
   - continuing education events for persons serving as synodical professional church workers.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

(Considerable additional information on the matter of the funding of theological education was provided to the delegates. It dealt with the cost of seminary operations, the source of funds, cost to students, support for students, the debt of students and similar matters. The information was contained on pages 177–78 of *Today's Business*.)

To Provide Direction for Work of Funding the Mission Working Team

RESOLUTION 4-02

Report R4-02 (*CW*, pp. 74–79); Overture 4-19 (*CW*, p. 209)

Preamble

Res. 4-01 of the 1986 synodical convention called for an in-depth review of the methods by which support is given for funding the mission and ministry of the Synod at all levels. To accomplish this review the Planning Council brought together a Funding the Mission Working Team consisting of two members of the Synod's Board of Directors and two members of the Council of Presidents. This team was given the task of investigating innovative and creative possibilities for funding the mission of our Synod in ways appropriate for our day and time.

While it is true that member giving to congregations has increased in the past years, and that "second pocket" contributions (i.e., gifts earmarked for specific purposes) are rising from year to year, the fact that there has been a significant decline in the percentage of offerings remitted for District and Synod mission and ministry is cause for concern and has serious implications for our church body and our future work together.

Exactly what can be done about this remains to be seen. The task of the Funding the Mission Working Team will be to give specific guidance and direction to our church in this matter; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Planning Council provide for an increase in representation on the Funding the Mission Working Team to include lay persons, parish pastors, and other professional church workers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Working Team continue its studies and present its findings and suggested approaches to Funding the Mission to the March 1990, meeting of the Planning Council; and be it further

Resolved, That the Planning Council use available channels (including Circuit Forums, 1991 District conventions, etc.) for discussion and review of such recommendations; and be it finally

Resolved, That on the basis of the above discussion and review the Planning Council recommend to the 1992 convention proposals for funding the mission in a manner fitting to our day and time.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Encourage Biblical Stewardship

RESOLUTION 4-03

Report R4-01 (*CW*, pp. 73–74); Overture 4-18 (*CW*, p. 209)

WHEREAS, Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes; and

WHEREAS, Over 2,921 congregations in 31 Districts have participated in an intensive stewardship emphasis such as His Love—Our Response and similar efforts which Districts have conducted; and

WHEREAS, Such efforts have helped increase attendance at Bible study, worship, congregational ministry involvement, as well as proportionate firstfruits giving; therefore be it

Resolved, That we commend those congregations and Districts that have participated in intensive stewardship emphases; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage those congregations that have yet to participate in them to enroll in such year-round intensive stewardship efforts as may be offered by Districts and by synodical stewardship leaders; and be it further

Resolved, That congregation leaders be encouraged to make every effort to teach Biblical stewardship principles, drawing upon resources available from District and the Synod, so as to equip God's baptized people to respond to Christ's love with God-pleasing management of His gifts; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to urge their members to support the work of Christ's church by committing a growing percentage of their resources to the Lord so that congregations may avoid an overdependence on methods of raising funds that do not emphasize firstfruits, proportionate giving by God's people; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations and Districts again be encouraged to practice proportionate, firstfruits giving and annually establish an increasing percentage of their income for our common work (ref. 1986 *Proceedings*, Res. 4-05).

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Support Board of Directors' Budget Decisions

RESOLUTION 4-04

Overtures 4-13A—17 (*CW*, pp. 207–08)

PREAMBLE

In accordance with Bylaw 9.53, Floor Committee 4 has reviewed the synodical budget for the 1989/90 fiscal year as adopted by the Board of Directors and supported by the Planning Council. In the course of this review, the committee also reviewed the concerns on budgets and deficits expressed in various overtures (listed above). The committee noted the frustrations shared in these overtures and hopes that its findings will help the Synod rejoice in the work it is doing in the United States and around the world.

The committee finds that the Board of Directors has been complying with Bylaws and convention resolutions regarding the budget. Since the 1981 convention, the board has adopted balanced budgets. There has, however, been some confusion regarding the 1988/89 budget. While the adopted $32,235,000 unrestricted budget showed expenses $219,000 in excess of income, the board anticipated sufficient underspending to balance actual income and expense. Based on the 10-month operating results available at the May Floor Committee meetings, it appears that income and expense will be balanced for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1989.

For each of the five fiscal years ending June 30, 1987, actual unrestricted operating income and expenses were within one-half of one percent of balancing, with three years being slightly in the black and two years slightly in the red. In each year, the variance was less than $100,000 on budgets averaging about $32 million. Beginning in December 1987, midway through the 1987/88 fiscal year, a substantial reduction in income occurred. Receipts for the 1987 calendar year were below budget and, in addition, pledges from Districts for the 1988 calendar year dropped below the prior year and over three percent below the established budget. In spite of cost control measures, in this short time period, the Board of Directors and staffs could not reduce expenses sufficiently to operate within the reduced income; therefore, a deficit of $705,000 for the 1987/88 fiscal year was incurred.

The committee reports that the Board of Directors has adopted a balanced budget for the 1989/90 fiscal year. While agreeing with the board action, the committee expresses its concern about the impact on Kingdom work because of the continuing decline in offerings shared for the work of the Synod at the District and national levels. The portion of congregational offerings received by Synod

has decreased from 6.2 percent to 3.9 percent in the past 10 years. Had the 6.2 percent level been retained, over *$17 million* more from 1988 congregational contributions of $768 million would have been available for the current synodical budget.

While the committee is concerned about the reductions in the 1989/90 budget for virtually all departments, it is particularly concerned about the inability to go through open doors on the mission field, the level of support for colleges and seminaries in a period of rising costs, and cutbacks in the stewardship budget and other services to support missions and higher education, as well as services to parishes and their members.

Resolved, That the Synod in convention support the Board of Directors' budget decisions; and be it further

Resolved, That the convention commend the Board of Directors for its fiscal responsibility and diligent efforts over the years to maintain the level of support for missions and higher education.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Increase Seminary Funding

RESOLUTION 4-05A

Report R4-02 (*CW*, pp. 74–79); Overtures 4-25–29C, 4-36, 4-42–43, 4-45, 4-48–49 (*CW*, pp. 210–11, 213–16)

WHEREAS, The Synod in previous conventions (1981 and 1986) encouraged increased funding for seminaries (1981 *Proceedings*, 6-18A and 1986 *Proceedings*, 6-16B) toward a goal of providing 65 percent support for the educational and general budget of the two seminaries; and

WHEREAS, The synodical financial income level has not significantly increased to meet this objective; and

WHEREAS, The patterns according to which Christian people make their tithes and offerings available for the Kingdom work have changed; and

WHEREAS, The Joint Seminary Development Program administered by the Department of Stewardship and Financial Support was initiated to meet the needs of the people and the seminaries; and

WHEREAS, Projections for fiscal year 1988–89 reflect that 55.4 percent for St. Louis and 59.2 percent for Fort Wayne of educational and general expenses of the seminaries will be met by synodical subsidy and unrestricted gifts through the joint seminary program (*CW*, p. 76); and

WHEREAS, In addition, restricted gifts from the Adopt-A-Student programs, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation and Seminary Endowments, and income from congregations and Districts provide approximately one-half of the tuition paid by the seminary students as part of funding the seminaries, (*CW*, p. 249); and

WHEREAS, Combining these various sources of funding means that students on average are responsible for approximately 20 percent of their educational expenses (cf. Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry Report, *CW*, pp. 297–300); therefore be it

Resolved, That we thank God for and commend the cooperative achievements of the Board for Higher Education Services (BHES), the Department of Stewardship and Financial Support, the seminaries, the Joint Seminary Development Program, and the Board of Directors for the progress made in funding the educational and general budget of the two seminaries; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations through their Districts be encouraged to increase their support to the Synod so that the Synod might have the necessary income to provide more subsidy to seminary education; and be it further

Resolved, That we request Districts and congregations to share mailing lists with the Joint Seminary Development Program and encourage individuals to participate and increase their support in the program; and be it finally

Resolved, That the BHES, the Department of Stewardship and Financial Support, the seminaries, the Joint Seminary Development Program, and the Board of Directors be encouraged to increase the funding of educational and general seminary support from both subsidy and development programs.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

(A motion to substitute Overture 4-13A for the proposed resolution was defeated by a vote of 384–581.)

To Assist in Repayment of Loans for Church Workers

RESOLUTION 4-06

Overtures 4-46—47, 4-53 (*CW*, pp. 215, 217–18)

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ commissioned his Church to "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19); and

WHEREAS, Our Synod is currently facing a shortage of candidates for the pastoral and teaching ministry; and

WHEREAS, This shortage is aggravated by the high cost of college and seminary education, which causes some students to assume substantial debt during their preparation for church-work professions (Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry Report, *CW*, p. 298); and

WHEREAS, There is current concern and abiding generosity among the people of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for support of church work students at colleges and seminaries (Stewardship Department Report 4-02, *CW*, pp. 74–79 and Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry report, *CW*, pp. 291–97); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Department of Stewardship and Financial Support and the Board for Higher Education Services be directed to study the feasibility of providing grants to church-work graduates for educational loan repayments and report the results of the study to the Board of Directors by June 30, 1990; and be it further

Resolved, That synodical congregations make an effort to become aware of the nature of any outstanding educational debt incurred by their workers while attending a synodical institution; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations and Districts be strongly

encouraged to assist in repayment of the workers educational debt over a 10-year period.

Action: *Adopted as amended (11).*

(The word *circuits* was deleted from the third resolve between the *congregation and Districts* by a narrow margin of 50-plus percent to 49-plus percent. The resolution was adopted overwhelmingly by a vote of 770–254.)

To Alter Synodical Policy on Salary Information

RESOLUTION 4-07A

Overtures 4-20—24, L4-63 (*CW*, pp. 209–10, *TB*, pp. 14–15)

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention (1979) established a procedure for providing salary information upon request; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors annually reviews the salary grid scale and approves the scale for national officers and staff; and

WHEREAS, The salary grid scale has been shared with and reviewed by the floor committee; and

WHEREAS, Some interest has been expressed relative to publishing of synodical executive salaries; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention reaffirm 1979 convention Res. 4-20 which provided for the availability of the salary grid scale of all synodical and District officials, staff, and faculty members; and be it further

Resolved, That this convention support the Board of Directors' policy of making this available on written request by members of the Synod (congregations, pastors and teachers on Synod's roster) to the executive director of the synodical Board of Directors, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63122; and be it finally

Resolved, That the salaries of the top four elected synodical executives (President, First Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer), together with the above procedure for the availability of salary information, be published annually in an official publication or another mailing to congregations.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

(A motion to delete the words, *the salaries of the four elected synodical executives [President, First Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer] together with,* was defeated.)

To Delete Bylaws 9.11, 9.13, and 9.15

RESOLUTION 4-08

Overture L4-65 (*TB*, p. 15)

WHEREAS, Existing Bylaws 9.11, 9.13, and 9.15 create artificial geographic barriers to the solicitation of funds for the benefit of any institution, society, or association of the Synod by requiring the approval of the District or synodical board of directors; and

WHEREAS, For example, the existing Bylaws may prevent synodical colleges and seminaries from soliciting funds from alumni and other supporters who have moved out of their geographic area; and

WHEREAS, These Bylaws impose unfair restrictions on the financial development programs of synodical institutions as opposed to other Lutheran entities; and

WHEREAS, The ambiguity of these Bylaws and the polity of congregational autonomy in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod makes interpretation and enforcement difficult; and

WHEREAS, The synodical Board of Directors has recommended the deletion of these Bylaws; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaws 9.11, 9.13, and 9.15 be deleted from the *Handbook*.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Change Name of Department of Stewardship and Financial Support

RESOLUTION 4-09

Report R4-01 (*CW*, pp. 73–74)

WHEREAS, The Department of Stewardship and Financial Support functions under this holistic definition of stewardship: *Christian stewardship* is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes; and

WHEREAS, the department has sought to bring a Biblically based stewardship education and nurture message to His people through such efforts as His Love—Our Response, production and promotion of various Bible studies, and other programs and materials such as "Time of Your Life" and "My Father's World"; and

WHEREAS, The current name of Department of Stewardship and Financial Support may give a false perception of the Biblical definition of stewardship as well as possibly creating a misunderstanding among some that the only purpose of the department is to raise funds; and

WHEREAS, The development of financial support is one aspect of Christian stewardship; therefore be it

Resolved, That the name of the Department of Stewardship and Financial Support be changed to Department of Stewardship.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Increase Participation in Adopt-a-Student Efforts

RESOLUTION 4-10

Overtures 4-31, 4-41 (*CW*, pp. 211, 214)

WHEREAS, The cost of attending one of our synodical seminaries may dissuade otherwise qualified candidates from enrolling in our seminaries; and

WHEREAS, These costs force many of our seminary students to seek part-time or full-time employment but still incur significant debt during their educational pursuit; and

WHEREAS, Many students enter seminary as husbands and fathers responsible for the care of their families, causing an even greater financial burden to fall upon them, their parents, and the parents of their wives; and

WHEREAS, These young men should not be called on to endure excessive financial burdens resulting from their education; and

WHEREAS, The Joint Seminary Program has developed a vibrant concept called Adopt-A-Student to facilitate financial help for seminarians from individuals and organizations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Joint Seminary Program be encouraged to give optimum publicity to the Adopt-A-Student program; and be it further

Resolved, That individuals and organizations be encouraged to become a part of the Adopt-A-Student effort for the purpose of providing these students financial support and spiritual encouragement.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Decline Use of Church Extension Funds for Student Loans

RESOLUTION 4-11

Overture 4-44 (*CW*, p. 215)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and/or Districts of the Synod have established Church Extension funds to provide capital financing for the acquisition of sites and facilities to aid the mission and ministry of the church (1986 *Proceedings*, Res. 4-11); and

WHEREAS, The Synod's Board for Church Extension has previously considered the feasibility of using LCEF/CEF funds for student loans and has determined that such a policy would be inconsistent with the goals and objectives of the fund, as well as contrary to prior synodical convention resolutions; and

WHEREAS, Other sources of funds, including loans, are already available to students preparing for full-time church work; and

WHEREAS, Other resolutions (e.g., Res. 4-06) address the critical issue of the repayment of education debt incurred by full-time church workers; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 4-44 be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Decline Certain Overtures

RESOLUTION 4-12

Overtures 4-50, 4-55 (*CW*, pp. 216, 218)

WHEREAS, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various reasons, that certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:

Overture	*Subject*	*Reason*
4-50	To Designate More Financial Support	Not feasible at this time
4-55	To Develop Plan for Funding of Pastoral Replacements	Needs further clarification

Action: *Adopted (15).*

5. Structure and Organization

Introduction

Although we are well aware of the fact that structure and organization are not of the essence of the church, nor are they defined within the scriptural doctrine of the church, yet we also realize that structure and organization are important to us if our church body is to function to its greatest potential. If we are to achieve the 10 objectives stated very clearly in Article III of the Constitution of the Synod, it is important that our structure and organization not impede us, but rather that they assist us in expediting the mission which our Lord has entrusted to us.

Floor Committee 5 addressed itself to its task with those thoughts in mind especially as we considered the overtures on pages 221–43 of the *Convention Workbook*. The members of the committee were assisted immensely in their work by Dr. Walter Rosin, secretary of the Synod; Board of Directors chairman George Mohr; board member Rev. Victor Marxhausen; and Judge Gene Schnelz, chairman of the Commission on Constitutional Matters; as well as commission member Judge James Groh. We thank them for their participation in our deliberations and decisions.

An additional special word of thanks to Dr. Eldor Meyer of the Nebraska District who served as vice-chairman of our committee and served well in that leadership capacity while I was hospitalized at the time of the May floor committee meetings. Thanks also to President Raymond Hartwig of the South Dakota District who acted as our secretary.

Orval Oswald, *Chairman*

To Enable LCMS Seminary and College Faculty to Serve as Members of Boards and Commissions

RESOLUTION 5-01

Overtures 5-78A–B (*CW*, p. 242)

WHEREAS, Prior to the 1986 Bylaws it was permissible for seminary and college faculty to serve as members of the Synod's boards and commissions; and

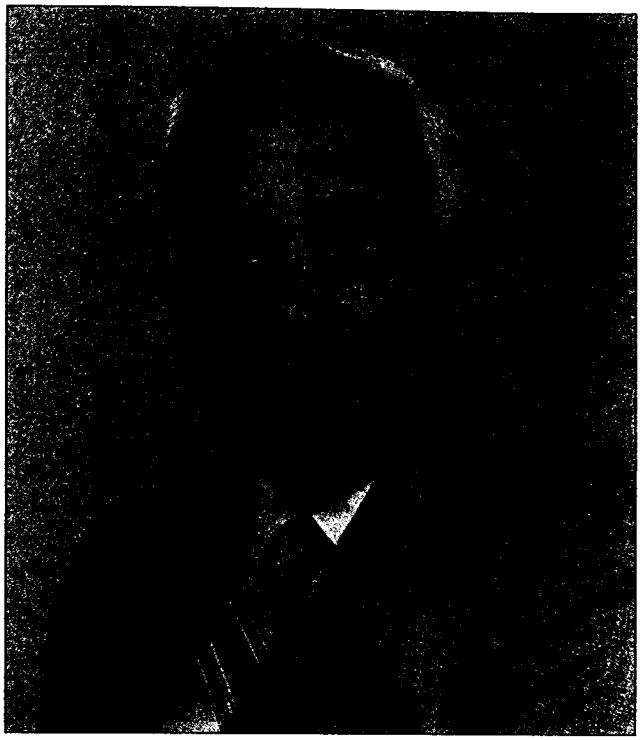
WHEREAS, The 1986 LCMS convention adopted Res. 5-05 which prohibits faculty members of the Synod from service as members of the Synod's boards and commissions unless otherwise specified or permitted by the Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, Prior to 1986 LCMS seminary and college faculty members have rendered valuable service as members of the Synod's boards and commissions because of their specialized training, qualifications, and the leadership they were able to provide; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.69 h be amended as follows:

> h. Unless otherwise specified or permitted by the Bylaws, executives, faculty, and staff on either the national or District level shall not be members of the boards or commissions under which they serve ~~or~~ *nor shall any such executives or staff be members* of any other board or commission of the Synod, as identified in Bylaws 3.55 and 3.57.

Action: *Adopted (3).*



Committee 5 Chairman Orval Oswald

To Transfer District Membership of Congregations

RESOLUTION 5-02

Overtures 5-76, L5-86 (*CW*, pp. 241–42, *TB*, p. 16)

WHEREAS, Trinity Lutheran Church of Burlingame, Calif., has requested and received favorable response for transfer from the English District to the California-Nevada-Hawaii District; and

WHEREAS, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cliffside Park, N.J., has requested and received favorable response for transfer from the English District to the New Jersey District; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention grant these transfer requests of congregations, wishing God's rich blessings upon the mission and ministry of these congregations.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Change Boundaries of Northwest District

RESOLUTION 5-03

Overture 5-75 (*CW*, p. 241)

WHEREAS, The Church of All Nations of Repulse Bay, Hong Kong, has duly been received into synodical membership by the Northwest District Board of Directors on February 17, 1987; and

WHEREAS, Northwest District boundaries currently in-

clude Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod exercise its authority (Article XII 1 and Bylaw 4.03 a) to alter District boundaries by extending the Northwest District boundaries to include the locale of the Church of All Nations, Repulse Bay, Hong Kong.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Change Name of Southern California District

RESOLUTION 5-04

Overture 5-74 (*CW*, p. 241)

WHEREAS, The Southern California District, having resolved to change its name to the Pacific Southwest District, has petitioned the Synod to grant said name change; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention grant the petitioned name change from Southern California District to the Pacific Southwest District.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Provide Alternate Method of Amending Bylaws

RESOLUTION 5-05

Overture 5-10 (*CW*, p. 221)

WHEREAS, Concern has been expressed regarding the amount of convention time devoted to debating the technicalities of proposed Bylaws as compared to the merits of the action that Bylaws are to implement; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary and desirable to establish a means for the implementation of convention action in the limited instances in which the convention floor resolution or floor amendment does not provide the specific Bylaw changes; and

WHEREAS, The present Bylaws grant only limited authority to the Commission on Constitutional Matters to reconcile the Bylaws of the Synod to the action of the synodical convention; and

WHEREAS, It is deemed advisable to develop an alternate procedure for amending Bylaws to implement convention actions; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate and desirable that the responsibility for the approval of such implementing amendments be shared with the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, It is important that any such amendments be operative on an interim basis and be reported for appropriate action to the succeeding convention, thus maintaining necessary checks and balances; and

WHEREAS, The convention retains its final authority on all Bylaws; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 15.01 be amended to read as follows:

15.01 How Made

a. Amendments to the Bylaws may be made
~~a.~~ *1. by the convention* provided they are
a. not contrary to the Constitution;
b. presented in writing to a convention of the Synod;
c. specified as Bylaw amendments and considered by a convention floor committee;
d. submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters for clearance prior to presentation to the convention;
e. adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting;
2. by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors, incorporating into the Handbook *of the Synod amendments that*
a. are proposed by the Secretary of the Synod as a result of convention action within six months following the convention and reviewed by the Commission on Constitutional Matters;
b. have been reviewed by the Board of Directors;
c. are determined after review, to be in conformity with the Constitution and Bylaws and with the resolutions and changes adopted by the Synod in convention; and
d. have obtained the joint concurrence of the Board of Directors and the Commission on Constitutional Matters.
b. Bylaws prepared in accordance with 15.01 a 2 shall be operative on an interim basis and shall be reported for appropriate action to the succeeding convention of the Synod.

Action: *Declined (6).*

(The resolution was declined by a vote of 462-573.)

To Revise Bylaws re Synodical Personnel

RESOLUTION 5-06A

Overture 5-16 (*CW*, pp. 227–28)

WHEREAS, The board has been given the authority under Bylaw 3.183 a, "The Board of Directors shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the Synod's business and legal affairs"; and

WHEREAS, The Synod is subject to all federal and state laws and regulations regarding employment; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the Bylaws regarding synodical personnel, the board maintains numerous personnel policies in its policy manual; and

WHEREAS, The board believes that much of what appears in the present Bylaws regarding synodical personnel, including hiring, compensation, and retirement policies, should instead appear in that policy manual; and

WHEREAS, Under this Bylaw provision the board has the authority to establish personnel policies in compliance with existing laws and regulations on hiring, tenure, promotion, termination, retirement, and salary administration; and

WHEREAS, There is a proliferation of court decisions affecting employment policies; and

WHEREAS, Bylaws can only be changed once every three years by the Synod in convention; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention adopt the following Bylaw changes:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

3.186 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 activities.~~

~~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.~~

~~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 Director of Personnel and Human Resources who shall be advisory to the boards, commissions, and officers of the Synod.~~

a. The Board of Directors shall approve staffing levels and position descriptions for the synodical headquarters staff and, with respect to that staff and the staffs of other agencies of the Synod officed at the headquarters, shall establish uniform personnel and compensation policies; it shall provide counsel to help maintain comparability of policy and parity between employees of the Synod (including missionaries), Districts, colleges, seminaries, and agencies of the Synod; and it shall provide for a Department of Human Resources to administer the Synod's personnel policies and programs and to provide assistance to Districts, colleges, and seminaries, as requested.

b.The principal staff person for each synodical board or commission other than Boards of Regents, as well as certain other senior staff positions of program boards determined by the Board of Directors, shall be appointed by the respective board or commission, with the approval of the President. All other executive-staff positions, as well as secretarial and clerical staff, shall be employed, within approved staffing levels, by the principal staff person with the approval of the Director of Human Resources.

~~**3.801 Description of Appointing or Employing Authorities**~~

~~a. The principal staff person for each board or commission shall be appointed by the respective group with the approval of the President.~~

~~b. The principal staff person for each board or commission of the Synod shall be a member of a congregation of the Synod. Such a position shall be filled in accordance with policies of the Synod's Board of Directors. The respective board or commission, in consultation with the President of the Synod or his designated representative, shall study and determine its special needs, the broader requirements of the Synod for that position, as well as any special qualifications sought; and update the position description. A list of nominees shall be gathered by the Department of Personnel and Human Resources through an announcement in an official periodical and through other methods. This list shall be shared with the members of the board or commission. The President of the Synod shall select at least two persons as preferred nominees. The President and two members designated by the board or commission shall act as a screening committee, which shall interview such preferred nominees and make appropriate recommendations to the appointing body. The board or commission may ask for additional nominees from the screening committee or for additional names from the field through the Department of Personnel and Human Resources for the regular procedures outlined above.~~

~~c. Appointments to other executive positions in upper classifications as determined by the Board of Directors shall be made by the respective board or commission (or members designated by the board or commission) in consultation with the principal staff person and with the approval of the President of the Synod. The Department of Personnel and Human Resources shall render assistance in gathering names for consideration and in securing evaluations. Each such position shall have been approved by the respective board or commission and shall be filled in accordance with policies of the Synod's Board of Directors.~~

~~d. Executives in other classifications as well as secretarial and clerical staff shall be employed by the principal staff person with the approval of the Synod's Department of Personnel and Human Resources under policies established by the Board of Directors.~~

~~e. All additions to or replacements of staff shall be in accordance with current position descriptions and shall be within staffing limits approved by the respective board or commission and the Board of Directors.~~

3.803 Tenure and Termination

~~a.~~ Unless otherwise specified ~~in the Bylaws, all executive staff~~ *by the Board of Directors, all employees* shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authorities ~~described above, subject to annual review and evaluation~~. Members of the Synod who are appointed to positions requiring an ordained minister or a commissioned minister shall receive a Solemn Call. *Other ordained or commissioned ministers appointed to positions in the Synod shall be affirmed by the respective board or commission through a solemn call. All called ministers shall be subject to all appropriate provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws as well as the synodical Board of Director's policy manual.* ~~lay persons whose position must be filled by a member of a congregation of the Synod shall receive a Solemn Appointment. Appointees, ordained or commissioned ministers, and lay, may normally expect to continue in their position if their work is satisfactory, as evidenced by the annual review and evaluation, and if there is a continuing need for their services.~~

~~b. Terminations require the same approvals as appointments. Termination of appointment shall be by written notice and may be made by the appointing authorities at any time for cause, that is for adherence to false doctrine, conduct unbecoming a Christian, or neglect of office in all other cases, if the appointing authorities decide to terminate an appointment, 90 day written notice shall be given to the executive.~~

~~c. In the event that the appointing authorities cannot concur in reaching a decision to terminate an appointment after a reasonable effort has been made to do so, the appointing authorities shall certify in writing to the Board of Directors such lack of concurrence. In the event that the appointing authorities do not certify their lack of concurrence within six months from the date the board or commission served resolved to terminate, at that time, the question shall be automatically submitted to the Board of Directors for review. The Board of Directors shall make a recommendation to the appointing authorities within four months of submission. At the meeting of the board or commission served by the executive which next follows receipt of the Board of Director's recommendation, the appointing authorities shall review the recommendation. If an impasse still exists between the appointing authorities, the board or commission served may vote to terminate the appointment, but a two-thirds majority of that board or commission shall be required to effect the termination.~~

~~d. During the 90 day period referred to in paragraph b, the Department of Personnel and Human Resources shall assist the executive, if requested, in efforts to find another opportunity for service in the church. Full salary shall continue to be paid for services rendered until the date of obtaining new employment or the expiration of the 90 days, whichever is earlier. An additional month's salary shall be paid as severance pay on ter-~~

~~mination of full salary. However, in cases of termination of appointment for cause, none of the foregoing financial arrangements shall apply except for one month's severance pay. The month's severance pay provision shall also apply to other terminated executives not subject to the appointment process. Severance pay for secretarial and clerical personnel shall be under policies established by the Board of Directors.~~

~~3.805 Retirement Policies~~

~~a. The following retirement policies shall apply to salaried nonelective personnel of the national Synod except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws:~~

~~1. Each person shall retire at the end of the calendar year in which he or she attains the age of 70. Each person may, however, request retirement prior to attaining age 70 under the applicable provisions of the Concordia Retirement Plan.~~

~~2. To the extent, if any, which the foregoing is inconsistent with the provisions of any pension or retirement plan covering such persons, the provisions of such plan shall control.~~

~~3. The administration of this policy shall be the responsibility of the Director of Personnel and Human Resources.~~

~~b. The retirement policies of Districts shall conform to those of the national Synod;~~

and be it further

Resolved, That, with the exception of Bylaw 3.805 ("Retirement Policies"), all other provisions of these Bylaws being deleted be immediately incorporated into the Board of Directors' policy manual.

Action: *Adopted as amended (9).*

(Resolution 5-06 was adopted in session 6 by a vote of 662-355. A motion to reconsider was approved by a vote of 754-290. In response to a question, it was stated that the resolution would not increase the authority of the Board of Directors over policies governing District and college or seminary personnel. The role of the Board of Directors is advisory with the exception of those serving at the International Center. In response to the motion for reconsideration, 5-06A was introduced in session 9 and was adopted overwhelmingly.)

To Amend Bylaws on Filling Board and Commission Vacancies

RESOLUTION 5-07

Overture 5-37 (*CW*, pp. 233–34)

WHEREAS, God has blessed His church with the abundant gifts and services of elected leadership; and

WHEREAS, Leadership vacancies occur on synodical boards and commissions from time to time; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Structure believes a shared selection process closely representing convention wishes and nominating procedure would enable vacancies to be filled on a timely basis; therefore be it

Resolved, That present Bylaw 3.63 be amended as follows and that new Bylaws 3.592 and 6.02 be added:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

3.63 Vacancies

a. Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, ~~each synodically elected board or commission shall be empowered to fill any vacancy which may occur in its membership, subject to the approval of the President.~~ *vacancies that occur on synodically elected boards or commissions shall be filled by the Board of Directors.*

b. The Secretary of the Synod shall be responsible for gathering a list of nominees from the board or commission where the vacancy occurs, the synodical President, the District Boards of Directors, and the slate of candidates from the previous synodical convention within 90 days of notification of the vacancy. A list of at least three but no more than five candidates shall be submitted as soon as possible to the appropriate appointing body. This list shall be determined by the Secretary of the Synod, the Director of Human Resources, and the chairman of the synodical nominating committee.

~~b.~~ c. Vacancies in any appointed board or commission of the Synod shall be filled by the appointing authority unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws. The board or commission may submit suggestions to the appointing authority.

Add to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations Bylaws:

3.592 Vacancies

Vacancies that occur in the positions that were filled by appointment shall be filled by the same appointing body. In the case of vacancies that occur in positions that were filled by election at a national synodical convention, the appointing body shall be the Board of Directors, and they shall follow the nominating procedures as outlined in 3.63 a and b.

Add to College and Seminary Boards of Regents Bylaws:

6.02 Vacancies

Vacancies that occur on a Board of Regents shall be filled in the following manner:

a. If the vacancy occurs in a position that was previously filled by the Board of Regents, the Board of Regents shall be the appointing body.

b. If the vacancy occurs in a position that was previously filled at a District convention, the District Board of Directors shall be the appointing body.

c. If the vacancy occurs in a position that had been filled by a national synodical convention, the Board for Higher Education Services shall be the appointing body and shall follow the nomination procedure as outlined in 3.63 a and b.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

(During discussion of the resolution, delegates declined to add the words *at least one of whom shall come from the slate of candidates from the previous synodical convention* after the words *five candidates* in proposed Bylaw 3.63 b. They also declined to substitute the words *the elected boards or commissions themselves,* for *the Board of Directors,* in 3.63 a.)

To Revise Bylaws Relating to Commencing Action to Terminate Membership

RESOLUTION 5-08A

Overtures 5-18, 5-83–84 (*CW*, pp. 229, 242–43); L5-85 (*TB*, pp. 15–16)

Resolved, That the following Bylaw amendments be adopted:

2.27 Commencing an Action to Terminate Congregational or Individual Membership

e. In the event that the District President is disqualified because he is a party to the case or is unable to act, ~~the Board of Directors of the District shall authorize~~ the First Vice President or the next qualified District officer *shall be authorized* to function ~~in this instance~~ in the place of the District President. Any challenge to the eligibility of the District President to act

which is not agreed to by the District President shall be determined by the ~~synodical President~~ *Praesidium of the Synod.*

~~f. If the District President declines to commence an action to terminate membership, or if he neither suspends nor declines to suspend the member within 60 days after a complainant has notified the District President in writing that he wishes to pursue the matter, the complainant may petition the President of the Synod, who by virtue of the power given him in the Constitution (Art. XI, B, 1-3 inclusive) shall make inquiries and may on his own initiative institute proceedings, take administrative action, and, if necessary, present charges to the appropriate District Commission on Adjudication. If after a reasonable time the synodical President determines not to institute proceedings, he shall so inform the complainant and the involved member in writing.~~

f. After a complainant has notified the District President in writing that he/she wishes to pursue a matter which could lead to termination of membership, the District President shall begin investigation of the matter within 60 days. If the District President acts by suspending the member, the matter follows the normal adjudication procedure. If the District President acts by declining to suspend the member, or fails to act within 90 days of receiving the notice of desire to pursue the matter, the complainant may present a formal complaint to the Praesidium of the Synod which shall make inquiries and may on its own initiative institute proceedings, take administrative action, and, if necessary, present charges to the appropriate District Commission on Adjudication. If the Praesidium determines not to proceed, it shall so inform the complainant and the involved member in writing, which shall terminate the matter. If the Praesidium takes no action within 180 days, the complaint shall be deemed denied, which shall likewise terminate the matter.

g. The President and the Vice-Presidents of the Synod comprise the Praesidium.

Action: *Adopted* (12).

(An amendment proposing to delete the words *which shall terminate the matter,* at the end of the second last sentence of 2.27 f, to add the words *determines not to proceed or* after *praesidum* in the last sentence, and substitute *complainant may present charges to the appropriate district or synodical Commission on Adjudication* for *complaint shall be deemed denied, which shall likewise terminate the matter* was declined.)

To Amend Bylaws for Recognized Service Organizations

RESOLUTION 5-09

Overture 5-13 (*CW*, pp. 225–26)

Background information. At the 1986 synodical convention, Bylaws were adopted relating to recognition of service organizations. As various groups applied for recognized-service-organization status, the Board of Directors concluded that the Bylaws were ambiguous and could not be applied in a uniform and consistent manner. They therefore declined to grant recognized-service-organization status to new groups (other than social-ministry organizations and schools) until the entire matter could be reviewed and revised Bylaws be prepared for consideration and adoption at the 1989 convention. A committee appointed by the board and including several representatives of recognized service organizations had dealt with the issue and had proposed removing many of the stipulations from the Bylaws and including them in a policy statement of the Board of Directors. They recommended that the remaining Bylaws relative to recognized-service-organization status be drastically reduced. The policy statement and revised Bylaws as proposed by the Board of Directors had been forwarded to the Commission on Structure, which after some review, concurred with the board in the decision to forward the Bylaw revisions to the 1989 convention for consideration and adoption.

Resolved, That present Bylaw 14.03, "Other recognized-service-organizations," appearing on pages 154–56 of the *Handbook* be deleted in its entirety and be replaced with the following Bylaw:

14.03 Recognized Service Organizations

a. A service organization, other than auxiliaries, that extends the mission and ministry of the church may be recognized by the Synod. As such, recognized service organizations shall identify themselves with the mission of the Synod but shall not be a part of the Synod's constitutional structure. They shall establish and develop their own objectives, activities, and programs.

b. Recognized service organizations include social-ministry organizations that have been granted recognized-service-organization status by the Board for Social Ministry Services. Also included are elementary and secondary schools that have an identity distinct from that of a single member congregation of the Synod and are recognized by the Board for Parish Services and other organizations formally recognized by boards designated by the Board of Directors. Councils composed of other entities and foreign organizations are not eligible for such status.

c. Applications for recognized-service-organization status are made to the Board of Directors for assignment to the appropriate board.

d. Recognition shall be under common policies established by the Board of Directors which shall include

1. conditions for recognition;

2. the process for recognition;

3. the responsibilities and privileges of recognition;

4. procedures for recognizing the necessity of respect for and action which is not contrary to the doctrine and practice of the Synod as set forth in the Scriptures and the Confessions and procedures for conforming with the applicable resolutions of the Synod;

5. assurance that recognition as a service organization is not an endorsement by the Synod or a guarantee of financial responsibility for the debts and obligations of the organization or for services provided or offered; and

6. provisions for appropriate boards to establish additional criteria to meet their unique needs.

Action: *Adopted* (12).

Report. The Board of Directors further reports that upon approval by the convention of the above Bylaws, the following board policy statement will become effective:

Policy Statement—Board of Directors Recognized-Service-Organization Status

Applications for recognized-service-organization status shall be made to the Board of Directors through the executive director. Except with respect to social-ministry organizations and elementary and high schools that have an identity distinct from that of a single member congregation of the Synod, the Board of Directors will designate the appropriate board responsible for processing the application and for determining whether or not to grant recognition. Initial recognized-service-organization status may be granted for a maximum of three years and may sub-

sequently be renewed on a three-year basis. Decisions for termination of recognition shall also be the responsibility of the appropriate board according to procedures as hereinafter described. Decisions to grant, deny, renew, or terminate recognition shall be reported for information purposes in the quarterly activity report to the Board of Directors.

In order for an entity to be initially considered for recognized-service-organization status, and in order that continuation of that status once granted may be considered, the entity shall do the following:

1. Be involved in program activities that extend the mission and ministry of the church and that are in harmony with and complement the program(s) of the board(s) of the Synod to which the application has been referred.

2. Identify itself with the Synod but not be a part of the Synod's constitutional structure.

3. Respect and not act contrary to the doctrine and practice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) as set forth in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions and the applicable resolutions of the Synod. (It is self-understood that LCMS personnel serving recognized service organizations as well as recognized service organizations that are exclusively for LCMS, will honor and uphold the doctrines and resolutions of the Synod.)

4. Operate with freedom and self-determination as a ministry independent of the Synod in the establishment and evaluation of its own objectives, activities, and programs, in its organization and administration, and in financial matters.

5. Be an organization or part of an organization that has been classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization. Normally, members of the organization shall be member congregations or judicatories of the Synod. However, in organizations of a regional or national nature, membership of individuals may be allowed.

6. With respect to pan-Lutheran organizations where membership includes individuals or congregations who are not members of the Synod, receive voluntary financial support from congregations or individuals who are members of member congregations of the Synod and provide for appropriate LCMS representation on its governing board.

7. In accordance with the criteria approved by the synodical Board of Directors, provide a mutual letter of agreement that defines the manner in which the organization complements the program of the board to which it relates indicating that it is responsible for its own debts and liabilities and assuming that it will so indicate in all of its agreements of a financial nature, statements of ownership, bylaws, financial offers, and other legal documents, agreements, promotional materials, and all other communications of a financial nature, so that it is clear that being recognized by the Synod as a service organization is not regarded as a synodical endorsement of its organization and administration or as a guarantee on the part of the Synod for the fiscal solvency of, or any financial responsibility for, the organization or for services explicitly or implicitly offered.

Boards that have granted recognition to service organizations are responsible to the Synod for the regular monitoring of those organizations. The staff of the board which grants recognized-service-organization status shall monitor compliance with the letter of agreement and report, on a regular basis, to the granting board on any areas of concern.

8. Seek to coordinate and communicate its programs with and to the Synod and to implement efforts to cooperate with the Synod, through the appropriate board or commission.

9. Provide the appropriate board or commission with an annual program report.

10. Except with respect to fund-raising efforts that are intended to reach only its own constituency, have the privilege and responsibility of consulting with the appropriate board or commission with respect to its special fund-raising efforts and conform to the stipulations of Bylaws 9.11–9.15.

Recognized-service-organization status may be terminated at any time, with or without cause, by a service organization or by the Synod acting through the appropriate board or commission, in accordance with the Board of Directors' policy. However, the effective date of termination by the Synod shall be not earlier than 90 days after the organization has been notified in writing of the intent to terminate, thus allowing that organization an opportunity to seek a continuation of its recognition by the Synod. Recommendation to terminate shall be referred to the Board of Directors for review before final action is taken. There shall be no right of appeal of such termination by the Synod to a synodical convention or otherwise. Promptly after the effective date of any termination, the Synod shall publish a notice in an official periodical that the organization is no longer recognized by the Synod as a recognized service organization.

A recognized service organization shall be listed as such in *The Lutheran Annual*, provided that such listing shall be prefaced by a statement that recognition is not a guarantee on the part of the Synod for the fiscal solvency of the recognized service organization or any financial responsibility for such organization or for services expressed or implied.

Ordained or commissioned ministers of the Synod serving recognized service organizations shall be included on the active membership rosters of the Synod, if otherwise eligible, under Bylaw 2.15 j.

Any reports on these organizations to the conventions of the Synod will be made through the boards to which they relate.

To Extend 1986 Convention Action Regarding Auxiliaries

RESOLUTION 5-10

Overture 5-14 (*CW*, pp. 226–27)

Background. The 1986 convention of the Synod in Res. 5-21 revised Bylaw 14.01 to expand auxiliary membership eligibility to allow for all of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) auxiliaries to also be auxiliaries of

Lutheran Church—Canada (LCC). The convention also requested the President and Board of Directors to continue to work with the auxiliaries on the long-term relationships of the International Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) and the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML), with auxiliaries of partner churches and present to the 1989 synodical convention appropriate recommendations. Discussions are continuing with both auxiliaries on this matter, and both the LCMS and the LCC presidents have asked the Board of Directors to submit an overture extending the provisions of Res. 5-21 until 1992.

Resolved, That the following 1986 convention action (Res. 5-21) regarding auxiliaries, as updated for events during this triennium, be extended until the 1992 convention.

WHEREAS, The members of congregations of the LCMS in the United States and Canada have worked together through the Synod and its auxiliaries for many years; and

WHEREAS, The LCC in accordance with actions by the 1986 synodical convention on Jan. 1, 1989, became a partner church of the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 14.01 a 6 provides that the membership of auxiliaries "is made up of persons who are baptized members of congregations that are members of the LCMS" and

WHEREAS, The International LLL has a concern about being able to continue to have Canadian laymen as active members of the league while also continuing as an auxiliary of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Discussions have continued on this matter during the triennium with both the International LLL and the International LWML; and

WHEREAS, It seems desirable to develop a long-term plan before the 1992 synodical convention which will serve both the leagues' needs for members from Canada and possibly other countries, and also the needs of partner churches to have as auxiliaries organizations that are constituted with people from congregations of partner churches; and

WHEREAS, The LCC, as a partner church, will need to define its relation to its own auxiliaries; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 14.01 be amended to incorporate on an interim basis until 1992 the wording approved by the 1986 convention as follows: "Its membership is made up of persons who are baptized members of congregations that are members of LCMS or LCC"; and be it further

Resolved, That the convention request the President and the Board of Directors of the Synod to continue to work with the Board of Governors of the International LLL and the Board of Directors of the International LWML on a long-term plan regarding the relationship of the leagues with auxiliaries of partner churches and present to the 1992 synodical convention appropriate recommendations; and be it finally

Resolved, That the President and Board of Directors consider the position of the LCC and other partner churches in developing its recommendations.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Amend Miscellaneous Bylaws

RESOLUTION 5-11

Overture 5-12 (*CW*, pp. 224–25)

Resolved, To amend Bylaw 2.15 h to allow for directors of Christian education to serve in an official civil service position with the military and remain an "active member" of the Synod as well as to provide for active status for others involved in special ministries as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

A military or institutional chaplain *or other specialized ministry* endorsed by the Synod, including endorsement by one of its Districts.

Resolved, To delete the reference in Bylaw 3.225 to a Board for Parish Services Standing Committee on Congregational Administration since its functions are carried out by the Congregational Ministries Planning Unit which involves national executive staff members from the boards, commissions, or departments of parish services, youth services, worship, evangelism, and stewardship and financial support.

Resolved, To amend Bylaw 3.31 to merge the convention management function with the general meeting and conference planning function of the Synod.

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

3.31 Convention ~~Manager~~ *Management*

~~A synodical convention manager, appointed by the President, shall plan, make arrangements for, and direct~~ *The Director of General Services, within the assigned general meeting and conference planning function, shall be responsible to the President for making arrangements for and directing* the externals of the synodical delegate convention and other major synodical assemblies and may assist with planning and arranging for District conventions. ~~He shall be responsible to the President.~~

Resolved, To add to Bylaw 3.13 provision for representation of military chaplains as advisory representatives at synodical conventions. (Add a new 3.13 e and reletter the present e to f.)

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

3.13 Other Advisory Representatives

e. Chaplains in each branch of the Armed Forces of the United States may be represented at a synodical convention by active-duty chaplains stationed stateside, approved by the Board for Mission Services at least nine months before the synodical convention.

Resolved, To amend Bylaws regarding the attendance of national staff at District conventions and official conferences. National staff members feel an obligation to attend District conventions and conferences but frequently are unable to do so because of the duties of their positions. The Council of Administrators has developed an internal procedure that provides for representation at conventions and conferences without all staff being in attendance. The Commission on Structure concurs with the following amendments.

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

4.27 Attendance

All duly elected voting delegates ~~and all advisory members~~ shall attend all sessions of the convention regularly until the close of the convention. *All advisory members are expected to attend all sessions of the convention. Those advisory members whose office in the Synod, District, or other entity imposes professional or service requirements on which full and regular convention attendance makes undue demands, shall nevertheless, in consultation with their supervisory boards, arrange for their own partial or occasional attendance and participation in accordance with policies established by their supervisory boards.*

5.65 Attendance at Official Conferences

Attendance at the official conferences shall be obligatory for ordained and commissioned ministers serving in congregations and parishes. Those whose offices in the Synod, District, or other entity imposes professional or service requirements on which full and regular conference attendance makes undue demands, shall nevertheless, in consultation with their supervisory boards, arrange for their own partial or occasional attendance and participation in their own official conferences *in accordance with policies established by their supervisory boards.*

Resolved, To change the deadline in Bylaw 3.19 for the submission of overtures from 16 weeks to 18 weeks to provide more time for typesetting, printing, and mailing the *Convention Workbook*.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

(Each of the resolves was considered and adopted individually, thereby adopting the entire resolution.)

To Amend Miscellaneous Bylaws Referred by 1986 Convention

RESOLUTION 5-12A

Overtures 5-11, 5-80, 8-47 (*CW*, pp. 221–24, 242, 281)

Background information. The 1986 convention referred for study to the Board of Directors, in consultation with the Commission on Structure, miscellaneous Bylaws contained in section P of Res. 5-02A. The board considered the proposed Bylaws, recommending that some be adopted as proposed, that some be further refined, and that others not be brought back to the 1989 convention for action. The board's initial recommendations were referred to the Commission on Structure for review and response prior to final board action. The board and commission concurred on the following recommendations:

WHEREAS, The current Bylaws do not adequately reflect the necessary process to enable the Committee on Convention Nominations to function; and

WHEREAS, There appears to be a need to enhance the process for nomination of candidates for boards and commissions; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaws 3.945, 3.947, 3.949 and 3.951 be amended as follows:

3.945 Solicitation of Suggestions for Candidates

a. ~~The Committee for Convention Nominations~~ *The Secretary of the Synod* shall solicit from congregations, District Presidents, District Boards of Directors, Circuit Counselors, and other likely sources names of persons who are regarded as suitable candidates for election to the various offices and boards of the Synod and shall list briefly the requirements of various positions.

Qualifications of each candidate are to be submitted together with the names. *All incumbents eligible for re-election shall be considered for nomination.* ~~The committee~~ *The Secretary* shall begin such solicitation of names *at least 18* months before the synodical convention *through a publication going to the members of the Synod and to the congregations* ~~A general call for candidates shall be extended through "The Lutheran Witness" at least 18 months prior to the convention~~ *and shall present the names and information gathered to the Committee for Convention Nominations at its first meeting. The Secretary shall not serve as a member of the committee, but he shall convene the initial meeting of the committee and be available, upon call, for consultation.*

b. All suggested names and information for consideration by the Committee for Convention Nominations shall be submitted to the committee no later than ~~eight~~ *twelve* months prior to the synodical convention.

3.947 Functions

e. At least five 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 preconvention issue of an official

periodical of the Synod and also in the official convention book of reports and overtures (*Convention Workbook*).

This report shall *list the qualifications of various positions used in the solicitation of candidates and* 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.

3.949 Report

a. The chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations shall submit the committee's report in person to the convention at one of its earliest sessions ~~and immediately thereupon nominations may be made from the floor of the convention. Any delegate making a nomination from the floor shall have secured prior written consent of the candidate whom he wishes to nominate. He shall immediately submit to the chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations this document and written pertinent information concerning his nominee as detailed in 3.947 e.~~

~~No further nominations shall thereafter be accepted, except in the event that the Synod in convention creates a new elective office, board, or commission for which no candidates have previously been nominated.~~ *The convention may amend the slate by nominations from the floor. Such floor nominations may only be made from the list of names which have previously been offered to the Committee for Convention Nominations prior to the final deadline established and published by the committee, unless the convention shall otherwise order by a simple majority vote. If the convention approves the receipt of such additional nominations, any delegate making such a nomination shall have secured prior written consent of the candidate being nominated and shall immediately submit to the chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations this document and written pertinent information concerning the nominee as detailed in 3.947 e.*

3.951 Order of Names on Ballot

The names and District affiliations of the candidates in all elections—at least two for each position—shall be placed on the election ballot in alphabetical order. *All names shall be listed* ~~and~~ without any distinctive mark, except where regional representation is a synodical preference or requirement.

Resolved, To clarify the attendance of staff at board meetings by amending Bylaw 3.69 by adding the following as f and relettering subsequent regulations:

f. The principal staff person shall normally attend all board or commission meetings, except when his own position is being considered. Other staff may attend upon request of the board or commission.

Resolved, To clarify the membership of District staffs on District boards by amending Bylaw 4.97 by adding a section c to read as follows:

c. Unless otherwise specified or permitted by the Bylaws, executives and staff on the District level shall not be members of the board or commission under which they serve.

Resolved, To expand the Council of Administrators and delete functions no longer applicable. Since it is desirable for planning, communication, and coordination purposes that the principal staff persons of all national boards, commissions, and departments participate as members of the Council of Administrators and since the Lutheran Council in the USA no longer exists, the following Bylaw changes are needed.

3.711 Council of Administrators

a. Membership: The Council of Administrators shall consist of the following synodical officers and members of the administrative staff:

1. The President of the Synod, who shall serve as chairman of the council or designate a chairman to serve in his absence
2. The Secretary of the Synod, who shall serve as secretary of the council
3. The First Vice-President of the Synod
4. The Treasurer of the Synod
5. The principal staff persons ~~of the elected program boards~~ *of each board, commission, or department other than a Board of Regents*
6. ~~The principal staff persons of the appointed support service boards~~ *The principal staff person of the Board of Directors*
7. ~~The principal staff person of the Department of Stewardship and Financial Support~~
8. ~~The principal staff person of the Board of Directors~~

b. ~~Any board, commission, or department whose principal staff person is not on the Council of Administrators shall be represented on the Council by another staff person assigned by the Board of Directors.~~ *The council may subdivide into committees for the performance of its duties.*

c. Functions. The Council of Administrators shall—

[Items 1–5 remain the same]

~~6. make recommendations to the Board of Directors on proposed grants to other organizations for joint programs and on proposed participation in any new programs to be conducted directly or indirectly by the Lutheran Council in the United States of America or any similar inter-Lutheran organization;~~

~~7. make recommendations to the President of the Synod for the appointment of members of standing committees for each division, department, and commission of the Lutheran Council in the United States of America in which the Synod participates.~~

Resolved, To allow for a representative of the President of the Synod to serve on the Foundation Board of Trustees. Since the meeting and travel schedule of the President from time to time precludes his attendance at meetings, and it is desirable that he be represented at Foundation meetings, amend Bylaw 3.643 as follows:

3.643 Foundation Membership

The Members of the Foundation shall be the voting members of the Board of Directors of the Synod. The Members shall appoint a Board of Trustees of the Foundation, which shall include the President *or his representative*, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Synod and at least 10 other trustees as provided in its bylaws. The principal staff person of the Department of Stewardship and Financial Support shall be advisory to the Board of Trustees and as such shall attend the meetings of the board.

Resolved, To clarify the definition and size of standing committees.

Since the membership and size of some standing committees is specified in the Bylaws, amend Bylaws 3.51 c and 3.70 a as follows:

3.51 Definitions

c. A "standing committee" is a small group of specialists, *specified in the Bylaws,* or appointed by the Board of Directors, a program board, or a support services board, which provides professional or technical assistance to the board.

3.70 Standing Committees

a. The size of each standing committee called into existence by a convention, *unless otherwise specified in*

the Bylaws, shall be determined initially by the Board of Directors after consultation with the respective board, and any change in size subsequently shall require the approval of the Board of Directors.

Resolved, To clarify the membership and responsibility of a synodical convention delegate on the Circuit Forum by amending Bylaw 5.35 and 3.07 to read as follows:

5.35 Election of Synodical Convention Delegates

It is the Circuit Forum which triennially shall elect the pastoral and lay delegate, and their alternates, to the national convention of the Synod according to the regulations of the Synod. The lay delegate shall upon his election serve ~~a term of three years as a voting~~ *through the triennium following the next convention as an advisory* member of the Circuit Forum.

3.07 Responsibilities of Delegates

Congregations shall not require their delegates to vote in accordance with specific instructions, but every delegate shall be permitted to vote according to his or her own conviction. Delegates are nevertheless responsible to their Circuits, whom they represent, and shall attempt to discover the sentiment of the members thereof. They shall be expected to be faithful in attendance at all sessions of the convention. After each convention they shall report the actions of the Synod to their Circuits, preferably appearing before each of the congregations which they represent. Voting delegates shall serve a three-year term beginning with the convention; they shall function as *advisory* members of the Circuit Forum, shall serve as resource persons in the Circuit, and shall assist in the dissemination and implementation of synodical resolutions in their area.

Resolved, To update Bylaw 6.81 on special academic programs.

Since Bylaw 6.81 c reflects a condition no longer existing at colleges and seminaries, it can now be deleted.

6.81 Special Academic Programs

~~c. The Board for Higher Education Services shall aid the institutions operating approved summer schools, schools for graduate studies, or correspondence schools in securing teaching personnel, preparing adequate curricula and programs of studies, and coordinating the programs of the various institutions offering such special programs and shall assist in the financing of these programs where this becomes necessary.~~

Resolved, To delete Bylaws 6.53 c and d regarding modified service and retirement. Since similar provisions do not exist with respect to the principal staff persons of national and District boards, the special provisions for college and seminary presidents, the principal staff persons of the Boards of Regents, should be deleted. Due to federal requirements removing limitations regarding retirement age restrictions, the words *and must accept retirement age at the end of the academic year in which their 70th birthday occurs* in 6.53 e shall be deleted.

6.53 Modified Service and Retirement

~~c. A president who has been honorably retired may elect to serve under the direct jurisdiction of the Board for Higher Education Services. In such cases the retired president's compensation and benefits shall be a direct responsibility of the Board for Higher Education Services, and his responsibilities and assignments, if any, shall be determined by the board.~~

~~d. Former presidents shall continue to hold the rank of professor if and when they become members of a faculty or staff of a synodical school or if they opt to serve directly under the Board for Higher Education Services. Former presidents shall also retain the synodical housing and retirement provisions for professors and administrators.~~

Resolved, To clarify the definition and composition of appointed program boards. Confusion has resulted from the use of the terminology *support services board* in Bylaw 3.51 b. Only the Board for Communication Services and the Board for Social Ministry Services fall in this category, and they are considered program boards. The only difference between these boards and the program boards of Mission Services, Parish Services, etc., is that these are appointed to assure expertise in these specialty areas. Therefore substitution of the name *Appointed Program Board* and allowing for appointment of college, seminary, and institutional personnel to the boards is desirable.

Resolved, That Bylaws 3.51, 3.401, and 3.421 be amended as follows:

3.51 Definitions

a. A "program board" is an officially established group of elected persons charged with policy making and evaluative responsibilities for a programmatic function of the Synod.

b. ~~A "support services board"~~ *An appointed program board* is an officially established group of persons appointed by the Board of Directors with the approval of the President and charged with policy making and evaluative responsibilities for certain support services assigned to it. Members are appointed in view of their special abilities and experience in certain closely defined areas of competence.

3.401 Membership

The Board for Communication Services shall consist of seven members who shall be appointed by the Board of Directors: three ordained ministers, *at least one of whom shall be a parish pastor,* one commissioned minister, three laypersons. *Faculty members of colleges and seminaries shall be eligible for appointment.* Membership shall include representatives of both print and broadcast media.

3.421 Membership

The Board for Social Ministry Services shall consist of seven members who shall be appointed by the Board of Directors: three ordained ministers, *at least one of whom shall be a parish pastor,* one commissioned minister, three laypersons.

Resolved, That since certain responsibilities assigned to the Board for Mission Services are now being carried out by the Board for Social Ministry Services, Bylaw 3.423 be amended to read as follows:

3.423 Functions

The Board shall

a. assist Districts in their institutional chaplaincy, pastoral counselor, and social ministry programs, and participate in social education and endeavors to remove or alleviate human suffering;

b. subject to the provisions of chapter 14 of these Bylaws, grant *recognized-service-organization* status to health, chaplaincy, and social ministry agencies and institutions to validate their merit for use and support with assurance that they meet acceptable standards;

~~c. recommend to the Board for Mission Services the granting of assistance to congregations, or through them to their members or others, in dire emergencies or disaster situations;~~

c. provide assistance to congregations and through them to their members and others in dire emergencies and disaster situations through the Inter-Lutheran Dis-

aster Response Program, a cooperative endeavor of the LCMS and the ELCA as well as with its own World Relief domestic grant funds;

d. provide advisory services to the program boards in order that their materials and programs will cultivate congregation members in their concern for human care;

e. provide materials and programs that will assist congregations and their members in responding to human needs and providing for human care;

~~e.~~ *f.* maintain liaison and cooperation with the appropriate units of ~~the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. and with assigned auxiliary and listed service organizations;~~ *other church bodies, with approved inter-Lutheran agencies, with recognized service organizations and domestic projects endorsed by Districts;*

~~f.~~ *g. sponsor and participate in World Relief activities for the alleviation of human suffering through cooperation with Lutheran World Relief, with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, with the Board for Mission Services, and with domestic projects endorsed by Districts;*

~~g.~~ *h.* promote the health and healing ministry of the Gospel throughout the Synod;

i. serve as a channel for the love and compassion of the church for helping the homeless, the persecuted, the sick, and the needy as a witness to our faith in Jesus Christ.

Action: *Adopted as amended (14).*

(By common consent the words *through a publication going to the members of the Synod and to the congregations* was added in the second paragraph of 3.945 a. By formal motion the words, *simple majority,* were substituted for *two thirds* in the second paragraph of 3.949.)

To Amend Bylaw re Nomination Election, and Functions of Circuit Counselors

RESOLUTION 5-13

Overtures 5-11, 8-51 (*CW*, pp. 221–24, 282–83)

WHEREAS, The present procedure for electing Circuit Counselors has proven, in some instances, to be difficult for congregations; and

WHEREAS, Attention may likewise be given to the description of the functions of the office of Circuit Counselor in the light of present-day needs; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 5.11 be amended as follows;

a. Every voting congregation of each Circuit shall nominate as a candidate for the office of Circuit Counselor two pastors of the member congregations of the Circuit or from among the emeriti who hold membership in one of the member congregations of that Circuit. The nominations shall be made at least four months prior to the elections and shall be submitted to the Nominating Committee through the secretary of the District. If no candidate has received a majority, the District secretary shall ~~mail~~ *forward* to each congregation in that Circuit ~~a ballot containing~~ the names of the two men *or more in the case of a tie* receiving the highest number of votes. ~~The Nominating Committee shall arrange a slate containing the first choice for Circuit Counselor from each Circuit, provided that man is still available, or the second choice of the Circuit if he is not.~~ *A Circuit caucus shall be held during an early session of the convention at a specified time on the agenda. Balloting shall take place by the pastors and lay delegates of the Circuit until one pastor receives the majority of votes. Should the candidate(s) no longer be available for this office, the Circuit caucus shall have the right to act on behalf of the congregations to nominate a replacement.* ~~The District President shall fill the slate where neither man is still available.~~ The convention shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment. The convention shall then ratify the slate of Circuit Counselors, which ratification shall constitute election.

b. Vacancies which occur in the office of Circuit Counselor between conventions shall be filled by appointment by the District President;

and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaws involving the function and relation of Circuit Counselors be amended as follows:

~~**5.17 Relation to Member Congregations**~~
5.13 Function of Circuit Counselors

~~a. The Circuit Counselor shall keep in mind the glory and responsibility of the universal priesthood of all believers as it applies to the congregations. He shall remind them that they are "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people" to show forth the praises of Him who has called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. He shall meet with the entire congregation, if possible, rather than with the voting members only.~~

~~b. He shall inquire whether the congregations are zealously guarding the purity of doctrine, not tolerating errors or schismatic tendencies.~~

~~c. He shall inquire regarding the attendance at services, at Communion, and at voters meetings; the salaries of pastors and teachers; the participation of the congregation in the work of the church at large and in missions; the reading of Christian literature; the Christian training of the children; the adequate indoctrination of adult catechumens; and the maintenance of the family altar.~~

~~d. He shall inquire what means are being used to guard against the evil influence of sects and organizations which endanger the spiritual life of the congregation.~~

~~e. He shall inquire concerning excommunications; and examine the minutes referring to them, with a view to possible adjustment according to the Word of God.~~

~~f. He shall strive to bring about a peaceful adjustment in a Christian manner (Matt. 18:15–17; 1 Tim. 5:19) if any differences between a pastor and his congregation have arisen and have been brought to his attention.~~

~~g. He shall report on the work of the Synod and urge adequate support of the Synod's work on the part of the congregation.~~

~~h. Official visits shall be arranged in advance by the Circuit Counselor with the respective pastor and congregation, except under extraordinary circumstances. If he deems it necessary, the Circuit Counselor may through the proper channels arrange for a special meeting of the congregation even if he has not been invited.~~

a. The Circuit Counselor shall hold his position by virtue of his election. He shall serve under the direction of and be accountable to the District President and shall serve as his spokesman when so authorized and directed and shall assist him in doctrinal and spiritual supervision.

b. He shall serve in a servant role and seek to remind and encourage members of the Circuit of their responsibilities as God's people and the privilege they have in being about His mission. In doing so, he should keep in mind the glory and responsibility of the universal priesthood of all believers as it applies to the congregations. He shall remind them that they are "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people to show forth the praises of Him who has called them out of darkness into His marvelous light." He shall meet with the entire congregation, if possible, rather than with the voting members only.

c. Through his visitation to the congregations, he shall endeavor to strengthen the spirit of unity among congregations to effect mission and ministry and shall seek to strengthen and support the spirit of fellowship.

d. In his visits he shall discuss attendance at services, at communion, and at voters' meetings; the salaries of

pastors and teachers; the participation of congregations in the work of the church-at-large and in missions; the need and opportunities for continuing education; the Christian training of the children; the adequate indoctrination of adult catechumens; and the maintenance of family devotions.

e. He shall work through the Circuit Forum to provide resources, opportunities, and assistance, so God's people can grow in their faith in their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

f. He shall ordinarily serve as chairman of the Circuit Forum. The Forum may elect another member to serve in that capacity. He shall serve as chairman of the Circuit gathering and convocations.

g. He may serve as a mediator to effect reconciliation of disputes within the Circuit not under synodical adjudication as outlined in Section VIII of the Bylaws.

h. He shall seek to strengthen the spirit of cooperation among pastors, teachers, and congregations.

i. He shall be conversant with and supportive of synod-wide and District resolutions and programs and shall be responsible for communicating them to the congregations of the Circuit.

j. He may appoint from member congregations of the Circuit, by and with the approval of the District President, pastors, teachers, or laypersons to assist him in fulfilling his responsibilities.

k. Official visits shall be arranged in advance by the Circuit Counselor with the respective pastor and congregation, except under extraordinary circumstances. If he deems it necessary, the Circuit Counselor may upon his own initiative through the proper channels arrange for a special meeting of the congregation.

~~5.13~~ 5.15 Official Visits

a. The Circuit Counselor shall visit each congregation once in three years and otherwise as he deems it necessary.

b. ~~The purpose of official visits shall be~~ *The Circuit Counselor shall seek* to bring about to the greatest possible degree the achievement of the Synod's objectives as expressed in Article III of its Constitution.

c. The congregation of a Circuit Counselor shall be visited by the District President or by one of the District Vice-Presidents or by another Circuit Counselor designated by the District President.

~~5.15~~ 5.17 Relation to District President

a. Each Circuit Counselor, by virtue of his office, shall assist the District President within the Circuit. Therefore the District President shall meet with the Circuit Counselors of the District at least once a year for the purpose of discussing the work of the Circuit Counselor.

b. The Circuit Counselor shall regularly report on his activities to the District President.

5.19 Relation to Non-member Congregations

The jurisdiction of Circuit Counselors shall include nonmember congregations whose pastors are members of the Synod, but for the purpose of official visits in such a congregation the consent of the congregation shall first be secured.

5.21 Relation to Pastors

a. The Circuit Counselor shall conduct his official visits in an evangelical manner and not resort to legalistic measures.

b. He shall come to the pastor as a brotherly adviser, reminding him of the glory of the ministry and of its great responsibilities.

c. He shall ascertain whether the pastor is faithful in preaching the Law and the Gospel in their purity, properly dividing and applying them, whether he privately ministers of the needs of the individuals, exercises church discipline in an evangelical manner, and properly supervises all Christian education and training in his parish.

d. He shall in a brotherly manner discuss the spiritual life, home life, and studies of the pastor with him, also his library and professional studies and professional growth.

5.25 Expenses

The Circuit Counselor is authorized to draw on the District treasury for his expenses.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

(A motion to refer the resolution to the Council of Presidents requesting them to discuss it with their Circuit Counselors and bring a resolution on the matter to the next convention was defeated.)

To Publish List of Items Considered by Commission on Constitutional Matters

RESOLUTION 5-14

Overtures 5-20A–21 (*CW*, p. 229)

WHEREAS, Decisions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) are available on request; and

WHEREAS, Decisions printed in full are often too lengthy for the space available in our official publications; and

WHEREAS, Excerpts from opinions which have been published are not always helpful and have at times resulted in unfortunate misunderstandings; therefore be it

Resolved, That the CCM provide a published list of matters which it has considered so that parties with legitimate interests and concerns may secure further information and the rights of individuals may be protected.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Request Commission on Appeals to Review Rules of Procedure

RESOLUTION 5-15

Overtures 5-31A–C (*CW*, p. 232)

WHEREAS, District Commissions on Adjudication have expressed a concern in understanding, interpreting, and utilizing the Rules of Procedure; and

WHEREAS, District Commissions on Adjudication have also expressed additional concern that they be involved in any revision of the Rules of Procedure; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 8.51 now establishes full authority to the Commission on Appeals in an established procedure to amend the Rules of Procedure; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Commission on Appeals be instructed to review its Rules of Procedure with input from each District Commission on Adjudication; and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on Appeals implement the changes it feels necessary in accordance with Bylaw 8.51.

Action: *Included as part of Res. A.*

To Admit Emeriti to Roster from Other Lutheran Bodies

RESOLUTION 5-16

Overture 5-15 (*CW*, p. 227)

WHEREAS, The present Bylaws do not speak to the issue of receiving a pastor emeritus on the roster of the Synod after completion of the colloquy program; and

WHEREAS, Such pastors, though not desiring a call, wish to hold membership in the Synod for confessional reasons and for the opportunity to provide minimum pastoral assistance upon request; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 2.11 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

a. *Except as noted below,* the Council of Presidents, acting as the Board of Assignments, shall regularly assign to qualified graduates of synodical educational institutions and workers available from colloquy programs as "first calls" those calls that have been duly extended by authorized calling bodies (*Bylaw 2.15*) for ordained ministers and commissioned ministers if positions for which candidates are qualified are available.

d. A pastor emeritus from another church body may be placed on the roster of the Synod without call by action of the Council of Presidents on the basis of policies adopted by the Council of Presidents, after having completed an approved synodical colloquy program. Such placement shall be acknowledged by a rite of recognition in a worship service of the congregation of the Synod, preferably where he holds membership. Such rite is to be authorized by the District President.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Amend Bylaw on General Regulations for Boards and Commissions

RESOLUTION 5-17

Overture 5-38 (*CW*, p. 234)

WHEREAS, God has called us to be responsible stewards of financial and human resources; and

WHEREAS, This responsibility can be met through appropriate budget and personnel procedures; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaws 3.69 j [budget] and k [sabbaticals] be removed from the *Handbook*;

~~j. Every board and commission shall submit annually to the Board of Directors through the President and the Council of Administrators its proposed budget with accompanying cost estimates in the format and under the timetable prescribed by the Board of Directors. The same requirement shall apply to officers and departments not directly accountable to a board or commission.~~

~~k. A synodical board or commission with the approval of the President may grant any member of the staff who has served the Synod 10 years a sabbatical leave for one-half year with pay or for an entire year with half pay, to pursue advanced studies in his special field of work or to pursue any other acceptable program of experience, experimentation, or research. Budgetary provisions shall be arranged in advance, and interim help is to be provided to maintain continuity of the work of the affected synodical agency.~~

and be it further

Resolved, That budget procedures similar to Bylaw 3.69 j shall be included in the Board of Directors' policy manual; and be it finally

Resolved, That sabbatical policies similar to Bylaw 3.69 k shall also be included in the Board of Directors' policy manual.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Publish Synodical Convention Delegates' Names and Addresses

RESOLUTION 5-18

Overtures 5-46–60 (*CW*, pp. 235–39)

WHEREAS, Publication of synodical convention delegates' names and addresses has been requested; therefore be it

Resolved, That the names and complete addresses of all voting delegates to the 1992 synodical convention be published in the *Convention Workbook*; and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.19 d be amended to read: "A convention manual containing reports, overtures, *names and mailing addresses of all voting delegates,* and other . . ."

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Provide for Guest Membership

RESOLUTION 5-19

Report R5-03 (*CW*, p. 84); Overture 5-71 (*CW*, p. 241)

WHEREAS, We live in an age of mobility and affluence whereby it is not uncommon for people to maintain seasonal residences; and

WHEREAS, Members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod cannot hold membership in more than one congregation; and

WHEREAS, Our Synod should focus the attention of all congregations of the Synod on outreach and membership conservation to address ministry to retired persons, college students, members serving in the Armed Forces, and other mobile individuals to help decrease backdoor losses; and

WHEREAS, The only present provision for members to have full membership participation in another congregation is to request a membership transfer which involves the action of the voting members of the congregations involved; and

WHEREAS, Many seasonal residents are in a visitor status for many months of the year because they do not want to give up their present membership in a home congregation; and

WHEREAS, These seasonal members have the need for

a. worship and Bible study;

b. pastoral care;

c. reception of sacraments;

d. acceptance and recognition in the local congregation to promote a sense of belonging;

e. becoming an active participant of a local congregational family in the body of Christ; and

WHEREAS, Some congregations on their own initiative have already adopted guest membership for seasonal residents; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations, as appropriate, be encouraged toward further development of guest memberships which could include such basic rights and privileges as reception of the sacraments, pastoral care, congregational concern, use of their time, talents, and treasures in the service of the Lord, and attendance and participation in voters' assemblies as advisory or associate members.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

(A motion to add the words, *as members or,* before *advisory* in the original resolve was declined. By common consent the words *or associate* were added after the word *advisory*)

To Publish Mailing Addresses of Chairmen of Boards and Commissions in *The Lutheran Annual*

RESOLUTION 5-20

Overtures 5-40A–44 (*CW*, pp. 234–35)

WHEREAS, Individuals and congregations are concerned about the issues that face synodical boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that openness be practiced by all synodical boards and commissions, both as regards the issues that come before these boards and commissions and as regards issues others see as worthy of consideration by these boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, Board and commission members are presently listed in *The Lutheran Annual* and are reachable through staff and/or the appropriate chairman; therefore be it

Resolved, That the chairman of each board and commission be listed first with address in *The Lutheran Annual*; and be it further

Resolved, That the addresses of other lay members of boards and commissions be made available upon request from staff and/or the appropriate chairman.

Action: *Adopted* (15).

To Refer Regional Representation on Board of Directors to Commission on Structure

RESOLUTION 5-21

Overture 5-39 (*CW*, p. 234)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Structure has not yet addressed the concept and potential of regional representation on the Board of Directors; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 5-39 be remanded to said commission for their consideration and study.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Decline Overtures 5-33A–C and 5-34

RESOLUTION 5-22

Overtures 5-33A–34 (*CW*, pp. 232–33)

WHEREAS, An objective body independent of all officers, boards, and commissions which has as its prime function the review of the operating efficiency of the Synod is essential to the future of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 5-33A–C and 5-34 be declined.

Action: *Adopted* (15).

To Decline Overtures 5-35—36 re Staff Appointments

RESOLUTION 5-23

Overtures 5-35 (*CW*, p. 233)

WHEREAS, God has called His church on earth to work in a spirit of Christian harmony; and

WHEREAS, Our response to God's call includes working together in an atmosphere of Christian cooperation, frankness, and collegiality; and

WHEREAS, The President of the Synod "shall ultimately be responsible for the day-to-day supervision of the synodical staff" (Bylaw 3.101 h); and

WHEREAS, Such supervision by the President is enhanced by his direct involvement in the staff selection process to effect harmonious, God-pleasing working relationships; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 5-35 and 5-36 be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Decline Certain Overtures

RESOLUTION 5-24A

Overtures 5-17, 5-22A–26, 5-29–30, 5-32, 5-68, 5-82 (*CW*, pp. 228–32, 240, 242)

WHEREAS, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various reasons, that certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:

Overture	*Subject*	*Reason*
5-17	To Restore Bylaws Concerning Relationship to Non-Member Congregations	Policies already established by Council of Presidents
5-22 A—C	To Amend Bylaws for Commission on Constitutional Matters	Present membership sufficient. Final interpreter needed between conventions
5-23 A & B	To Elect Commission on Constitutional Matters	Matters involving President minimal
5-24	To Elect Commission on Constitutional Matters	Present membership sufficient

5-25 A—C	To Report Decisions of Commissions on Adjudication and Appeals	Sufficiently provided for in Bylaw 8.73
5-26	To Appoint Commissions on Adjudication and Appeals	Review and evaluation in process
5-29	To Provide for Uniform Drafting of Decisions of Commission on Adjudication and Commission on Appeals	Commission has authority to require this
5-30	To Increase Number of Eligible Terms on Synodical Commission on Adjudication and Commission on Appeals	Review and evaluation in process
5-32	To Print Complete Report of Commission on Adjudication	Requested report printed
5-68	To Delete Financial Information from Statistical Report	Information can be used in a positive way to assist congregations
5-82	To Consult on Bylaw Changes	Consultation included in present process

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Amend Bylaws for Commission on Organizations

RESOLUTION 5-25

Overture L5-87 (*TB*, p. 16)

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.573 no longer accurately reflects the expanded work and responsibility of the Commission on Organizations; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.573 be amended to read:

3.573 Functions

The commission shall

a. ~~gather and~~ provide information, ~~advice, and literature~~ *and counsel* concerning ~~all~~ organizations, ~~both objectionable and non-objectionable~~ *philosophies and worldviews*, about which pastors ~~or~~ *and* congregations may make inquiry relative to ~~ceremonies~~ *objectives*, tenets, programs, practices, or ~~objectives~~ *ceremonies*;

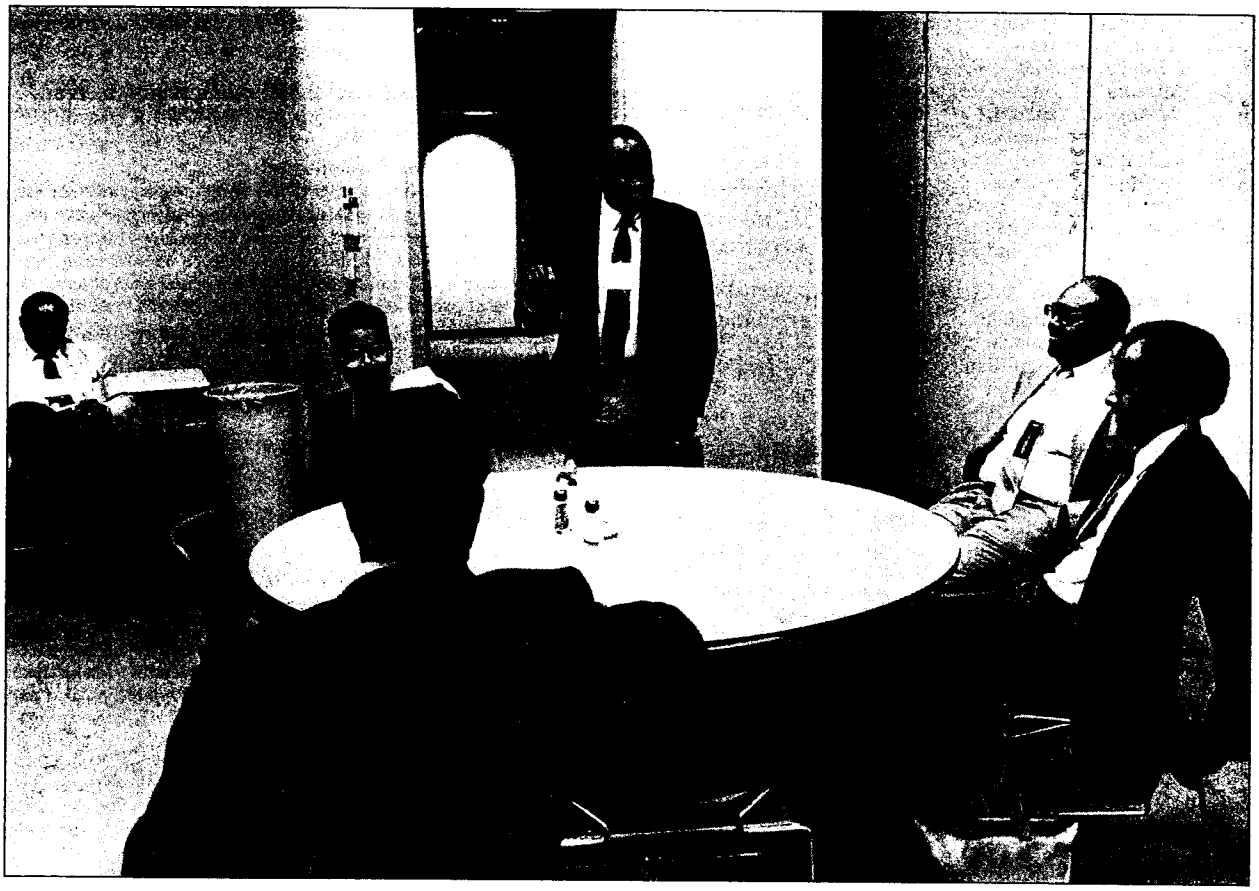
b. seek to explain the Synod's concerns to ~~those~~ organizations that *are involved in religion and* have unchristian or anti-Christian features, with the goal of persuading them to ~~discard their objectionable~~ *abandon such* features;

c. prepare and disseminate periodic reports concerning new organizations, *philosophies, and worldviews* changes within existing ~~organizations~~ *entities*, and developments relative to ~~organizations~~ *the world religious scene* in general;

d. serve as a resource center for the Synod with reference to information on *religious entities and worldviews* ~~fraternal organizations and cults, seek to explain the Synod's concern to such organizations,~~ publish ~~necessary~~ study materials, and assist ~~in carrying out the policy of the Synod regarding fraternal organizations as set forth elsewhere in the Bylaws~~, *pastors and congregations in providing counsel; and*

e. *assist the pastors and congregations of the Synod in carrying out the policy of the Synod regarding fraternal organizations as set forth elsewhere in the Bylaws.*

Action: *Adopted (15).*



6. Higher Education

Introduction

The members of Committee 6 come to you in the name of Jesus and to His praise. The committee is privileged to share in *telling everyone what He has done* in higher education during the past triennium. We share also in presenting resolutions impacting higher education in the church for the future. We do so with the hope that this be done in the most effective way possible.

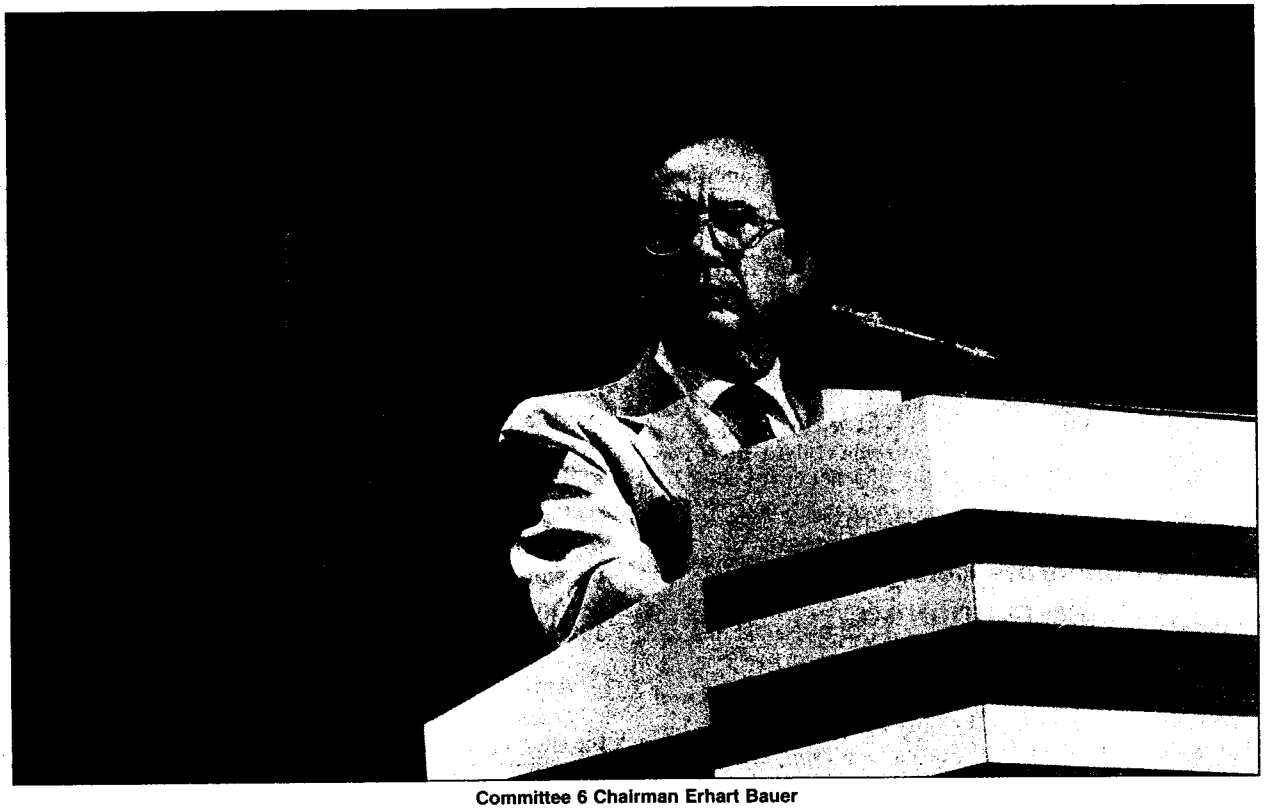
The opening sentence of the statement of mission and purpose for synodical colleges and seminaries as developed by the President's Commission on Synodical Higher Education reads: "The colleges and seminaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod exist to supply the higher education services needed to accomplish the mission of the church." The Board for Higher Education Services has concluded that this means "in short, the task of the Lutheran colleges and seminaries is to develop to the highest possible level the talents God has given His people in so many different fields of learning." The task of the church, in turn, is "to nourish and support these schools." To that end we express thanks to the executive director, Rev. Michael Stelmachowicz, to the staff of the Board for Higher Education Services, and to the Board for Higher Education Services, Rev. John C. Schildwachter, chairman, for leading and directing the church aggressively with clear goals in the areas of enrollment, administration, quality enhancement, financial matters, pastoral education, and ethnic ministry. We call your attention to these goals printed in the Board for Higher Education Services report in the *Convention Workbook,* pages 110–14.

Our thanks also to several synodical staff and board representatives for their assistance in preparing 21 resolutions. These are based on 61 overtures and 17 reports (*CW*, pp. 245–58) and are presented now for your consideration and action. It should be noted that a report printed erroneously as Overture 6-33 will receive no convention consideration. The committee wishes to emphasize also that, while referred to the Board for Higher Education and the Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry earlier, Overtures 6-25–28B and L6-80, all of which have dealt with the curriculum and training of pastors at seminaries, are very instructive, helpful and deal with high priority concerns. This applies as well to Overtures 6-68 and L6-67, both of which request review and revision of the certification process for pastoral ministry.

The Theology by Extension program housed at Concordia College, River Forest, Ill., is addressed in Overture 6-16, page 246. The committee asks that this overture be declined. However, the Theology by Extension program deserves the attention of this convention and therefore, Lay Delegate Dan Williams of Corpus Christi, Tex., an enrollee in this program, will speak briefly to the issue.

The members of Committee 6 rejoice greatly in presenting as the first resolution the subject to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Concordia College, River Forest, Ill. Before reading this resolution Dr. Eugene Krentz, president of Concordia College, River Forest, will address the delegates for the presentation of a citation.

Erhart Bauer, *Chairman*



Committee 6 Chairman Erhart Bauer

To Celebrate 125th Anniversary of Concordia College, River Forest, Ill.

RESOLUTION 6-01

Overtures 6-71A–B (*CW*, p. 257)

WHERAS, Concordia College, River Forest, has served The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) as an institution for the preparation of teachers for the schools of the Synod for 125 years; and

WHEREAS, Concordia, River Forest, has grown to serve the expanding needs of the Synod through the introduction of programs in secondary, early childhood, music, and graduate education; and

WHEREAS, Concordia, River Forest, offers programs of study which prepare directors of Christian education, church musicians, deaconesses, future pastors, and lay professionals; and

WHEREAS, Concordia, River Forest, continues to supply one-fourth of all church professionals placed annually by colleges into the Synod's schools, congregations, and related agencies throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Concordia, River Forest, through Lutheran Education Center for Social Research in the Church and the Concordia College Computing Network serves and supports the work of the Synod-at-large in many other ways; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod recognize with thanksgiving to God, the 125 years of faithful service by its oldest college in providing workers and servants for the church and request the President of the Synod to issue a proclamation to all congregations of the Synod setting aside October 15, 1989, as "Concordia, River Forest, 125th Anniversary Sunday," asking each congregation to commemorate the occasion in a fitting manner with prayers, congratulations, and gifts; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage member congregations to support financially a major fund drive in commemoration of Concordia's 125th anniversary in order that the college may continue its work in God's kingdom; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod pause from its regular business to offer special thanksgiving to God for His continued blessing on Concordia College, River Forest, Ill., and commend it to His continued care during the coming years.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

(Adoption of the resolution was followed by the singing of "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past." Dr. Eugene Krentz presented a plaque marking the anniversary of Concordia College, River Forest, to Dr. Bohlmann for display at the International Center.)

To Authorize Development of Concordia College, Selma

RESOLUTION 6-02

Overtures 6-32A–B (*CW*, p. 250)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) owns and operates the only historically black Lutheran college in the United States as a two-year college at Selma, Ala.; and

WHEREAS, Our best recruitment efforts have not resulted in the enrollment of large numbers of black students at our predominantly white synodical colleges which are now four-year institutions; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for more black church workers in our Synod; and

WHEREAS, The 1986 convention of the LCMS established the Task Force on Higher Education for Black Students in Synodical Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, The task force has now assembled relevant data and conclusions from its studies (R6-05, *CW*, pp. 126–30) which show that it would be beneficial for Concordia College to become a four-year college; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education Services (BHES) be authorized to work with the Board of Regents and the administration of Concordia College, Selma, to develop Concordia College, Selma, from a two-year to a four-year college granting baccalaureate degrees.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Fund Expansion Program for Concordia College, Selma

RESOLUTION 6-03

Report R6-05 (*CW*, pp. 126–30); Overtures 6-29A–32, (*CW*, pp. 249–50)

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention has authorized the Board for Higher Education Services (BHES) to work with the Board of Regents and administration of Concordia College, Selma, to develop Concordia from a two-year to a four-year college granting baccalaureate degrees; and

WHEREAS, The BHES and the Board of Directors of the Synod have endorsed a special appeal for the program expansion of Concordia, Selma; and

WHEREAS, The administration of Concordia College, Selma has already identified immediate financial needs of $3 million for capital expansion; and

WHEREAS, The Synod's Board of Directors has already authorized the Stewardship Department to conduct a special fund appeal with an initial goal of $1.5 million to $3 million; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod endorse the Board of Directors' action authorizing a special appeal for both capital funds and for scholarship endowment funds to support the expansion and development of Concordia College, Selma; and be it further

Resolved, That this appeal have an initial component to begin in the fall of 1989 to educate the church in the mission and ministry of Concordia, Selma, in preparation for the special funding appeal which shall occur between 1990 and 1992.

Action: *Adopted (8).*

(Following adoption of the resolution, it was announced that the offering received at the opening service of the convention was being directed to the Concordia College, Selma, Ala., Endowment Fund.)

To Receive Report of Task Force on Higher Education for Black Students in Synodical Higher Education

RESOLUTION 6-04

Overtures 6-29A–B (*CW*, pp. 249–50)

WHEREAS, The Task Force on Higher Education for Black Students in Synodical Higher Education was created by action of the 1986 convention and its members were subsequently duly appointed by the President of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, This task force has completed its work and delivered its report to the synodical President through the Board for Higher Education Services (BHES); and

WHEREAS, The report of the task force is before this convention, (R6-05, *CW*, pp. 126–30); therefore be it

Resolved, That the report of the Task Force on Higher Education for Black Students in Synodical Higher Education be received by the convention; and be it further

Resolved, That this report be referred to the BHES as a resource for the planning of program expansion with Concordia College, Selma; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Task Force be dismissed with the sincere gratitude of the convention for its work.

Action: *Adopted (8).*

To Encourage Long-Term Planning

RESOLUTION 6-05

Report R6-01 (*CW*, pp. 110–14)

WHEREAS, The floor committee has reviewed the report of the Board for Higher Education Services (BHES); and

WHEREAS, The BHES has established goals for the 1989–92 triennium and has committed itself to planning, implementing, and regular evaluation of these goals; therefore be it

Resolved, That the board be commended for the goals which were established at the 1986 convention and the report of progress measured to date; and be it further

Resolved, That this convention endorse this process; and be it finally

Resolved, That the convention encourage the BHES in conjunction with the other appropriate planning units to continue to plan not only short-term goals, but also long-term vision and planning goals for the higher education system.

Action: *Adopted (8).*

To Revise Nomenclature for Synodical Faculties

RESOLUTION 6-06

Overture 6-54 (*CW*, p. 254)

WHEREAS, The Committee on the Concern for the Church and Its Workers found some difference among the colleges and seminaries in their interpretation of Bylaws 6.21 and 6.27 with regard to the nomenclature used; and

WHEREAS, It is wise to clarify the terminology used so that all colleges and seminaries make a uniform application of these Bylaws; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Bylaws be changed as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

6.21 Members

a. The faculty of each synodical institution shall consist of the president, ~~the administrative officers holding instructional rank, and the regular instructional staff members~~ *the full-time faculty (instructors, assistant professors, associate professors, professors, or full-time faculty without rank), and part-time or temporary nonvoting members distinguished by an appropriate prefix or suffix (visiting, guest, adjunct, emeritus) or the term graduate assistant.*

b. ~~Special lecturers and substitute teachers shall hold advisory membership on the faculty.~~ *Any part-time or temporary faculty members shall hold nonvoting membership on the faculty.*

c. Administrative positions may be created, modified, abolished, or have functions assigned to them by the Board of Regents on recommendation by the president of the institution. Such offices are to be those made necessary by the functions assigned to the institution and appropriate to its size and internal organization. Appointments to these offices are to be for renewable terms. Ordinarily administrative officers are also to carry a partial teaching load.

d. Administrative appointments shall be made by the Board of Regents on recommendation by the president of the institution. The Board for Higher Education Services shall periodically review the internal administrative organization of the Synod's institutions.

6.27 Ranking of Members

a. The Board of Regents shall determine the assignment and rank of members of the faculty and of the administrative officers.

b. The approved nomenclature for the ranks of ~~faculty members is: instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, professor~~ *the regular teaching faculty is instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor. Any part-time or temporary faculty members shall hold nonvoting membership on the faculty.*

c. *Faculty and staff members whose educational responsibilities include supporting services may be designated as "faculty without rank," or "staff."*

~~c.~~ *d.* The descriptive prefixes "visiting" or "guest" may be used, when appropriate, with the designation of any rank. The descriptive suffix "emeritus" may be used, when appropriate, with the designation for ~~any rank,~~ *professor or associate professor,* by special resolution of the Board of Regents in the case of each person to be so designated.

~~d.~~ *e.* Persons appointed with the designation "graduate assistant" shall not be voting members of the faculty but may be granted other faculty privileges and benefits as determined by the Board of Regents.

f. Nonteaching staff positions that require a minimum of a four-year degree in their job description may be classified as professional staff. All other employees are designated as support staff.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Revise Bylaws to Include Rollover Contracts for Faculty Personnel

RESOLUTION 6-07A

Overture 6-55 (*CW*, pp. 254–55)

WHEREAS, The 1983 convention instructed the Board

for Higher Education Services (BHES) to prepare a study of continuous, rollover contracts as an alternative to tenure and to report its recommendations to the 1986 convention; and

WHEREAS, The BHES has determined that there are positive benefits from the use of the rollover contracts; and

WHEREAS, Two synodical colleges have adopted the use of rollover contracts and have been satisfied with them; and

WHEREAS, There are strengths and weaknesses in both systems, and research in higher education does not indicate that there is strong preference; therefore be it

Resolved, That the BHES be instructed to encourage local boards of regents to use rollover contracts; and be it further

Resolved, That the BHES be instructed to offer the option of the use of rollover contracts, making it a local board of regents option so that each college and seminary can choose to stay with a tenure system or change to a rollover contract system; and be it further

Resolved, That a decision on this matter be made only after adequate discussion with and involvement of the faculty at each institution; and be it finally

Resolved, That the *Handbook* be revised as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

6.23 Appointment of Members

a. The Board of Regents on recommendation of the president of the institution shall appoint the members of the faculty to positions approved by the Board for Higher Education Services. All initial appointments to seminary and college faculties will also require the prior approval of the Board for Higher Education Services.

b. Appointments shall ordinarily be for one to four years and may be extended by the Board of Regents unless otherwise indicated at the time when prior approval is granted.

c. The Board of Regents may decline to renew the appointment of a *probationary* 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 Regents shall so notify the faculty member through the president of the institution at least six months prior to the expiration of the current appointment. In the case of individuals under consideration for *a rollover contract or* permanent tenure (6.25b) such notice of nonreappointment shall be made at least ~~12~~ *nine* months before the expiration of the current appointment.

d. The terms and conditions of every appointment shall be stated in writing and be in the possession of both the institution and the prospective faculty member before the appointment is consummated. Limitations of academic freedom because of the religious and confessional nature and aims of the institution shall be stated in writing at the time of the appointment and conveyed to the person being appointed.

e. Ordinarily candidates for teaching positions ~~with tenure~~ *that are expected to lead to tenure or to rollover contracts* on the Synod's instructional staffs shall be graduates of a theological seminary or a ~~teachers~~ college affiliated with the Synod or shall have achieved such status by colloquy. When, in exceptional cases, laypersons are ~~involved~~ *contracted*, they should be persons who are solemnly pledged to the Holy Scriptures as the inspired Word of God and to the Lutheran Confessions.

6.25 Permanent Tenure

Each educational institution of the Synod shall normally award tenure to a minimum of 40 percent and a maximum of 60 percent of its faculty. *Rollover contracts may be awarded to a maximum of 100 percent of its faculty.*

a. Standards or qualifications for granting tenure *or offering a rollover contract* shall be:

1. The faculty member shall ordinarily have completed five 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, at least the last two years of which shall have been in the institution he/*she* is currently serving. ~~However, the said five-year requirement may be waived in exceptional cases if the unanimous consent of the electors is given.~~

2. The faculty member shall have ~~demonstrated scholarly achievement by earning advanced academic degrees.~~ *earned advanced academic degrees and demonstrated scholarly achievement.*

3. The faculty member's reputation, character, concern for students, and ability to honor leaders shall present a good reflection on the institution and the church.

4. The faculty member's aptness to teach has been demonstrated by effective communication in the classroom.

5. *The faculty member is an active member in good standing in a member congregation of the Synod.*

b. Steps toward granting tenure *or rollover contract* shall be:

1. If the Board of Regents, on recommendation of the president of the institution, determines that a faculty member meets the above requirements ~~and has not been granted permanent tenure,~~ it shall either carry forward the procedure for granting permanent tenure or *a rollover contract or else* inform the faculty member of its decision ~~not to grant tenure, in which case his contract may either be renewed or terminated.~~ *to terminate.* In cases in which the decision is made to terminate the individual's contract, the contract shall be ~~extended for at least six months beyond the time at which notice is given.~~ *continued for at least nine months beyond the time at which notice is given.* If the Board of Regents does not take up the question of ~~permanent~~ tenure *or rollover contract* at least nine months prior to the end of the sixth year of *creditable* service, the faculty member shall be given a rollover contract with a minimum term of two years.

2. Notice of intent to grant tenure shall be announced in an official periodical of the Synod.

3. The faculty member shall be given the opportunity to respond to any comments or concerns that may have been raised relative to his tenure.

4. At least six weeks after the notice is published, consent of the electors of the institution shall be given.

5. If the above steps have all been met, after final review the Board of Regents may grant tenure.

c. The granting of permanent tenure *or rollover contract* shall in no case be construed as requiring or indicating advancement in rank or increase in salary.

Action: *Declined (12).*

To Revise Eligibility Requirements for Colloquy Program for Pastoral Ministry

RESOLUTION 6-08

Overtures 6-18–19B (*CW*, p. 247)

WHEREAS, There are committed and competent laymen in our Synod who desire to and are able to serve in the pastoral ministry later in life, having been involved in a successful career in another field in their earlier years; and

WHEREAS, We continue to affirm the need for a carefully selected and thoroughly trained clergy in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS); therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 6.91 regarding eligibility for admission to the colloquy program be amended as follows:

4. communicant members in good standing of a synodical congregation who belong to a special ethnic or linguistic group, who have ~~graduated from an accredited college~~ *had a college level education* and who have had considerable experience in church work; *or*

5. communicant members in good standing of a synodical congregation who are mature and have long years of experience in church work and have graduated from an accredited college.;

and be it further

Resolved, That present Bylaw 6.97 c be amended as follows:

c. After admission to the pastoral colloquy program, a minimum of two full academic years of instruction at one of the Synod's theological seminaries, at least one and one-half of which shall be in residence, as well as a vicarage under the seminary's auspices, ordinarily shall be required of ~~members in good standing of synodical congregations who belong to special ethnic or linguistic groups, who have graduated from an accredited college and who have had considerable experience in church work~~ *all other colloquy candidates.*

Action: *Adopted as amended (8).*

(Delegates agreed to delete the first whereas of the original motion which stated, "Whereas, previous synodical conventions have repeatedly amended the Bylaws of the Constitution regarding admission to the pastoral ministry by colloquy since 1979 due to the changing character of applicants and the shifting needs of the church body.")

To Revise Process for Election of Synodical College and Seminary Presidents

RESOLUTION 6-09A

Overtures 6-38, 6-40A–C (*CW*, pp. 251–52)

WHEREAS, Utilization of the procedure prescribed in Bylaw 6.11 for the selection of presidents for the colleges and seminaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has demonstrated the desirability of making the process more time efficient; and

WHEREAS, A long vacancy in the office of president at a synodical institution of higher education is detrimental because interim leadership for the school is for a short and/or indefinite period of time; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 6.11 be revised to read as follows:

6.11 Election

a. *As soon as an impending vacancy in the office is known* the Board of Regents, with prior consent of the Board for Higher Education Services, shall issue in an official periodical of the Synod a call for the nomination of candidates for the presidency of the institution. The call for nominations shall describe the office and qualifications desired to fill it.

b. Candidates may be nominated by congregations of the Synod, the Board for Higher Education Services, the Board of Regents, and the faculty of the institution.

c. All nominations must be filed with the secretary of the Board of Regents within ~~90~~ *60* days of the date of its published request, unless the request sets a later date. *Persons nominated may decline to be candidates and their names will be removed from the list of nominees. Nominees who allow themselves to be listed as candidates will be asked to pledge, if called, to render a decision within 15 days of receipt of the call, unless granted an extension by the Board of Regents.* The secretary of the Board of Regents shall ~~thereupon~~ publish ~~the names of the nominees~~ in an official periodical of the Synod, ~~c. all nominations must be filed with the secretary of the Board of Regents within 90 days of the date of its published request unless the request sets a later date. The secretary of the Board of Regents shall thereupon publish the names of the nominees in an official periodical of the Synod,~~ *the names of the nominees who have permitted themselves to be candidates and the date on which the election is to be held, which shall not be less than 30 days after the date of the publication of the names of the candidates.*

d. All recommendations, statements of qualifications of any nominees, or objections to any nominee with reasons therefore, must be filed with the Board of Regents before the time fixed for the election. If a charge of false doctrine or offensive life is registered, the ~~electors~~ *Board of Regents* shall investigate and reach a decision on such charge before proceeding with the election.

e. A committee composed of three faculty members elected by the faculty and of two board members elected by the board shall make a careful analysis of the needs of the institution, the requirements of the Synod, and the academic and personal qualifications of the nominees. To this end the secretary of the Board of Regents shall make available to this committee all information, recommendations, and objections which he shall receive. On the basis of these studies a committee of faculty members elected by the faculty shall submit to the electors evaluations and pertinent recommendations regarding the candidates who have been proposed.

f. At a meeting of the Board of Regents held to elect a president, there shall be present and voting as electors: the members of the Board of Regents as a group with one vote (the District President not voting with the board); the President of the synodical District or his official representative with a distinct vote; the President of the Synod or his official representative with one vote; and the chairman of the Board for Higher Education Services or his official representative with one vote.

g. The election shall be held on the day designated in the notice published in the official periodical of the Synod or as soon thereafter as feasible. The electors shall give due consideration to the recommendations and statements of qualifications and objections submitted on behalf of all nominees A majority of the electors, with the members of the Board of Regents now voting as individuals, may add names to any preferred list supplied by the faculty committee after consultation with the faculty committee.

h. The election of a president shall require three of four elector votes. If the electors are unable to complete the election, they may postpone the election and, *if desirable*, request the Board of Regents to issue a new call for nominations.

~~h.~~ *i.* The Board of Regents shall extend the formal call promptly after the election and submit its action to an official periodical of the Synod for publication.

~~i.~~ *j.* Whenever a call is declined, the chairman *of the Board of Regents shall give notice in an official periodical of Synod and* shall promptly call another meeting of the electors, at which meeting the call may be reissued or another person *may* be elected from among the remaining candidates, or the Board of Regents may be requested *by the electors* to issue a new call for candidates.

Action: *Adopted as amended (14).*

(In session 10, the convention declined Resolution 6-09 after having amended it by deleting the words, *and the elected representatives of the faculty as a group with one vote* and changing the number of votes required for election from five to four. An amendment calling for deletion of the phrase, *shall give notice in an official periodical of the Synod and,* had been declined.

A motion was later made and adopted by a vote of 533 to 421 for reconsideration of the action declining the amended resolution

with the matter to be recommitted to the floor committee as Resolution 6-09A. This resolution was considered and adopted in session 14 after it was amended by deleting the words *and the three elected representatives of the faculty as a group with one vote,* from 6.11 f, changing *four* to *three* and *five* to *four* in 6.11 h, and deleting *and the faculty representatives voting as individuals* from 6.11 g. The vote on the amendment was 360 to 356.)

To Add Bylaw 6.44 re Termination of Position

RESOLUTION 6-10

Overture 6-52 (*CW*, pp. 253–54)

WHEREAS, the synodical *Handbook* currently does not contain Bylaws providing guidance to Boards of Regents regarding termination of faculty or staff positions at synodical colleges or seminaries because of external institutional circumstances which do not reflect on the competency or faithfulness of individuals holding the positions; and

WHEREAS, The external institutional circumstances should be identified; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following Bylaw be added to the synodical *Handbook* for the guidance of Boards of Regents:

6.44 Termination of Position

a. Positions of nontenured faculty, as well as tenured faculty may be terminated by the Board of Regents under certain institutional conditions that do not reflect on the competency or faithfulness of the individual faculty member whose position is terminated. These conditions are the following:

1. Discontinuance of an entire program (e.g., social work, business).

2. Discontinuance of an entire division or department (e.g., modern foreign language) of a college or seminary.

3. Reduction of the size of staff in order to maintain financial viability.

4. A state of financial emergency exists as determined by the Criteria for Fiscal Viability Standards and confirmed by a financial analysis and subsequent resolution of the Board for Higher Education Services.

5. Discontinuance, merger, or consolidation of an entire college or seminary operation.

b. In the event of termination of a faculty position by the Board of Regents, a minimum of six months advance notice to contracted faculty and 12 months to tenured faculty must be provided the terminated professor in writing.

c. The opportunity to serve the college or seminary in another capacity for which the terminated professor has credentials and qualifications shall be offered the terminated professor if such a vacancy exists at the time of termination or becomes available within two academic years.

d. In identifying which specific faculty positions are to be discontinued or terminated, the Board of Regents shall follow the guidelines and procedures of that institution's RIF (reduction in force) policy.

e. A terminated position may not be subsequently staffed by another person during the next two academic years without first offering the last previous incumbent the position at his or her last previous salary plus average annual salary increases provided to that faculty during the interim.

Action: *Adopted as amended (10).*

To Change Bylaws re Salary Schedules

RESOLUTION 6-11

Overtures 6-57, 6-72 (*CW*, pp. 255, 257–58)

WHEREAS, Salaries for service to educational institutions vary from region to region and from city to city; and

WHEREAS, The local Board of Regents is in the best situation to establish a fair salary schedule for its faculty and staff; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 6.29 be changed to read as follows:

> The salary schedules of all institutional employees shall be fixed by the Board of ~~Directors~~ *Regents* on recommendation of the ~~Board for Higher Education Services~~ *president of the institution. Ordinarily, the salary schedules shall be established within the broad guidelines provided by the Board for Higher Education Services with the concurrence of the Synod's Board of Directors.*

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Intensify Recruitment of All Students for Synodical Schools

RESOLUTION 6-12

Overtures 6-10A–12 (*CW*, pp. 245–46)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the 1986 convention adopted several resolutions encouraging the intensified recruitment of students for our synodical schools for church and nonchurch professional programs; and

WHEREAS, Res. 6-15 of the 1986 synodical convention states:

Resolved, That recruitment for church vocations be

made the immediate concern of our entire Synod, specifically that pastors and congregations be reminded of their crucial role in encouraging young men and women to study for church vocations, and that every congregation of the Synod be urged to establish an active church-worker recruitment committee;

and

WHEREAS, The LCMS, meeting in convention in 1986 adopted a statement of mission and purpose (Res. 6-03A) which states:

The colleges and seminaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod exist to supply the higher education services needed to accomplish the mission of the church. Strongly committed to the Lutheran concept of vocation, synodical colleges are liberal arts institutions which provide a Christ-centered spiritual and value-oriented environment for men and women who will be Christians at work in the church and in secular occupations;

and

WHEREAS, The intense need for recruitment still exists; therefore be it

Resolved, That we applaud the Board for Higher Education Services (BHES), the Districts who have appointed recruitment committees, and the congregations who have established recruitment committees; and be it further

Resolved, That every congregation of the Synod which does not have a student recruitment committee for synodical schools be encouraged to establish one; and be it finally

Resolved, That the BHES be encouraged to continue to develop, update, and disseminate resource materials for the coordination and supervision of recruitment efforts by congregations, colleges, and Districts.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Urge Certification of Nonsynodically Certified Teachers and DCEs

RESOLUTION 6-13A

Overtures 6-22A–B (*CW*, p. 248)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has diligently sought through its colleges and seminaries to "recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers" (Art. III 3) for the various ministries requested by its member congregations; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has committed itself to "aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture" (Art. III 5); and

WHEREAS, The Synod has patiently and thoughtfully sought to "encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice" (Art. III 7); and

WHEREAS, Synodically approved teacher and director of Christian education programs aim to equip teachers and DCEs to carry out the office of a minister of religion; and

WHEREAS, Not all teachers or directors of Christian education serving in our schools and congregations are certified by a synodical college to carry out the office of minister of religion; and

WHEREAS, In response to the 1986 convention calling for a certification program, the Board for Higher Education Services (BHES) and the Board for Parish Services are in the process of developing a Provisional Endorsement for Lutheran Teaching (PELT) program; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations and agencies of the Synod engaging workers not certified by the Synod to serve as teachers or DCEs be encouraged to have those individuals seek certification as soon as possible through the various colloquy programs offered by the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations and other agencies of the Synod engaging a worker not certified by the Synod be encouraged to make provision for time and financial assistance to these workers for such certification; and be it further

Resolved, That nonsynodically certified teachers and DCEs be encouraged to use the PELT program as a first step toward qualifying as a Lutheran minister of religion, commissioned; and be it finally

Resolved, That the colleges and seminaries of the Synod be encouraged to establish and/or increase extension services for those seeking certification, especially to those geographical areas not immediately proximate to any synodical higher education institution.

Action: *Adopted as amended (12).*

(The final resolve was added by amendment.)

To Circulate the Scriptural Standards and Ecclesiastical Expectations Document of the Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry

RESOLUTION 6-14

Report R6-02, Appendix I (*CW*, pp. 114–18, 291–97)

WHEREAS, The Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry has prepared an indepth document, "Scriptural Standards and Ecclesiastical Expectations for Servants in Office of Public Ministry"; and

WHEREAS, The SCPM is committed to circulate this document; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod implement the distribution of this document to the pastors and congregations of the church in appropriate form for study, discussion, and use as a guide to practice.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Amend Bylaw 3.233 1

RESOLUTION 6-15

Overtures 6-62, 6-70 (*CW*, pp. 255–57)

WHEREAS, The President's Commission on Higher Education (PCHE) has completed an extensive review of the entire system of colleges and seminaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS); and

WHEREAS, Present Bylaw 3.233 1 creates a situation that

makes meaningful changes in the system quite difficult; and

WHEREAS, Careful planning and the wise use of resources is necessary in order to exercise positive Christian stewardship; and

WHEREAS, The PCHE has developed a set of criteria against which a college's viability can be measured; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.233 1 be amended to read as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

1. have authority, after receiving the consent of ~~the Boards of Regents of the colleges involved and with the approval of the synodical Board of Directors and the Council of Presidents, to consolidate colleges to the extent required by the church's professional and academic needs and by its financial condition;~~ *two of the three following bodies: Synod's Board of Directors by their two-thirds vote, the Council of Presidents by their two-thirds vote, or the Board of Regents by their two-thirds vote, to expand, consolidate, relocate, change to a junior-college level, or separate from the Synod. In the case of closure, the Board for Higher Education Services shall have the authority to act with the consent of the Board of Directors and the Council of Presidents;*

and be it further

Resolved, That whenever such serious actions are considered necessary and are implemented, that the Board of Regents, the Board for Higher Education Services (BHES), and the Board of Directors be encouraged to be as evangelical, compassionate, and fair as possible as they deal with those affected by such decisions.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Establish Alternate Routes into the Pastoral Ministry

RESOLUTION 6-16

Overtures 6-14–15 (*CW*, p. 246)

In light of the reasons advanced in Overtures 6-14–15; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention direct the Board for Higher Education Services (BHES) to immediately begin to study the establishment of alternate routes to the pastoral ministry in addition to the normal Master of Divinity or colloquy programs and a report be made to the next convention.

Action: *Adopted as amended (12).*

(The direction for the Board for Higher Education Services to "immediately begin to study the establishment," rather than, "give immediate attention to the establishment," of alternate routes to the pastoral ministry was provided by amendment.)

To Strengthen Church's Institutional Ministries

RESOLUTION 6-17

Overtures 6-23–24 (*CW*, p. 248)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has a long history of demonstrated commitment to a Gospel-grounded ministry among the ill, injured, impaired, infirm, and imprisoned individuals of society; and

WHEREAS, Our Lord values this ministry by declaring that to visit the incapacitated and the infirm is to visit/serve Him (Matt. 25:34–36); and

WHEREAS, In addition to pastors, deaconesses and others also are involved in specialized ministries; and

WHEREAS, Some scholarship monies are available through the Social Service Ministries; therefore be it

Resolved, That pastors, teachers, deaconesses, and others who are interested in such specialized ministries be encouraged to develop those interests and to seek training, such as clinical pastoral education; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod and District be encouraged to help in providing more funds for training.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Continue to Encourage Parish Experience for Seminary Faculty

RESOLUTION 6-18

Overtures 6-48–49 (*CW*, p. 253)

WHEREAS, A primary goal of seminaries is to educate men for the pastoral ministry in the parishes of our church; and

WHEREAS, Parish experience is an important part of the education process in accomplishing that goal; and

WHEREAS, It seems prudent and advisable for those who will fill positions on the instructional staff of our seminaries to have had parish experience and to continue to be actively involved in congregational ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education Services (BHES) and seminaries continue to give strong consideration to parish experience in the selection of candidates for faculty positions and that they encourage all faculty to remain active in the life of their local congregation.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Provide for Expression of Student Body Concerns

RESOLUTION 6-19

Overture 6-45 (*CW*, p. 252)

WHEREAS, The students of the synodical colleges are the next generation of church leaders in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and therefore need an opportunity to express pertinent concerns regarding these institutions; and

WHEREAS, The presidents of the student bodies have been duly elected to represent the interests and concerns of the students at these institutions; and

WHEREAS, The presidents of the student bodies are fully capable of bringing legitimate student concerns to the attention of the administration and/or the Board of Regents; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage all our colleges to provide avenues in which the interests and concerns of the college family can be freely communicated within the parameters of the synodical *Handbook*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Boards of Regents give appropriate attention to this resolution.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Study Addition of Valparaiso Teacher Graduates to Roster

RESOLUTION 6-20

Overture 6-74 (*CW*, p. 258)

WHEREAS, Valparaiso University has a long and unique association with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS); and

WHEREAS, A number of members of our congregations are teacher graduates of Valparaiso University; and

WHEREAS, The present Bylaws allow for certification of Valparaiso graduates to the Synod's roster only through the colloquy program; therefore be it

Resolved, That this matter be referred to the Board for Higher Education Services (BHES) for study of alternate certification procedures for Valparaiso graduates and that they report to the 1992 synodical convention in regard to this matter.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Decline Certain Overtures

RESOLUTION 6-21

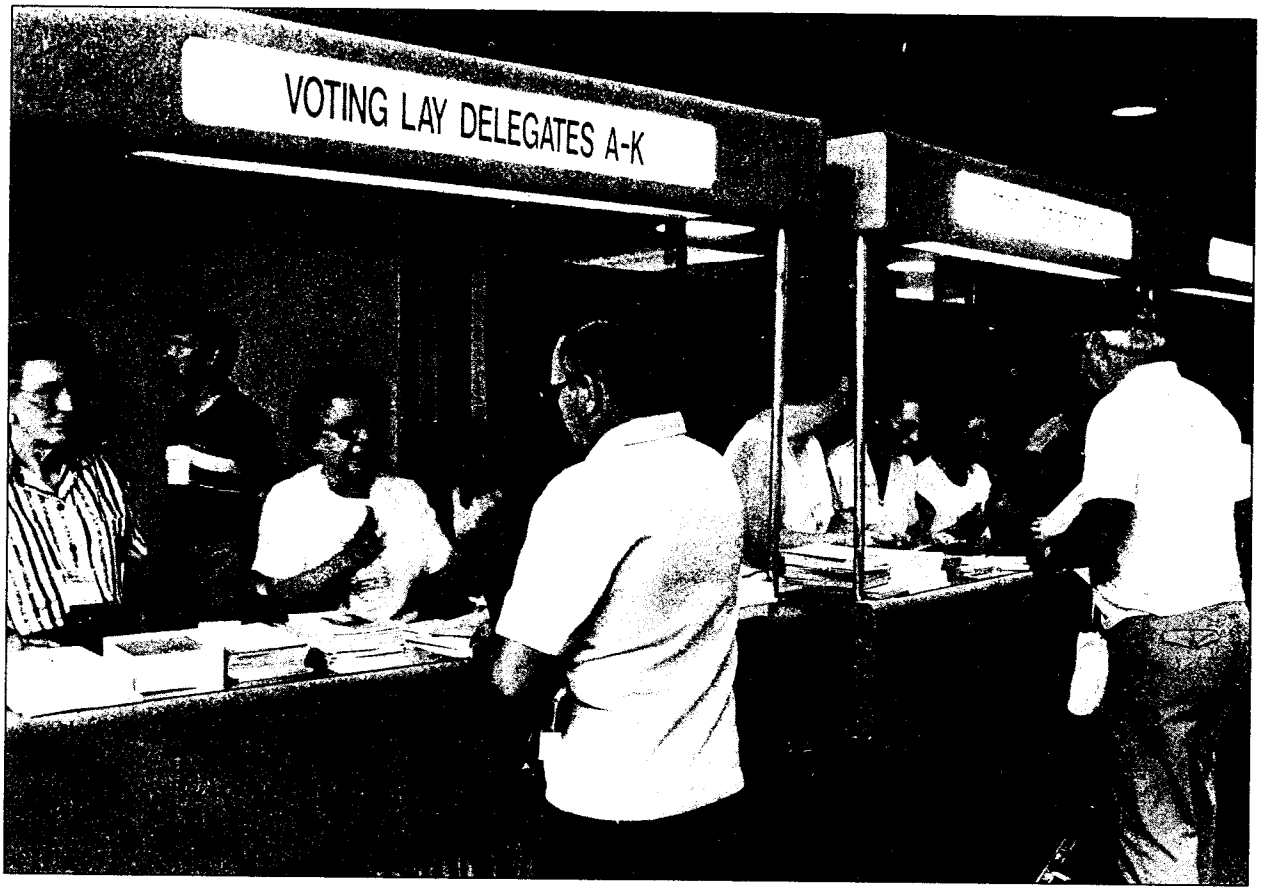
Overtures 6-16, 6-21A–B, 6-35–36, 6-46, 6-66, 6-75 (*CW*, pp. 246–47, 251–53, 256, 258)

WHEREAS, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various reasons, that certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:

Overture	*Subject*	*Reason*
6-16	Ordination of TEE Graduates	No TEE candidates have been ordained
6-21 A–B	Teacher Colloquy Recommendation by Principal	District President has that option
6-35	Qualifications of College President	Qualifications are determined by Board of Regents
6-36	Responsibilities of College President	Bylaw 6.11
6-46	Seminary Adherence to Scripture and Synodical Policies	Seminaries are abiding by scriptural and synodical positions
6-66	Theology Chairs for Valparaiso	Insufficient funds
6-75	Investigation of Concordia—St. Paul	No evidence provided

Action: *Adopted (15).*


VOTING LAY DELEGATES A-K

7. Human Care

Introduction

The convention Floor Committee on Human Care did what other floor committees are requested to do in preparation for the convention, namely, to review thoroughly the reports of those entities charged with responsibilities in human care. Specifically, we reviewed the reports of the Board for Social Ministry Services and the Board of Managers, Worker Benefit Plans.

The Board for Social Ministry Services

A Time of Achievement

It is the joy of the Floor Committee on Human Care to report to the convention that the Board for Social Ministry Services and its staff have completed significant achievements in broad areas of responsibilities.

Substantive Actions on a Stage Set Three Years Ago

The Indianapolis convention of three years ago inaugurated the environment and platform for these advances in the adoption of Res. 7-01A and 7-02A. Rather than place before this convention a series of commendatory resolutions, this floor committee briefly calls attention to the following accomplishments:

- The creation of a clear statement of purpose to guide the board and staff in their multifaceted ministry, to wit, "The mission of the church in social ministry is responding to God's love in Christ by expressing and demonstrating His love in compassion in meeting humans needs."
- The initiation of the Standing Committee on Human Care to focus for the Board for Social Ministry Services that which damages or diminishes human life. This standing committee has concentrated on two specific areas: (1) continuing education in human care for professional church workers and (2) fostering layperson involvement in caregiving.
- The creation of the convention-mandated Planning Unit on Human Care bringing together all commissions and task forces dealing with human care, as well as the executive director of the Board of Directors, three representatives from the President's office, three representatives from Social Ministry Services, the executive director of the Worker Benefit Plans, and the executive director of Human Resources.
- The publication of a Social Ministry Planning Manual for use by congregations, along with a District-oriented plan of distribution, so that the supporting role of both the Synod and its Districts for the congregation's ministry of human care is clear.
- The initiation of a new, enhanced program of evaluation for Social Ministry Organizations around the country to assume the role of the former Lutheran Social Services Systems (LS3) and to assist congregations and Districts in judging the effectiveness and viability of such ministries.
- The recent updating and completion of a document entitled *Blueprint II* which
  - — states concisely the theological basis for the church's holistic ministry among humans having the full range of spiritual, relational, physical, emotional, and mental needs;
  - — charts the broad objectives for wide-ranging areas of social ministry;
  - — identifies specific and attainable goals for the board and staff to address and against which to measure progress; and
  - — clarifies again the willingness of the board and staff to keep themselves accountable to the commitment to provide services in support of and in behalf of congregations.

Committee 7 Chairman Richard Hinz

Items Your Floor Committee Commends

It is in the spirit of the document *Blueprint II* and its content and directions that the floor committee offers a series of nine resolutions to this convention, not as a way of identifying items for correction or improvement, but as a way of providing focus to issues which are current and as a way of pointing to endeavors which require new energies on the part of the congregations and people of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The Board of Managers, Worker Benefit Plans

Prudent Policies

In the last triennium the board and its executive staff have steered a very careful course in setting policies as they dealt with several challenging realities: inflation, federal legislation, a volatile investment climate, an increasing number of claims, and—a voracious enemy of us all—escalating medical costs!

Within extra, but limited resources, the board also worked in a compassionate manner to assist the synodical

Board of Directors in meeting some of the fiscal needs of older retired pastors and teachers and surviving spouses. We commend both boards for their efforts in this Special Assistance Program.

A Major Adjustment

Effective Jan. 1, 1989, the Board of Managers instituted a major change, a revised pricing structure for the Concordia Health Plan. This new pricing structure, matching rates on a regional basis to the cost of health care in those areas, allows the Plan to remain competitive in most areas of the Synod. At the same time—and this has become an exasperating problem—it has placed a high burden of cost on specific ministries located in major metropolitan areas. Such high costs, in some instances, make the continuing viability of these ministries an unanswered question. Our committee will place before this convention a recommendation suggesting an imperfect, but at the same time its best, recommendation regarding this urgent and critical need.

Professional Management

In general, however, as has been the case in so many past conventions, the committee was impressed by the prudent policies and professional management which continue to surround the provisions and efforts of the Worker Benefit Plans. In particular, we commend the careful and caring ways of Mr. Earl Haake.

Richard Hinz, *Chairman*

To Give Support to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services

RESOLUTION 7-01

Report R7-01 (*CW*, pp. 130–36); Overtures 7-16–17 (*CW*, pp. 259–60)

WHEREAS, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), an agency created and supported by an agreement between The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and The Latvian Lutheran Church in America, is celebrating its 50th anniversary as a ministry; and

WHEREAS, The founders of the LCMS were themselves refugees and immigrants who established Lutheran settlements in this country, beginning 150 years ago this year; and

WHEREAS, The number of refugees in the world continues to rise due to political, religious, and economic strife; and

WHEREAS, It is God's nature and therefore our responsibility as His children to demonstrate our love and concern for these refugees; and

WHEREAS, God has blessed us and provided us with the means to reach out in Christian love to help these refugees establish new homes in a foreign culture; therefore be it

Resolved, That in celebration of these two anniversaries, the congregations of the LCMS be encouraged to support the LIRS with their prayers and through designated yearly offerings for refugee concerns; and be it further

Resolved, That each congregation be encouraged to adopt the goal of settling one refugee family in the next three years; and be it finally

Resolved, That the District supplements be encouraged to publicize the LIRS jubilee year celebration.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Support Work of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod World Relief

RESOLUTION 7-02A

Report R7-01 IV (*CW*, p. 134); Overtures 7-55A–B, 7-57A–B, 58A–B(*CW*, pp. 267–68)

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ by His deeds and teaching encourages us to a ministry of compassion towards the hungry, poor, and others in need; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) World Relief provides organizational and monetary support to meet these needs through 40 overseas programs now in cooperation with the Board for Mission Services, more than 250 domestic programs, and emergency and disaster programs; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable to strengthen the understanding of this ministry throughout our church and to fund these programs; and

WHEREAS, The entire budget of LCMS World Relief is provided solely through the contributions of individuals, congregations, and other groups; and

WHEREAS, Over half of the funds of LCMS World Relief go to the 300-plus programs of Lutheran World Relief, Inc., which has received the Presidential End Hunger Award from the President of the United States for outstanding policy formulation and program implementation; therefore be it

Resolved, That each District in coordination with the synodical director of LCMS World Relief be encouraged to appoint one or more District contact persons to be responsible for interpreting and promoting the work of LCMS World Relief; and be it further

Resolved, That each congregation be encouraged to observe the annual World Hunger Sunday and seek the support of any possible matching funds from other sources; and be it finally

Resolved, That the members of the Synod commit themselves to the support of LCMS World Relief through awareness of its work, evaluation of their own life-styles, prayer, and generous contributions in order that more relief work may be accomplished out of love for Christ and the neighbor (Matt. 25:40).

Action: *Adopted as amended (6).*

(The words *and seek the support of any possible matching funds from other sources,* were added by common consent.)

To Encourage Ministry to Older Persons

RESOLUTION 7-03

Report R7-01 (*CW*, pp. 130–36); Overtures 7-20A–24 (*CW*, pp. 260–61)

WHEREAS, The longevity explosion in America has

greatly increased the population of older persons; and

WHEREAS, Ageism, i.e., discrimination against older persons in the workplace, the community, and the church is a reality; and

WHEREAS, The church is becoming more aware of the gifts, talents, wisdom, but also the problems of older persons; and

WHEREAS, Many congregations, through individual and cooperative efforts, are demonstrating concern for the needs of older persons; and

WHEREAS, The families of frail older persons need support and encouragement in their role as caregivers; and

WHEREAS, Institutionalized and homebound older persons are often neglected and forgotten; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod encourage an intensified ministry with, by, and for older persons by

1. encouraging congregations to utilize the skills and experience of older persons in mission and ministry;
2. using available resources and developing new resources to instruct and sensitize church members to the needs of older persons and their caregivers;
3. developing curriculum for professional church workers to sensitize them to these needs.

Action: *Adopted as amended (6).*

(The resolution was amended by deleting the following from the resolve: *4. urging the filling of the synodical staff position of Counselor, Aging, to encourage and give direction to this vital ministry.)*

To Assist Professional Church Workers and Congregations

RESOLUTION 7-04

Overtures 7-13, 7-50 (*CW*, pp. 259, 266)

WHEREAS, The stress experienced by professional church workers continues to be a significant factor in the function of ministry and in the well-being of those who minister and their families; and

WHEREAS, Conflict affects congregations and professional church workers so that their effectiveness in witness and mission is diminished and personal energy is drained by painful circumstances; and

WHEREAS, The whole church has a significant commitment to support emotionally and spiritually through caring ministry those workers who have been trained and placed and to develop healing relationships within congregations; and

WHEREAS, Pastoral care of professional church workers and their families is an ongoing need which should not exclude those who are not currently engaged in active ministry; and

WHEREAS, Some Districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) have already implemented programs of professional support for their workers; therefore be it

Resolved, That each District be urged to implement plans for developing and maintaining sensitivity to the needs of workers and their families and the relationships between workers and congregations, for helping in critical situations and for preventing problematic confrontations whenever possible; and be it further

Resolved, That the Districts of the LCMS be encouraged to identify qualified professional care and make it available to church workers and their families; and be it further

Resolved, That such professional assistance be available for conflict management and crisis intervention to congregations and workers to resolve difficult and painful situations; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Districts communicate the availability of such resources to workers and congregations, share the information of their programs with other Districts, and involve synodical resources in directly coping with conflict wherever that is appropriate.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Encourage and Strengthen Support for Recognized Social Ministry Organizations

RESOLUTION 7-05

Report R7-01 (*CW*, pp. 130–36); Overture 7-49 (*CW*, p. 266)

WHEREAS, Jesus responded in love to human suffering (Luke 7:1–10) and St. Paul exhorts us to ". . . be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us" (Eph. 5:1–2); and

WHEREAS, "The mission of the church in social ministry is responding to God's love in Christ by expressing and demonstrating His love and compassion in meeting human needs" (Social Ministry Mission Statement, R7-01); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), through the Board for Social Ministry Services (BSMS), formally recognizes 84 Lutheran social ministry organizations which currently meet the criteria adopted by the Board of Directors of the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, These social ministry organizations have been organized to extend more effectively the ministry of congregations to those in need; and

WHEREAS, These organizations can be strengthened by the new procedures for evaluation and review afforded by this recognition; therefore be it

Resolved, That Districts and congregations be aware of and use the resources and review procedures of the BSMS to strengthen their relationships with these organizations; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention give thanks to God for these organizations and encourage its Districts and congregations to extend the church's ministry through these recognized social ministry organizations by cooperating with them and financially supporting their work.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Respond to Continuing Plight of Homelessness

RESOLUTION 7-06

Overtures 7-52–54 (*CW*, p. 267)

WHEREAS, Growing numbers of individuals and families are homeless or reside in substandard housing in the United States; and

WHEREAS, We are to care for those who are without adequate shelter; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Task Force on Housing be encouraged to continue monitoring the needs for housing and to assist local congregations to undertake ministries in housing; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force on Housing monitor federal legislation and funding programs that would affect the plight of the homeless and provide that information to Districts/congregations; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Task Force on Housing make available to Districts/congregations information on World Relief domestic grants and other available resources which may possibly be combined with public and private grants/funds (e.g., The Nehemiah Plan) to address the needs of the population.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Minister to Victims of AIDS

RESOLUTION 7-07

Overtures 7-36–39 (*CW*, p. 264)

WHEREAS, The Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is infecting an increasing number of individuals and affecting their families and communities in epidemic and devastating proportions; and

WHEREAS, Jesus set before us an example of unconditional love, care, and compassion in the treatment of the afflicted; and

WHEREAS, We Christians are called to give witness to that grace by which all people are entitled to receive quality care and humane treatment; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Social Ministry Services in conjunction with the Board for Parish Services make available to all Districts doctrinally sound educational and staff resources on the prevention and treatment of AIDS; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be urged to commit to Christ-centered care for and ministry to those with AIDS; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to utilize materials such as the LWML video, *I Feel So Alone*, as well as other materials of similar nature provided by the auxiliaries of the LCMS in their ministry of compassion; and be it finally

Resolved, That the congregations' response to all those affected by AIDS reflect our commitment to the ministry of the Law and the Gospel.

Action: *Adopted as amended (10).*

(The third resolve and the words *the law and* in the final resolve were added by common consent as were the words *doctrinally sound* in the first resolve. A proposal to state that the materials regarding prevention be reviewed by the Board for Social Ministry Services prior to distribution was not considered after delegates were reminded that a doctrinal review process exists.)

To Give Assistance in Dealing with Chemical Dependency and Substance Abuse

RESOLUTION 7-08

Overtures 7-41–44 (*CW*, pp. 264–65)

WHEREAS, Chemical dependency, including alcoholism and substance abuse, is a growing problem in our nation and church leading to personal and family suffering and affecting public safety and economic well being; and

WHEREAS, Such dependency and substance abuse have a destructive impact on the ministries of affected pastors, teachers, and other church professionals who provide our spiritual leadership and education; and

WHEREAS, Christian love impels us to provide assistance to those in need; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod request its Districts, through their appropriate boards, to provide information and assistance to professional church workers, congregations, and schools with respect to identification, understanding, treatment, and intervention in the area of chemical dependency and substance abuse; and be it further

Resolved, That the Districts make provisions for the treatment of affected professional church workers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod request the seminaries and colleges to provide instruction to the faculties and students on chemical dependency prevention, intervention, and treatment; and be it further

Resolved, That our Districts provide direction for Christian day schools and congregations to be actively involved in education, prevention, and intervention programs; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Social Ministry Services and the Task Force on Alcohol and Substance Abuse continue to monitor this pervasive spiritual and social illness and continue to provide the Districts/congregations with current information and direction.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Retain Name *Board for Social Ministry Services*

RESOLUTION 7-09

Overtures 7-10–11 (*CW*, p. 259)

WHEREAS, Social ministry is widely understood among us as responding to God's love in Christ by expressing and demonstrating His love and compassion in meeting human need by its services; therefore be it

Resolved, That we retain the name of *Board for Social Ministry Services*; and be it further

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overtures 7-10 and 7-11 to rename the Board for Social Ministry Services.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Continue Concern for Synodical Retirees and Their Spouses

RESOLUTION 7-10

Overtures 7-60A–E; 7-62 (*CW*, pp. 268–69)

WHEREAS, Genuine concern continues for the economic burdens carried by synodical retirees and surviving spouses; and

WHEREAS, Such concern follows the scriptural encouragement to especially care for the household of faith; and

WHEREAS, Some within the Synod have suggested raising the monthly benefits for synodical retirees from a minimum of $250 to $500; and

WHEREAS, Such an increase would necessitate a special appeal to raise an estimated $44 million in funds from outside the synodical budget; and

WHEREAS, Some have suggested that surviving spouses of synodical retirees would benefit greatly from the reinstatement of no-cost participation in the Concordia Health Plan; and

WHEREAS, Such no-cost participation would require a financial reserve of over $16 million which is beyond the means of the Plans; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the Synod and the Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans continue to show active concern for synodical retirees and surviving spouses, especially those experiencing economic hardship, as the board intentionally seeks the following:

1. To identify through District Presidents those who are in special need of assistance through the Support Benefits Program
2. To extend during years of good investment earnings additional benefits to synodical retirees at the minimum benefit level
3. To pursue every means possible to increase the benefits of retired workers and surviving spouses
4. To respond to special exceptional needs with a willingness to be of service and assistance; therefore be it

Resolved, That the present monthly minimum benefit to retirees remain fixed at the current rate; and be it further

Resolved, That reinstatement of no-cost participation by the spouses of retirees in the Concordia Health Plan not take place; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Synod and the Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans be directed to continue their ongoing efforts to assist those with exceptional financial hardship due to minimal retirement benefits; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Synod and the Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans be directed to continue pursuing all avenues of funding to increase benefits for retired workers and surviving spouses; and be it finally

Resolved, That District Presidents encourage the congregations in their District to assist retired workers and their families who are in need.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Encourage District Support of Ministries Adversely Affected by Concordia Health Plan Rates

RESOLUTION 7-11B

Overtures 7-65–70 (*CW*, p. 269–70)

WHEREAS, Higher medical costs resulted in the new rate structure of Concordia Health Plan (Jan. 1, 1989) that most adversely affected congregations in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, These urban congregations, often with school ministries and multiple staff, are least able to bear such large increases in health coverage; and

WHEREAS, These urban churches and schools are often in areas of highly mobile populations where their financial growth potential is limited, functioning more as mission stations than traditional congregations; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Managers of the Concordia Health Plan recognizes the burden new rates place on some ministries but feels these rates are the best alternative to maintain the viability of the plan; and

WHEREAS, Continuing the old rate structure of the Concordia Health Plan (pre-Jan. 1, 1989) would have threatened the financial viability of the plan or necessitated major increases to the plan because of employers withdrawing from the plan to purchase lower cost coverage; therefore be it

Resolved, That Districts be encouraged to create equitable procedures within their own Districts to assist those ministries most adversely affected; and be it further

Resolved, That the Council of Presidents be directed to explore the possibility of networking among Districts so that those Districts with lower rates will be able to assist those with higher rates; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Mission Services be directed to consider assistance to the burdened ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Managers of the Concordia Health Plan evaluate the present rates and explore additional alternatives that would keep rates as reasonable as possible while providing adequate benefits to enrollees and financial stability to the Concordia Health Plan. Such alternatives shall include but are not limited to

a. returning to the pre-Jan. 1, 1989, rate structure;
b. establishing geographic rates based on the rate for an entire church District rather than smaller ZIP code areas, thereby sharing cost fluctuations;
c. establishing transitional rates that would gradually move congregations from the old rate structure to the new; and be it finally

Resolved, That by Jan. 1, 1990, the Board of Managers of the Concordia Health Plan report to the Board of Directors of the Synod and to the congregations of the Synod its study conclusions which will be used to determine 1990 Concordia Health Plan rates.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

(A proposed final resolve was declined by a vote of 620 to 347. It would have stated, "*Resolved*, That effective as of Jan. 1, 1990, no member congregation, controlled organization, or affiliated agency enrolled in the Concordia Health Plan shall be assessed a rate which exceeds, by more than fifteen (15) percent, the median rate charged all enrollees." Another proposed amendment which called for deleting the fourth resolve was declared out of order since the result of adopting it would have had the same effect as the proposed amendment which had been defeated. The judgment of the chair was sustained by a vote of 558 to 247 and the resolution adopted by a vote of 783 to 151.)

To Decline Overtures 7-68 and 7-72

RESOLUTION 7-12

Overtures 7-68, 7-72 (*CW*, pp. 270–71)

WHEREAS, Overtures 7-68 and 7-72 both call for a commission or a committee to be formed to study aspects of the Concordia Health Plan and to compare and evaluate other plans and programs; and

WHEREAS, Such special study commissions and ad hoc groups would entail the expenditure of additional synodical funds; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Managers of the Concordia Health Plan continues to study every means of maintaining and increasing benefits while remaining fiscally responsible; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Managers of the Concordia Health Plan includes experts in the field of health plans and investments; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 7-68 and 7-72 be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Support Participation In and Improve Break-in-Service Rules of Concordia Retirement Plan

RESOLUTION 7-13

Overture 7-63 (*CW*, p. 269)

WHEREAS, The Concordia Retirement Plan has been established as an expression of Christian concern and support for the professional church workers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS); and

WHEREAS, The Concordia Retirement Plan is a defined benefit plan in which Concordia Retirement Plan contributions received from LCMS congregations on behalf of their professional workers are placed in a trust fund and paid to a qualified member at retirement; and

WHEREAS, Congregations and workers may not be adequately informed about the workings of the Concordia Retirement Plan; and

WHEREAS, The break-in-service rules do not give adequate opportunities for leaving employment for full-time parenting or for relocating; therefore be it

Resolved, That those congregations of the LCMS participating in the Concordia Retirement Plan be encouraged to continue and those not participating be encouraged to participate; and be it further

Resolved, That the Worker Benefit Plans strive to improve communication with regard to the Concordia Retirement Plan; and be it finally

Resolved, That the LCMS retain a defined benefit plan and that the Board of Managers of the Concordia Retirement Plan explore the potential of adding more years to a break-in-service when such is due to parenting and/or relocating.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Support Life Concerns

RESOLUTION 7-14

Overture 7-47 (*CW*, p. 266)

WHEREAS, The July 3, 1989, Supreme Court decision (*Webster v. Reproductive Health Services)* indicates hope in the struggle against abortion and points to the need to develop new and increased strategies for our long-term pro-life efforts; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is recognized for its strong commitment to pro-life and family concerns as documented in several past convention resolutions; and

WHEREAS, Many LCMS members actively support Lutherans for Life, a pan-Lutheran organization which builds awareness of the sanctity of life through educational materials and ministry based on the Word of God; and

WHEREAS, Sanctity of life concerns have been faithfully addressed by the Sanctity of Life Task Force of the Board for Social Ministry Services; and

WHEREAS, The sanctity of life continues to be threatened

at every stage of development with infanticide, euthanasia, fetal transplants, and various procedures raising grave biomedical issues; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS must be prepared to provide Scripture-based, pro-life assistance for searching, confused, and often hurting individuals and families within our congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations and Districts be urged to address life issues, working toward local, state, and federal legislation which upholds the sanctity of all human life, including that of the unborn child; and be it further

Resolved, That this convention direct the Sanctity of Life Task Force of the Board for Social Ministry Services to accomplish the following:

1. Keep the church and community aware of Biblical answers to issues that threaten the sanctity of all human life
2. Continue to provide information regarding alternatives to abortion
3. Serve as a resource to congregations and Districts who seek to address pro-life concerns in their unique local and state contexts
4. Provide encouragement and support for social ministry agencies recognized by the LCMS as these agencies minister to those facing sanctity of life issues; and be it finally

Resolved, That individuals throughout our Synod and our nation be encouraged by this resolution to reaffirm the sanctity of human life through the exercise of civic responsibilities and through a winsome Christian witness.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Encourage Synodical and Congregational Support for Prevention of Child Abuse

RESOLUTION 7-15A

Report R7-01 (*CW*, p. 132)

WHEREAS, Jesus showed special concern for children, admonishing His disciples, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 19:14 RSV); and

WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect are major problems in our country and a definite hindrance to a child's faith; and

WHEREAS, Child abuse is cyclic, often perpetuating godless life-styles in victims, including abuse of their own children, crime, drug and alcohol abuse, and the inability to form relationships; therefore be it

Resolved, That the congregations of the LCMS be encouraged to recognize April or some other month as Child Abuse Prevention month with sermons, prayers, and education of members in prevention strategies and methods of reaching out into the community; and be it further

Resolved, That schools of the LCMS be encouraged to develop prevention education curriculums to use with their students; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Social Ministry Services provide congregations with appropriate materials to carry out this ministry; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Parish Services be encouraged to develop and assess already existing prevention education curriculums for Lutheran schools to use with their students, working jointly with the Board for Social Ministry Services in this effort.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Address Problem of Domestic Abuse

RESOLUTION 7-16

Report R7-01 (*CW*, p. 132)

WHEREAS, Domestic abuse is an escalating problem; and

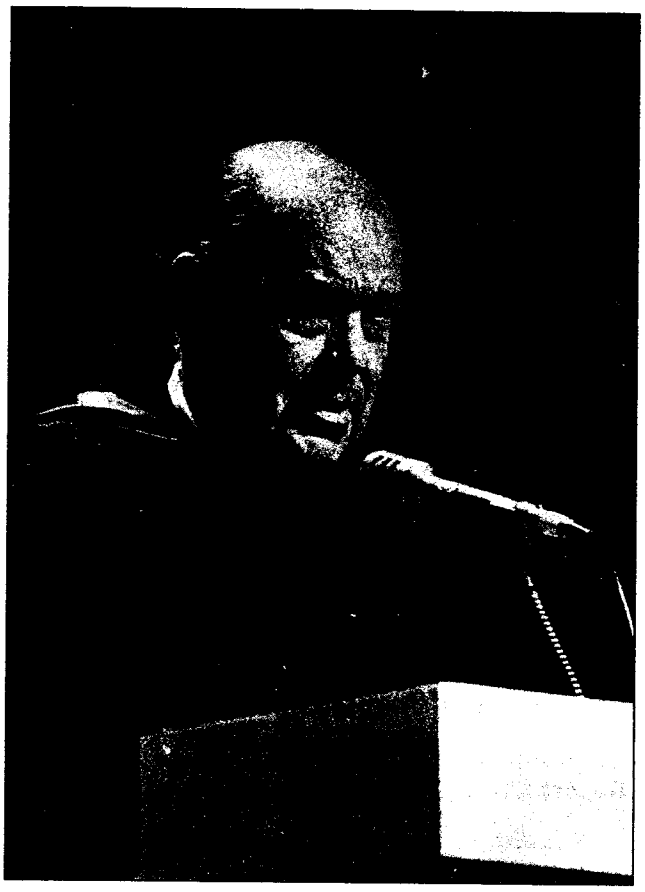
WHEREAS, Domestic abuse degrades the family, increases human suffering, prevents healthy growth and development, and perpetuates unchristian life-styles; and

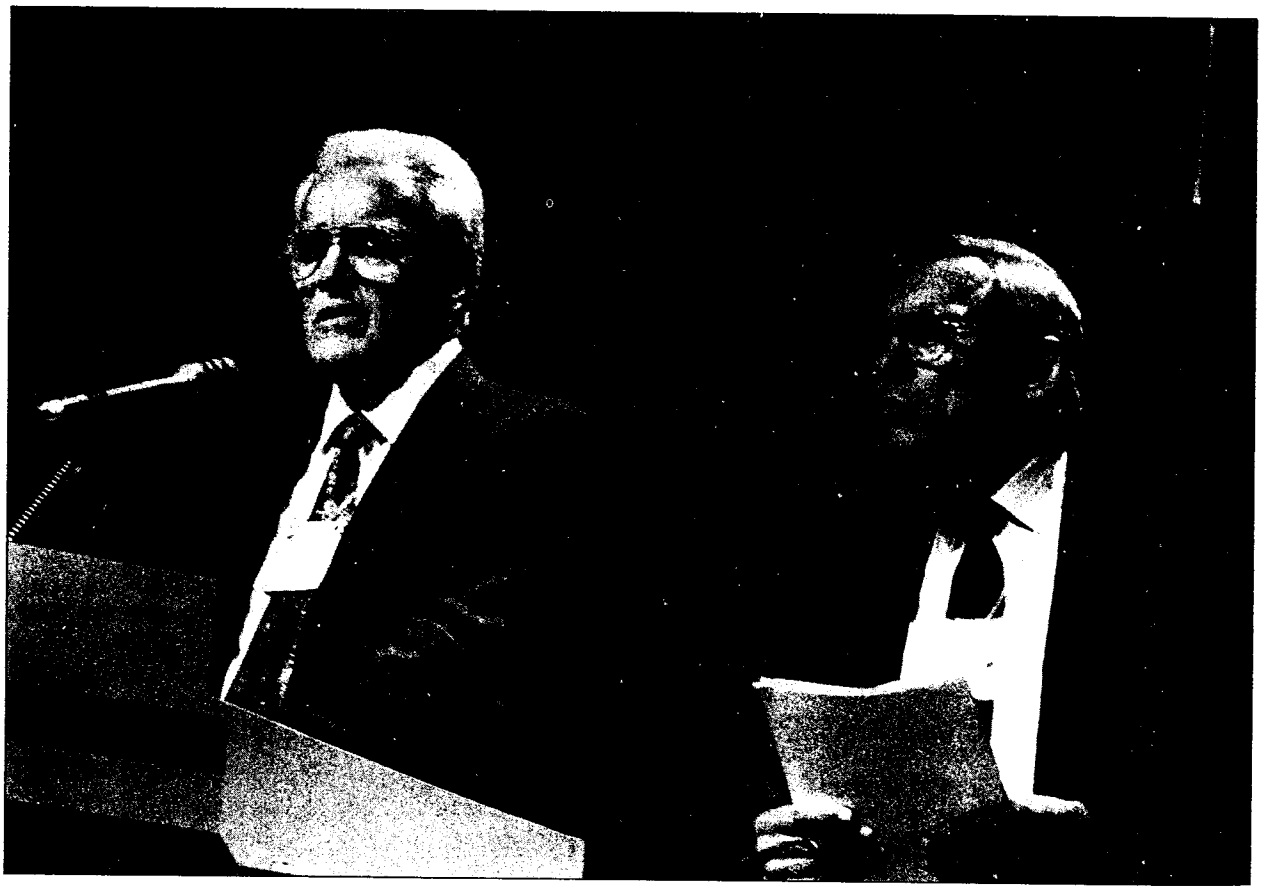
WHEREAS, Ministry to those affected by domestic abuse follows from our strong commitment to pro-life and family concerns; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Social Ministry Services through its Standing Committee on Human Care

1. sensitize congregations to the problem of domestic abuse;
2. provide resources and recommend models for ministry to assist families in dealing with domestic abuse;
3. encourage the Board for Higher Education Services to develop programs in synodical institutions that train professional workers to provide Christ-focused care to needy and damaged individuals and families.

Action: *Adopted (15).*





8. Planning and Administration

Introduction

Tell everyone what He has done! Committee 8 has worked faithfully to prepare resolutions that will help The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod accomplish just that—*tell everyone what He has done!*

The committee was ably staffed by Dr. Richard Bimler and Dr. Walter Rosin. Their work made our work easy.

We, the members of Floor Committee 8, feel honored to have the privilege to serve—to serve you through the preparation of resolutions for your consideration.

Glenn O'Shoney, *Chairman*

To Encourage Coordinated Planning and Decision Making

RESOLUTION 8-01

Report R8-09 (*CW*, pp. 148–50); Overtures 8-53–55 (*CW*, pp. 283–84)

WHEREAS, Res. 4-01 of the 1986 synodical convention requested the Synod to begin the development of a coordinated planning process; and

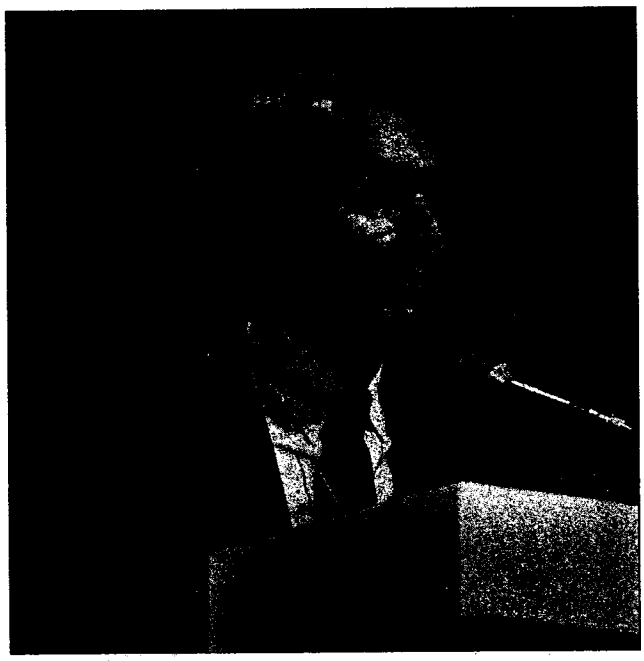
WHEREAS, A thorough study has been completed, which involved leaders at congregational, District, and national levels of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, the 1989 Planning Council has recommended such a process to strengthen congregations in their ministries; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention adopt the following three components endorsed by the Planning Council:

VISION

Vision enables congregations to view all of their activities and planning in light of Christ's Great Commission. Vision is focused on the promises of God. Vision incorporates the whole ministry of Christ to His people.



Committee 8 Chairman Glenn O'Shoney

NETWORKING

Networking is a relational approach to ministry that connects those who have needs with those who have gifts to meet those needs. Networking supports, affirms, and enables congregations for more effective ministry by linking them together around the functions of the parish, such as worship, nurture, witness, service, and fellowship.

COMPATIBLE RELATIONSHIPS

Compatible relationships emphasize the ministry of God's people to one another as members of the body of Christ. These relationships enable the people of God to work together, listen to one another, and respond to each other's needs under the lordship of Christ.

Action: *Withdrawn and incorporated into Res. 8-02A.*

To Coordinate Congregational Ministries

RESOLUTION 8-02A

Report R8-09 (*CW*, pp. 148–50); Overtures 8-19, 8-53–55 (*CW*, pp. 275, 283–84)

PREAMBLE

The Great Commission provides the people of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) with a common vision for working together. There is a sincere desire to see more people, especially laity, participating in the endeavors of the national planning process as it helps the church consider the future direction of its work. There is also strong encouragement to stay focused on serving congregations through the work of the Synod at both District and national levels.

The interactive group approach (used by the LCMS Research Department, the Colarelli, Meyer and Associates study, and the table-talk style of the Circuit Counselors' Conference) has received strong affirmation as being valuable for better understanding of our brothers and sisters and their dedication to the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is vitally important that the District and national levels of the Synod determine how they can best work together for the benefit of the congregations. This does not necessarily mean a set of hard and fast rules to which every project is subjected to ascertain whether District and national should take ownership. Rather, it is a mutual consent to work together in a process that looks at each situation to discover the best approach for serving congregations.

Resolved, That in keeping with 1986 synodical Res. 4-01, the whole of the LCMS (congregations, District and national staffs, boards and commissions) involve itself in a coordinated planning and decision-making process to assure more effective and better coordinated services to congregations, so that congregations are better equipped to support the ministry and mission of the local parish and of the whole church; and be it further

Resolved, That during the next triennium, the three planning components endorsed by the 1989 Planning Council be studied and tested concerning their validity as important components for a synodical plan:

VISION

Vision enables congregations to view all of their activities and planning in light of Christ's Great Commission. Vision is focused on the promises of God. Vision incorporates the whole ministry of Christ to His people.

NETWORKING

Networking is a relational approach to ministry that connects those who have needs with those who have gifts to meet those needs. Networking supports, affirms, and enables congregations for more effective ministry by linking them together around the functions of the parish, such as worship, nurture, witness, service, and fellowship.

COMPATIBLE RELATIONSHIPS

Compatible relationships emphasize the ministry of God's people to one another as members of the body of Christ. These relationships enable the people of God to work together, listen to one another, and respond to each other's needs under the lordship of Christ;

and be it further

Resolved, That should structural changes seem advisable as a result of the comprehensive coordinated planning and decision-making process, implementation of these proposed structural changes be brought to the 1992 synodical convention for approval; and be it finally

Resolved, that

1. the 1990 Planning Council further refine and implement a process for coordinated planning and decision making;

2. the 1990 Circuit Convocations be encouraged to have as their themes vision planning, networking, and compatible relationships; and that the Planning Council provide resources;

3. the Planning Council assist the 1991 District conventions in the evaluation of the planning process;

4. the 1992 synodical convention receive a report of progress and recommendations for continuation of a coordinated planning and decision-making process.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Replace Bylaw 3.731

RESOLUTION 8-03

Report R8-09 (*CW*, pp. 148–50)

Resolved, That present Bylaw 3.731 be replaced in its entirety by the following:

3.731 Planning Council

~~The members of the Board of Directors and of the Council of Presidents shall serve as the Planning Council of the Synod under the chairmanship of the synodical President. The staff members of the Council of Administrators shall function in an advisory capacity.~~

~~The Planning Council shall~~

~~a. recommend planning, programming, and budgeting systems encompassing short-, mid-, and long-range plans to serve as a basis for program and budget formulation, allocation of resources, and financial planning, review, and reporting for the Synod and its Districts, such systems to provide for the sharing of the work and needs of the Synod and its Districts;~~

~~b. convene at least triennially a planning conference of the members of the Planning Council together with District staff, senior staff of the national office, and college and seminary presidents to plan programs for carrying out North American and world missions, supplying adequate support for synodical colleges and seminaries, and supporting other approved programs;~~

~~c. recommend operating budgets, short-range plans and long-range plans at the national church body program level based on proposal and analysis made by the Council of Administrators through the office of the President; and report the budgets, plans, and performance to the convention. Such budgets and plans shall be prepared in accordance with Chapter IX of the Bylaws.~~

The members of the Board of Directors, the Council of Presidents, and a representative group determined by the synodical President (professional/lay, men/women, minorities, educators/pastors, and organizations) shall serve as the Planning Council. The synodical President shall serve as the Planning Council chairman and staff members of the Council of Administrators shall serve in an advisory capacity.

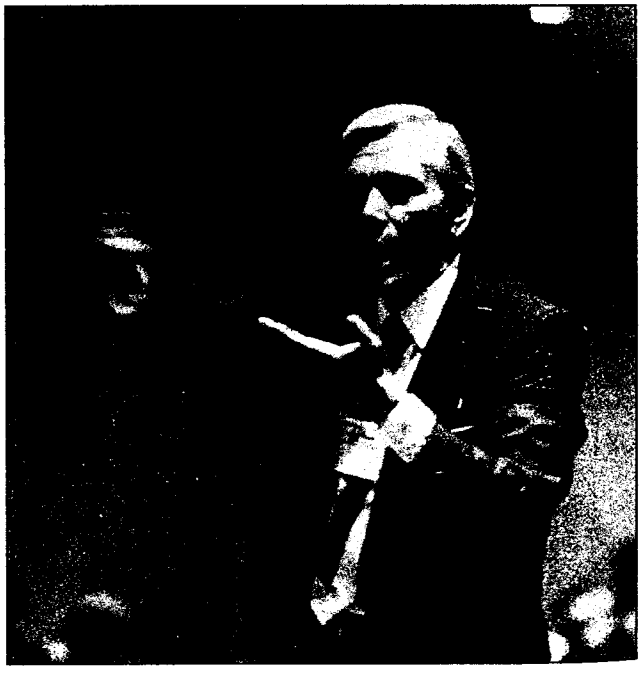
The Planning Council shall

a. use appropriate planning resources to aid the Synod, its boards and Districts, in fashioning a common vision and understanding of the mission and ministry for the congregations, pastors, and commissioned ministers of the Synod;

b. recommend to the Synod, its boards and Districts, the means or systems by which the activities of each entity in planning, programming, and budgeting can be mutually shared and reviewed, so that all entities may work in a complementary fashion under a common vision and so that each entity may shape the implementation of its responsibilities faithful to that common vision; and, once such means or systems are developed, maintain a consistency in these systems for the benefit of the entities involved;

c. aid the various synodical entities in being faithful and responsive to their unique responsibilities and contexts:

1. That the activity and interaction of congregations



for the good of one another is deemed crucial and becomes an objective of the service and support supplied by the Synod and its Districts;

2. That the Districts of the Synod, as regional administrative units, encourage congregations to provide resources, energies, and expertise in the task of assisting one another to accomplish their mission and ministry more effectively;

3. That the Synod, understood as the core administrative unit, seeks to undertake and implement those responsibilities by which it serves the general welfare of its member congregations, sustains a quality life and ministry for its member congregations through the provision of professional workers, and allows member congregations to engage in Christ's mission around the world;

d. monitor and report the work performed by the Synod, its boards and Districts; use such reports to point to the possibility of having the various entities reorder their priorities, if necessary; and present to the synodical convention a comprehensive picture of the work done and anticipated throughout the Synod;

e. continue to monitor and encourage networking throughout the Synod;

f. continue to evaluate and encourage relationships between congregations, District staffs, and synodical staffs.

Action: *Adopted (8).*

To Change Establishment of Committee for Convention Nominations

RESOLUTION 8-04A

Overtures 8-48–49, L8-71 (*CW*, pp. 281–82, *TB*, pp. 17–18)

WHEREAS, The Synod at its 1986 convention reduced the number of persons on the Committee for Convention Nominations from 35 to 15 persons and changed the method of electing members of the committee from direct election by the Districts to the election of committee members by the Synod at its convention; and

WHEREAS, Direct election of persons to the Committee for Convention Nominations by the Districts of the Synod would ensure a more representative committee from all the Districts of the Synod and give ownership in the selection of nominees to the Districts; and

WHEREAS, From a practical standpoint the majority of nominations are now made within the 12 months prior to the synodical convention, which would allow time for District conventions to elect persons to be members of the Committee for Convention Nominations and still be able to carry out their duties in a timely and effective manner; and

WHEREAS, The first call for nominations can be made by the Secretary of the Synod on behalf of the Committee for Convention Nominations 18 months before the convention; therefore, at its first meeting the nominating committee would have names of nominees with which to work; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 1989 synodical convention change the manner of establishing a Committee for Convention Nominations as follows:

3.94 Committee for Convention Nominations

a. Seventeen of the Districts shall elect through their regular election procedures at the District convention one member to the Committee for Convention Nominations, plus an alternate. For the next convention, the other 18 Districts shall elect in the same manner. Half of the electing Districts shall be designated by the Secretary of the Synod to elect a professional church worker and the other half a layperson with roles reversed every six years.

b. The following demographic cycle shall be adopted:

I	*II*
Atlantic	*Eastern*
California-Nevada-Hawaii	*English*
Central Illinois	*Iowa East*
Florida-Georgia	*Kansas*
Indiana	*Michigan*
Iowa West	*Mid-South*
Minnesota South	*Minnesota North*
Missouri	*Montana*
Nebraska	*New England*
North Wisconsin	*New Jersey*
Northern Illinois	*North Dakota*
Northwest	*Ohio*
Oklahoma	*Rocky Mountain*
SELC	*South Wisconsin*
South Dakota	*Southeastern*
Southern	*Pacific-Southwest*
Wyoming	*Southern Illinois*
	Texas

c. The Committee for Convention Nominations shall take office on or about Sept. 1, following the District conventions.

d. The Committee for Convention Nominations shall be regarded as an ad hoc convention committee, to which limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply.

e. The Secretary of the Synod shall handle the preliminary work and, on behalf of the committee, shall issue the first call for nominations from the Synod at large 18 months before the synodical convention.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

(Delegates agreed to consider this resolution prior to voting for board, commission and convention nomination committee members. A motion to amend the resolution by adding f. This method will first be in effect in the triennium of 1992 *was declined. A substitute amendment to change the date in the first statement of the resolve was ruled out of order.)*

To Clarify Title of Treasurer as Synod's Chief Financial Officer

RESOLUTION 8-05A

Overture 8-59 (*CW*, pp. 285–86)

WHEREAS, It may be beneficial that the Treasurer of the Synod be recognized as having authority in a specific area, an impression which is given by the use of the title Chief Financial Officer; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following Bylaw amendments be adopted:

PRESENT/*PROPOSED* WORDING

3.53 Officers

The officers of the Synod shall be a President, five Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer *who shall also be designated as Chief Financial Officer*, elected by the convention.

3.161 Nomination and Election

The Treasurer, who shall be a layperson, shall be nominated by the Board of Directors *after consultation with the other boards on which he serves as a voting member* and elected by the convention. Additional nominations may also be made from the floor of the con-

vention. The term of office shall be for a period of three years, with no limitation of reelection to successive terms.

3.163 General Duties

The Treasurer *as the Synod's chief financial officer shall be a full-time executive and* shall administer his office in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the Synod and as directed by the Synod's Board of Directors *and the other boards on which he serves as a voting member.* He shall receive and disburse the Synod's monies and keep accurate account of them under the instruction of the Board of Directors. He shall be a nonvoting member of the Board of Directors.

3.165 Specific Duties

The Treasurer *as the Synod's chief financial officer* shall

Action: *Adopted (12).*

(Discussion of Resolution 8-05 was begun in session 7 where questions were raised regarding the constitutionality of appointing certain persons as vice-presidents, not in line of succession. A motion to refer the matter to the Commission on Constitutional Matters for an opinion was declined. In session 12 the floor committee presented Res. 8-05A for consideration as a substitute for the original resolution.)

To Clarify Role of Synodical Board of Directors

RESOLUTION 8-06

Overture 8-52 (*CW*, p. 283)

The Commission on Structure has found that the Missouri not-for-profit corporate law gives the board certain responsibilities that are not adequately covered in the Bylaws. Prior commissions have recommended to past conventions that the role of the board be clarified. The present commission concurs; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.183 be amended as follows:

PROPOSED WORDING

3.183 Authority

a. The Board of Directors shall have all the powers and duties which have been accorded to it by the laws of the State of Missouri, the Articles of Incorporation of the Synod, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, and the resolutions of the national conventions of the Synod. The Board of Directors shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the Synod's business and legal affairs.

b. The Board of Directors shall provide for the coordination of the policies and directives of the Synod authorized by the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions, evaluate plans and policies, and communicate to the appropriate boards and commissions suggestions for improvement. The Board of Directors shall discharge duties specifically assigned to it by resolutions of the Synod.

c. *The Board of Directors shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the Synod's business and legal affairs and also shall be authorized to take on behalf of the Synod any actions not expressly or by reasonable implication delegated to other officers, boards, or commissions.* The Board of Directors shall have the right to call up for review, criticism, or suggestion any policy of a board or commission of the Synod.

d. The Board of Directors shall be accountable to the national convention of the Synod for the discharge of its duties.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Urge Faithfulness to Synod's Constitution

RESOLUTION 8-07A

Report R1-8 (*CW*, pp.1–6); Overtures 8-14–17, 8-22, 8-57 (*CW*, pp. 273–76, 284–85)

WHEREAS, All the above overtures deal with the exercise of discipline in matters of doctrine and practice; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod require the synodical President and the District Presidents to carry out such discipline; and

WHEREAS, We are grateful that the number of problem cases is minimal, as evidenced by the synodical President's report under Ecclesiastical Supervision, *CW*, pp. 1–2; therefore be it

Resolved, That the synodical President and the District Presidents be commended for their efforts to maintain the doctrinal position of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the Synod be faithful to the Constitution and Bylaws.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

(An amendment calling for the insertion of the word *generally*, before "commended" in the first resolve was declined as was a motion to table the resolution.)

To Commend Use of "The Ministry of Influence in the Church"

RESOLUTION 8-08

Overture 8-25 (*CW*, pp. 276–77)

WHEREAS, Concern has long been expressed regarding the efforts to influence the church through unofficial publications as well as other activities; and

WHEREAS, The Council of Presidents has developed a statement on the matter as promised at the 1986 convention, entitled "The Ministry of Influence in the Church"; therefore be it

Resolved, That we recommend the dissemination and use of "The Ministry of Influence in the Church" document for guidance throughout the church.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Decline Overture 8-23

RESOLUTION 8-09

Overture 8-23 (*CW*, p. 276)

WHEREAS, The concerns of Overture 8-23 have already been dealt with by the Board of Regents and the President of Concordia College, River Forest, and the President of the Northern Illinois District; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Regents did adopt a resolution which should resolve this issue by Dec. 31, 1989; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 8-23 be declined.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Prepare Policies and Guidelines for *Convention Workbook*

RESOLUTION 8-10

Report R8-02 (*CW*, pp. 139–40)

WHEREAS, The Secretary, in his report, raises a number of questions concerning the preparation of the *Convention Workbook*; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Synod prepare policies and guidelines for the preparation of the *Convention Workbook*; and be it further

Resolved, That these policies and guidelines be submitted to the synodical convention in 1992.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Decline Overture 8-24

RESOLUTION 8-11

Overture 8-24 (*CW*, p. 276)

WHEREAS, The implementation of this overture would be impractical since it would require additional funding and staffing; and

WHEREAS, This overture is restrictive in that it would be limited to articles by Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) clergy; and

WHEREAS, the *Lutheran Witness* and *The Reporter* are the official periodicals of the Synod (Bylaw 12.01); therefore be it

Resolved, That overture 8-24 be declined.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

(A motion to refer the overture to the Board for Communication Services for report to the next convention was declined.)

To Prepare Guidelines and Policies for Committee for Convention Nominations

RESOLUTION 8-12

Report R1-8 (*CW*, pp. 1–6)

WHEREAS, Presently there are no procedural guidelines and policies for the synodical Committee for Convention Nominations, as a result of which each committee has had to establish its own; therefore be it

Resolved, That the synodical Board of Directors develop procedural guidelines and policies for future Committees for Convention Nominations to be presented for adoption at the next convention.

Action: *Adopted as amended (12).*

(The final words, *to be presented for adoption at the next convention,* were added by amendment.)

To Decline Certain Overtures

RESOLUTION 8-13

Overtures 8-20–21, 8-26–27B, 8-29–31, 8-39, 8-50, 8-58, 8-60–70 (*CW*, pp. 275, 277–80, 282, 285–88)

WHEREAS, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various reasons, that certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:

Overture	*Subject*	*Reason*
8-20	To Specify Presidential Priority	Addressed in *Handbook*
8-21	To Speak Clearly Concerning Purpose of Synod	Addressed in *Handbook*
8-26–27A–B	To Reduce Number of Task Forces	Some task forces are necessary
8-29	To Change Some Requirements for Holding Synodical Office	Boards and commissions establish qualifications
8-30	To Reduce Number of Pastor and Teacher Executives	Boards and committees establish qualifications
8-31	To Request Best Christian Stewardship at All Levels of Synod	Based on inaccurate information
8-39	To Provide Job Descriptions for President and First Vice-President	*Handbook* adequate
8-50	To Enlarge Room for God's Control	Present process works
8-58	To Revise Bylaws 3.101 b and 3.103 c	Request based on false assumptions
8-60	To Prioritize Conduct of Convention Business	Convention approves agenda
8-61	To Complete Convention Business	Convention approves agenda
8-62	To Give Equal Consideration to All Memorials	Convention approves agenda
8-63	To Encourage Greater Congregational Participation in Synodical Convention Process	Convention approves agenda
8-64A—C	To Prioritize Memorials	Convention approves agenda
8-65	To Prioritize Convention Time	Convention approves agenda
8-66A–B	To Reorganize Convention Agenda	Convention approves agenda
8-67A–B	To Expedite Convention Proceedings	Convention approves agenda
8-68A–B	To Eliminate Round-Table Discussions	Convention approves agenda
8-69	To Prioritize Convention Time	Convention approves agenda
8-70	To Prioritize Conduct of Convention Business	Convention approves agenda

Action: *Adopted (12).*

(Motions to delete Overtures 8-26—27B, 60-70, and 8-30 were declined. It was suggested that declining resolutions be considered earlier in the convention, and the chairman requested that the suggestion be included in the *Convention Proceedings.)*

To Observe Synod's Sesquicentennial in 1997

RESOLUTION 8-14

Overture L8-72 (*TB*, p. 18)

Rationale:

Since the Lutheran Heritage Committee has been working since 1985, based on a 1983 synodical resolution, to prepare for the Walther and the Confessional Lutheran Immigration Sesquicentennials in 1987 and 1989 respectively, it is time to begin preparation for the Synod's sesquicentennial in 1997. To wait until 1992 for a synodical convention to memorialize in anticipation of the 150th anniversary would be pronouncedly late.

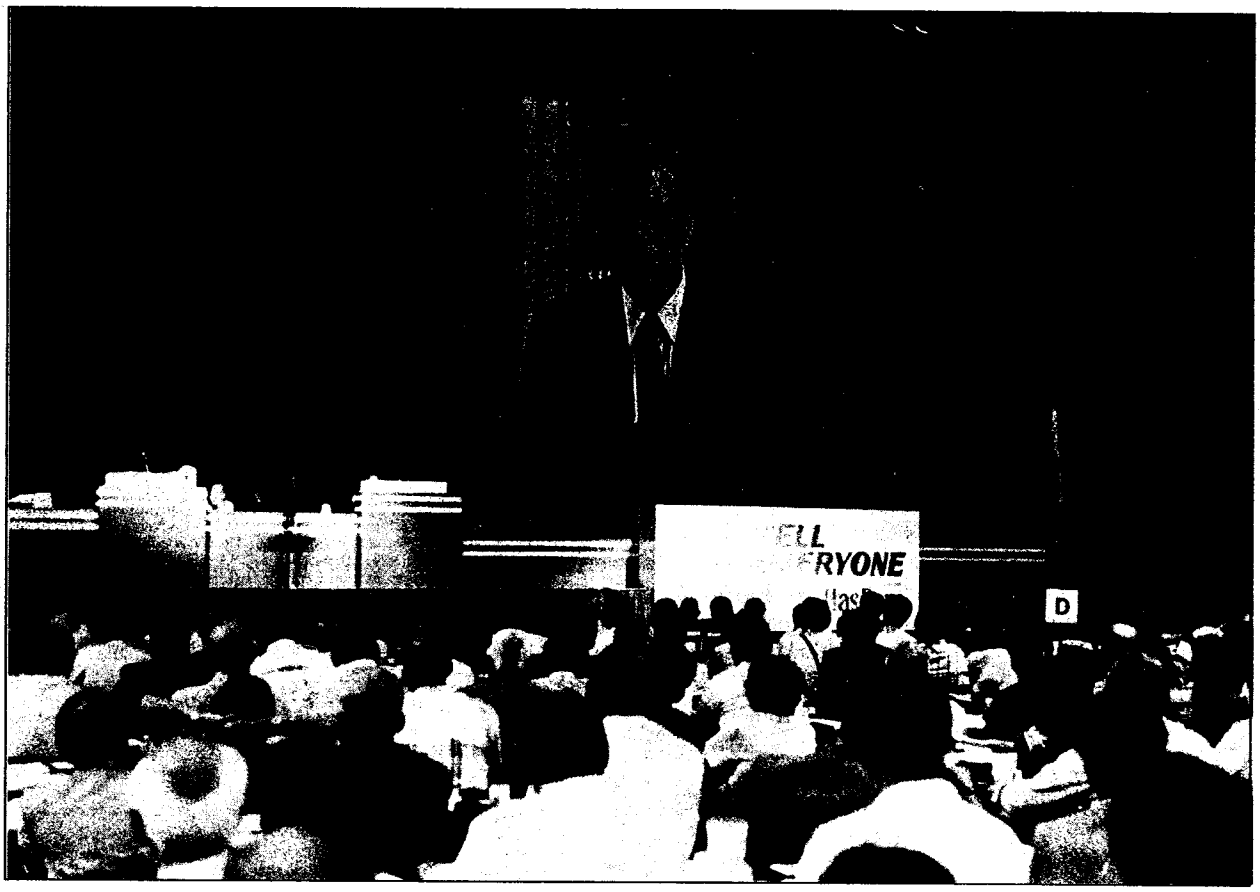
Resolved, That a committee be appointed by the President of the Synod, in order to suggest ways in which the Synod, its agencies, and its congregations can observe the sesquicentennial of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1997; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors be directed to provide adequate funding so that this committee will have resources to carry out its assigned task; and be it finally

Resolved, That the committee be instructed to be sensitive to the contributions of black heritage in our Synod.

Action: *Adopted as amended (12).*

(The final resolve was added by amendment.)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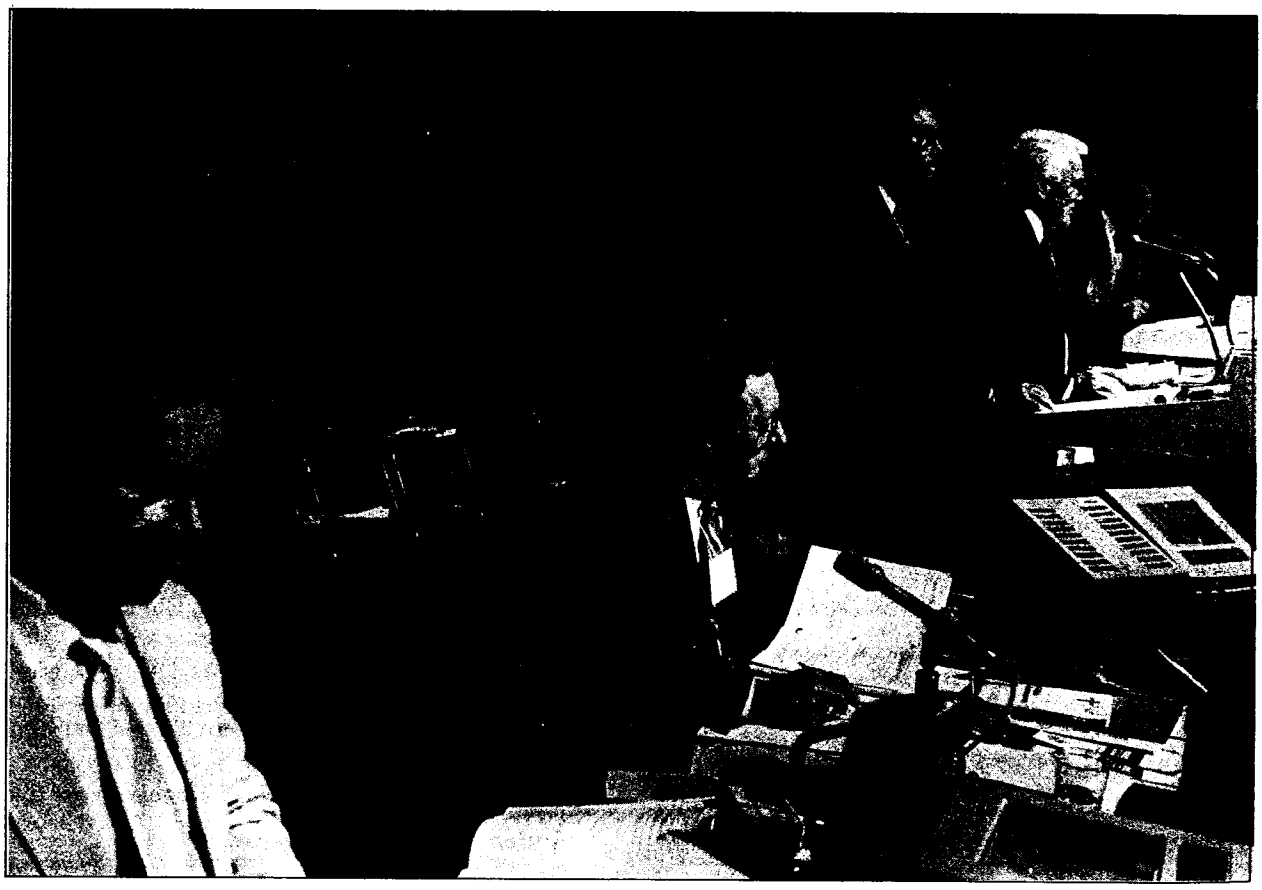


9. Nominations

Introduction

Tell Everyone What He Has Done!

What a privilege to be His people!

What a privilege to tell others about Him!

I begin this report by indicating that the makeup of the Committee for Convention Nominations is slightly different today than when it was elected in Indianapolis in July of 1986. Shortly after the close of that convention, one of the individuals elected, Rev. Kenneth Behnken, chose to not accept the position to which he was elected. Therefore, following prescribed procedure, the committee replaced him with Rev. Lothar Tornow.

Sometime later, our heavenly Father in His infinite wisdom called to Himself the soul of Mr. John McCants, another elected member of the committee. Again, following prescribed procedure, the committee filled this position with Mr. James Hewitt. These two members plus the other 13 elected by the convention comprise the Committee for Convention Nominations, which brings its report to you. To the members of the committee, I express many thanks for many hours of hard work.

In accord with Bylaw 3.941, the committee was initially called together by the Secretary of the Synod, Dr. Walter Rosin. The committee organized itself, choosing Rev. Al Thiem as vice-president, Rev. David Dissen as secretary, and myself as chairman. It discussed how it would go about its work in accord with synodical procedure. It established meeting dates and went about its work.

The committee, in accord with the same Bylaw through letter and *Lutheran Witness,* solicited names of persons who are regarded as suitable candidates for the various offices of the Synod. We sent out a second request for names. Each member of the committee in his respective geographic area personally encouraged that recommended names be sent in. Incidentally, incumbents are not automatically on the ballot; their names must be recommended with the proper credentials the same as a first-time recommended name.

Committee 9 Chairman Robert Kuhn

The committee went about its work with integrity, trying to identify capable individuals who could help this great church move forward in telling everyone what He has done. It did, however, work within the parameter of the names recommended to it. It made its decisions not by rejecting but by selecting.

You have received the printed report, together with your *Convention Workbook.* A supplement and update to this report is included in your Saturday's and Sunday's *Today's Business.* With these additions and changes, Dr. Bohlmann, the report of the Committee for Convention Nominations comes to the convention.

Robert Kuhn, *Chairman*

10. Registration, Credentials, and Elections

Introduction

Several methods will be used for voting at this convention.

An electronic response system (ERS) method of voting will be used for voting on resolutions and other matters and for elections where applicable.

The Precinct Ballot Committee, known as PBC, will be used for the major group of boards' and committees' elections, otherwise known as the general election, and otherwise as needed. This method has been used at previous conventions.

Written ballots will also be used as needed.

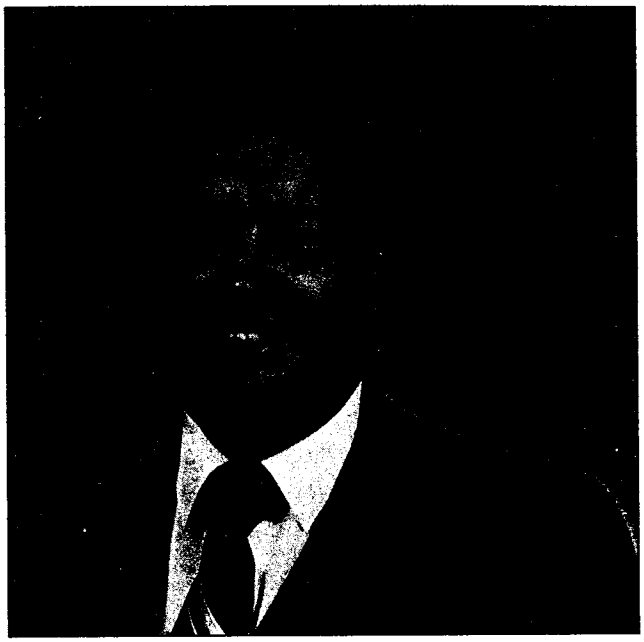
The chairman of the convention may also choose to use the traditional voice voting and hand voting.

The Elections Committee shall have the responsibility of validating the votes.

Election results will be announced at the time the next ballot is ready to be voted on.

Voting delegates must be present to activate their key pads before voting. Voting delegates not present (will) may lose their voting privilege during that session.

Alvin Kollmann, *Chairman*



Committee 10 Chairman Alvin Kollmann

11. 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, Proposals related to the responsibilities of such administrative units should ordinarily be directed to them; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following overtures be referred to the listed administrative unit.

Overture or Report	*Subject*	*Board or Commission*
Ov. 1-15A–B	Mission Training	Board for Mission Services and Board for Higher Education Services
Ov. 1-18	Jewish Evangelism Chair	Board for Higher Education Services
Ov. 1-35	KFUO Programming	Board for Communication Services
Ov. 1-36	LLL Television	Board of Directors
Ov. L1-61	Indian Ministry Training	Board for Higher Education Services and Board for Mission Services
Ov. 2-10	Public Prayer	Board for Parish Services
Ov. 2-15	Moral Climate	Synodical President and Church Relations Department
Ov. 2-26	Salary Discrimination	Board for Parish Services
Ov. 2-28	Translation of Bible	CTCR
Ov. 2-33	Multiethnic Materials	Board for Parish Services
Ov. 2-37	Catechism Workbook	Board for Parish Services and CPH
Ov. 2-40	Synodical Education Material	Board for Parish Services and CTCR
Ov. 2-43	Regional Youth Gatherings	Board for Youth Services
Ov. 2-44	Age Requirements for Youth	Board for Youth Services
Ov. 2-47A–F	Worship Materials	Commission on Worship
Ov. 2-48	Review *Lutheran Worship*	Commission on Worship
Ov. 2-49	Hymnal Revision	Commission on Worship
Ov. 2-50	New Hymnody	Commission on Worship
Ov. 2-51	Additional Worship Materials	Commission on Worship
Ov. 2-52	Ethnic Worship Materials	Commission on Worship
Ov. 2-53	Text Edition	CPH
Ov. 2-55	Family Board and Human Relations	Board for Parish Services and Board for Social Ministry Services
Ov. 2-56	Hispanic Ministry Sunday	Board for Mission Services
Ov. 2-57	Identifying Congregations	Board for Evangelism Services
Ov. 2-69	Special Ministries Support	Board for Social Ministry Services
Ov. 3-20	Roster Music Directors	Board for Parish Services
Ov. 3-29	Affirm Mission of Church	CTCR
Ov. 3-30	Gospel in Social Ministry Affirmations	CTCR
Ov. 3-31, L3-124	Relationship with WELS and ELS	Synodical President and Church Relations Department
Ov. 3-32	Pursue Fellowship with TAALC	Synodical President and Church Relations Department
Ov. 3-46	Review Fellowship Involvement	Synodical President and Church Relations Department
Ov. 3-72	Encourage Prayer	CTCR
Ov. 3-73	Clarify Means of Grace	CTCR
Ov. 3-74	Baptismal Regeneration	CTCR
Ov. 3-83	Study of Women Suffrage	CTCR
Ov. 3-92	Expand Study of "Women in the Church"	Commission on Structure
Ov. 3-93	Restrict Election of Pastors to Males	CTCR
Ov. 3-100	Calling Guidelines and Procedures	CTCR and Council of Presidents
Ov. 3-101	Guidelines for Precall Interviews	CTCR and Council of Presidents
Ov. 3-102	Cease 30-Day Contracts	CTCR and Council of Presidents
Ov. 3-104	Typological Interpretation	CTCR
Ov. 3-111	Organ Transplants	CTCR
Ov. 3-112	Counsel on Eugenics	CTCR
Ov. 3-114	Policy on Divorced Pastors	Council of Presidents
Ov. 3-115	Policy on Clergy Immorality	Council of Presidents
Ov. 3-116	"What Is a Doctrine?"	CTCR
Ov. 3-118	Position Regarding Israel	CTCR
Ov. 3-119	Dialogue with Episcopal Church	Synodical President and Church Relations Department
Ov. 3-123	Fellowship Discussions	CTCR
Ov. 4-39A–40, 4-52, 4-54	Financial Support of Professional Church Work Students	Stewardship Department and Board for Higher Education Services
Ov. 4-62	Funding ACLS	Church Relations Department
Ov. 5-27	Adjudication Regionalization	Commission on Structure
Ov. 5-28	Training Adjudication Chairmen	Commission on Structure
Ov. 5-31A—C	Revision of Rules of Procedure	Commission on Appeals
Ov. 5-62	Voting Status, Campus Pastors	Commission on Structure
Ov. 5-63	Franchise, Retired Pastors	Commission on Structure
Ov. 5-64	Bylaw Allowing Equal Representation	Commission on Structure
Ov. 5-65	Bylaws re Eligible Pastoral Delegates	Commission on Structure
Ov. 5-66	Convention Attendance, Advisory Delegates	Commission on Structure
Ov. 5-67	Continuity of Convention Delegates	Commission on Structure
Ov. 6-25	Additional Course for Pastors	Board for Higher Education Services
Ov. 6-26	Urban Ministry	Board for Higher Education Services
Ov. 6-27	Prayer Education	Board for Higher Education Services
Ov. 6-28A–B	Evangelism Education	Board for Higher Education Services
Ov. 6-59A–B	Synodical Campus Safety	Board for Higher Education Services
Ov. 6-64	Rental of Facilities	Board for Higher Education Services
Ov. L6-67	Certification of Seminarians	Board for Higher Education Services and Standing Committee for Pastoral Ministry
Ov. 6-68	Certification of Seminarians	Board for Higher Education Services and Standing Committee for Pastoral Ministry
Ov. 6-69	Delayed Vicarages	Board for Higher Education Services and Standing Committee for Pastoral Ministry
Ov. L-6-80	Stewardship Education	Board for Higher Education Services
Ov. 7-14	Church-Worker Retreat Center	Human Resources
Ov. 7-18	Support Undocumented People	Board for Social Ministry Services
Ov. 7-25	Assistance Improving Family Relations	Board for Parish Services
Ov. 7-27	Withdraw from Lutheran Social Services	Board for Social Ministry Services
Ov. 7-29	Feasibility Full-Time Prison Ministry	Board for Social Ministry
Ov. 7-30	Day Care Ministry	Board for Parish Services
Ov. 7-31	Oppose Lotteries	CTCR
Ov. 7-34	Alert Synod on Thread of Life	Sanctity of Life Task Force, Board for Social Ministry Services
Ov. 7-46	Helpmate Ministry	Board for Parish Services
Ov. 7-47	Establish Standing Committee—Life Concerns	Life Concerns Task Force and Board for Social Ministry Services
Ov. 7-61	Equitable Retirement Income	Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans
Ov. 7-71	More Cost Efficient Medical/Dental	Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans
Ov. 7-73	Alleviate Costs Incurred	Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans
Ov. 7-74	Insurance Professional Church-Work Students	Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans
Ov. 7-76	Honor Late Eugene Crawford	American Indian Ministries and Board for Mission Services
Ov. 7-78	Lend Counsel and Aid to Bird Family	Board of Directors

Ov. 5-73, 8-12—13	District Size and Structure	Commission on Structure and Board of Directors
Ov. 8-18	Action on Perceived Problems	Council of Presidents
Ov. 8-40	Placement of Pastors	Council of Presidents
Ov. 8-56	Computer Resumes	Council of Presidents

Action: *Adopted as amended (2).*

(During discussion, Res. A was amended by the substitution of the resolve for the original wording which had stated, "*Resolved*, That in the following instances the petitioners be invited to direct their concerns or proposals as indicated below before bringing them to a convention of the Synod." Overtures 7-65, 7-66, 7-69 and 7-70 were referred to the floor committee for proposed action. Amendments calling for the referral of Overtures 3-114, 3-115, 5-27, 5-31A–C, 6-68, L6-80 and 8-18 to the respective floor committees for proposed action were declined.)

RESOLUTION B

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention has already spoken to certain proposals addressed to this convention; and

WHEREAS, There is no compelling reason to amplify or to revise previous convention action(s) relating to those proposals; therefore be it

Resolved, That in the following instances the petitioners be referred to previous convention actions as indicated:

Overture or Report	*Subject*	*Reference—Conv. and Res. No.*
Ov. 1-13	Comity Arrangements	St. Louis, 1981, Res. 1-07
Ov. 1-48	ELCA Native American Advisory Committee	St. Louis, 1981, Res. 1-01
Ov. 2-21–22	Synodical Colloquy Program	Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 2-09 Res. 6-24
Ov. 2-38	Catechism	Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 2-17
Ov. 3-39	Affirm Lutheran Unity	Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 3-13A
Ov. 3-44	Fellowship Practice	Milwaukee, 1971, Res. 3-26
Ov. 3-47	NCC, WCC, LNF	Detroit, 1965, Res. 3-03 Denver, 1969, Res. 3-04 Milwaukee, 1971, Res. 3-06
Ov. 3-50–57	Close Communion	Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 3-08
Ov. 3-64–67	Charismatic Teaching	Dallas, 1977, Res. 3-10A St. Louis, 1979, Res. 3-10
Ov. 3-75	Teaching on Faith	Dallas, 1977, Res. 3-10A St. Louis, 1979, Res. 3-10
Ov. 3-78	Women's Role in the Church	Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 3-10
Ov. 3-80	Woman Suffrage	Denver, 1969, Res. 2-17 Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 3-09
Ov. 3-98	Ordination of Women	Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 3-10
Ov. 3-113	Justification	Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 3-03
Ov. 3-117	Pope as Antichrist	Milwaukee, Brief Statement, 1932, Proceedings, 154–55
Ov. 4-60	Policies Governing Use of Church Extension Funds	Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 4-11
Ov. 4-10–12B	Increase Remittance to Synod	Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 4-05
Ov. 5-69	Return to Biennial Conventions	St. Louis, 1981, Res. 2-01
Ov. 6-44	Seminary Regents	Indianapolis, 1986, Pres. Commission Report, 6-03A
Ov. 6-51	Prior Approval	Indianapolis, 1986, Pres. Commission Report, 6-03A
Ov. 7-28	Speak against Apartheid	Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 7-07A–08A
Ov. 7-33AB	Study of Life and Death Decisions	Euthanasia Document, 1981, St. Louis, *CW* Dallas, 1977, Res. 3-26
Ov. 8-34–38, 8-41A–46	Limit Terms	St. Louis, 1979, Res. 5-17

and be it further

Resolved, That this convention once again affirm the above mentioned action of our Synod at previous conventions.

Action: *Adopted as amended (2).*

(The resolution was amended by addition of the final resolve. Efforts to refer Overtures 3-50–57, 6-51, 8-34–35, 8-37–38 and 8-41A–46 to the respective committee for action were declined.)

LATE REPORTS AND OVERTURES

Bylaw 3.19 b provides that reports and overtures must be submitted not later than 16 weeks prior to the opening day of the convention. March 17, 1989, was therefore the deadline date for this information.

The same Bylaw goes on to state: "No report or overture received subsequent to that date shall be accepted for convention consideration unless a committee consisting of the President, the First Vice-President, and the Secretary adjudge it to be a matter of overriding importance and urgency which is not adequately covered by documents already before the convention."

After a careful evaluation of these documents the committee referred to in the Bylaw decided to approve the following for consideration by the convention (the text of each of these is printed on these pages):

L1-61

To Reestablish an Indian Ministry Training Center

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at its 1979 convention resolved to train 50 Indian people for ministry in the Indian community; and

WHEREAS, The Synod currently has no plan for how to train these people since the closure of its training center in Seward, NE; and

WHEREAS, This closure has had a damaging impact on the Indian community; and

WHEREAS, Such a training center is essential if there is to be any future training of Indian pastors; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod reestablish an Indian Ministry Training Center at the earliest possible date; and be it further

Resolved, That leaders of the Indian community be consulted about the location of the center and the program to be implemented.

Faith Lutheran Church
Spencer Marcy, *President*

L3-124

To Pursue Fellowship Ties

WHEREAS, The Lord Jesus desires that the members of His church express outwardly the fellowship they have with Him and with one another as a part of the Holy Christian Church (John 17:11, 20); and

WHEREAS, Christians are to be united in what they believe and teach as they serve and worship together in Christ (Matt. 28:18–20; Acts 2:42; 1 Peter 2:9–10); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has long been involved in fellowship discussions with other Christians; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Nebraska District memorialize the Synod to pursue more diligently discussions with official representatives of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, and independent Lutheran church bodies, as well as the new Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, with the goal of reaching mutual understanding of the authority of the Scriptures and adherence to the Lutheran Confessions.

Nebraska District Convention
Eldor W. Meyer, *President*
Eugene Gierke, *Secretary*

L4-63

To Clarify Procedures for District and Synodical Financial Disclosure

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon Christian leaders and pastors to set good examples; and

WHEREAS, Letting everything in the church "be done decently and in good order" certainly should include having the people informed about all aspects of the operation of the church; and

WHEREAS, Congregations which voluntarily contribute from their offerings ought to be given the consideration of knowing exactly how these offerings are spent; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has dealt with this issue in convention, and has taken no action (*Convention Proceedings*, 1986, Res. 4-14, p. 157); and

WHEREAS, The Synod has a sacred trust in regard to manner in which it expends funds which have been solicited from the synodical membership for the sake of the Gospel of Christ and the promotion of His kingdom; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Nebraska District clearly states that information regarding the amount of pay for each District official and administrative assistant be made available to congregations upon written request by the chairman of the congregation; and be it further

Resolved, That this procedure for disclosure of information be published annually in an official periodical or another mailing to congregations; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Nebraska District memorialize Synod to also follow a similar practice of financial disclosure.

Nebraska District Convention
Eldor W. Meyer, *President*
Eugene Gierke, *Secretary*

L4-65

To Remove Bylaws 9.11, 9.13, and 9.15 Relative to Collections Beyond District and Congregation

WHEREAS, Bylaws now contained in the *Handbook* reflect the situation at the time when synodical entities, particularly colleges and seminaries, were not involved in development and fund-raising, when "controls" were possible, and when the Synod desired centralization, while the opposite is true today; and

WHEREAS, Other nonprofit groups, including Lutheran entities unaffected by the Bylaws, are continually soliciting and raising significant funds from members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Directors recommend that Bylaws 9.11, 9.13, and 9.15 be removed; and be it further

Resolved, That the board respectfully request the President to accept this as a late overture to the 1989 convention.

Board of Directors
George Mohr, *Chairman*
Walter Rosin, *Secretary*

L5-85

To Revise Bylaws Relating to Commencing Action to Terminate Membership

WHEREAS, Certain of the present Bylaws relative to commencing an action to terminate congregational or individual membership are ambiguous and confusing; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following Bylaw amendments be adopted:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

2.27

e. In the event that the District President is disqualified because he is a party to the case or is unable to act, ~~the Board of Directors of the District shall authorize~~ the First Vice-President or the next qualified District officer *shall be authorized* to function ~~in this instance~~ in the place of the District President. Any challenge to the eligibility of the District President to act which is not which is not agreed to by the District President shall be determined by the ~~synodical President~~ *Praesidium of the Synod.*

~~f. If the District President declines to commence an action to terminate membership, or if he neither suspends nor declines to suspend the member within 60 days after a complainant has notified the District President in writing that he wishes to pursue the matter, the complainant may petition the President of the Synod, who by virtue of the power given him in the Constitution (Art. XI, B, 1-3 inclusive) shall make inquiries and may on his own initiative institute proceedings, take administrative action, and, if necessary, present charges to the appropriate District Commission on Adjudication. If after a reasonable time the synodical President determines not to institute proceedings, he shall so inform the complainant and the involved member in writing.~~

f. *After a complainant has notified the District President in writing that he wishes to pursue a matter which could lead to termination of membership, the President should begin investigation of the matter within 60 days. If, after investigation, he acts by declining to suspend the member, the matter is closed. If he acts by suspending the members, the matter follows the normal adjudication procedure. If the President fails to act within 90 days of receiving the notice of desire to pursue the matter, the complainant may present a formal complaint to the Praesidium of the Synod in accord with Bylaw 2.27 e.*

Commission on Structure
William Huener, *Chairman*

L5-86

To Transfer Trinity, Cliffside Park, NJ, from English District to New Jersey District

WHEREAS, Trinity, Cliffside Park, NJ, has requested transfer from the English to the New Jersey District; and

WHEREAS, the English District, through its Board of Directors has expressed its willingness to grant the request; therefore be it

Resolved, That the New Jersey District welcome Trinity, Cliffside Park, NJ, and assure the congregation of continued spiritual care and support as it has received in the past.

New Jersey District
Board of Directors
Donald Sandmann, *President*

L5-87

To Amend Bylaws for Commission on Organizations

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.573 no longer accurately reflects the expanded work and responsibility of the Commission on Organizations; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.573 be amended to read as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

3.573Functions

The commission shall

a. ~~gather and~~ provide information, ~~advice, and literature~~ *and counsel* concerning ~~all~~ organizations, ~~both objectionable and non-objectionable~~ *philosophies, and world views* about which pastors ~~or~~ *and* congregations may make inquiry relative to ~~ceremonies~~ *objectives*, tenets, programs, practices, or ~~objectives~~ *ceremonies*;

b. seek to explain the Synod's concerns to ~~those~~ organizations that *are involved in religion and* have unchristian or antichristian features, with the goal of persuading them to ~~discard their objectionable~~ *abandon such* features;

c. prepare and disseminate periodic reports concerning new organizations, *philosophies, and world views,* changes within existing ~~organizations~~ *entities*, and developments relative to ~~organizations~~ *the world religious scene* in general;

d. serve as *a* resource center for the Synod with reference to information on *religious entities and world views* ~~fraternal organizations and cults, seek to explain the Synod's concern to such organizations,~~ publish ~~necessary~~ study materials, and assist ~~in carrying out the policy of the Synod regarding fraternal organizations as set forth elsewhere in the Bylaws.~~ *pastors and congregations in providing counsel; and*

e. assist the pastors and congregations of the Synod in carrying out the policy of the Synod regarding fraternal organizations as set forth elsewhere in the Bylaws.

Board of Directors
George Mohr, *Chairman*
Walter Rosin, *Secretary*

L6-67

To Revise Certification Process for Pastoral Ministry

WHEREAS, We feel there is opportunity for abuse by hav-

ing the certification of candidates performed by the same persons who are in charge of giving the instruction to the candidates; and,

WHEREAS, We feel it would be best for our Synod to amend this system; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 2.09 on eligibility for individual membership and Bylaw 6.99 on certification of the eligibility of colloquy candidates be altered to provide for certification of all candidates for pastoral ministry by the Council of Presidents; and be it further

Resolved, That the subcommittee reviewing pastoral candidates shall normally include the President of the candidate's home District;, and be it finally

Resolved, That candidates who are denied certification may reapply after one year.

Atlantic District Pastoral Conference
James Jaekel, *Chairman*
Harold Bode, Secretary

L6-80

To Require Course in Biblical Stewardship to Be Initiated at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

WHEREAS, A general need persists for our laity, to understand better the Biblical principles and fundamentals of Christian stewardship; and

WHEREAS, This need is widely recognized by clergy, laity and administrators alike; and

WHEREAS, The theology of stewardship is an inalienable part of Christianity, being fundamental to a "right spirit," being fundamental to each of the Ten Commandments, being fundamental to the Great Commission, and being fundamental to the Great Commandment given by our Lord and recorded by Matthew, chapter 22, verses 36 through 39; and

WHEREAS, No course in Christian stewardship is required in the curriculum at either of our seminaries; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Boards of Regents of both seminaries be authorized and directed to effect the teaching of at least one required course on the subject of Biblical Fundamentals of Christian Stewardship; and be it further

Resolved, That preparation of course materials include a comprehensive correspondence course for parish pastors; and be it further

Resolved, That the preparation of seminary and/or correspondence course materials may be shared by the seminaries; and be it finally

Resolved, That the required course shall be integrated into the curriculum of both seminaries not later than the spring semester of 1990, and that the correspondence course will be made available with or before the start of this term.

Southern California District
Loren T. Kramer, *President*

L8-71

To Revise Nominations Committee Selection Process

WHEREAS, It seems beneficial to elect officers and committee members who are representative of all geographical areas of our Synod; and

WHEREAS, There is great need to have people serving on our synodical boards and committees who have exhibited good judgment and committed churchmanship in their own Districts; and

WHEREAS, Full and equal representation and identification of qualified candidates is best accomplished by giving each District an opportunity to have a representative on the Nominations Committee; and

WHEREAS, The previous system of electing a representative from each District for each convention proved to be effective, but also produced a committee cumbersome in size and not very cost effective; therefore be it

Resolved, That the appropriate synodical convention floor committee be assigned the task of devising a plan which would restore equal representation to all Districts but would also provide for an alternating system of committee membership so that approximately one-half of the Districts would have a representative serving on the convention Nominations Committee for each convention.

Board of Directors
Southern California District
Loren T. Kramer, *President*

L8-72

To Observe Synod's Sesquicentennial in 1997

Rationale: Since the committee has been working since 1985, based on a 1983 synodical resolution, to prepare for the Walther and the confessional Lutheran Immigration sesquicentennials in 1987 and 1989 respectively, it is presently time to begin preparation for Synod's sesquicentennial in 1997. To wait until 1992 for a synodical convention to memorialize in anticipation of the 150th anniversary would be pronouncedly late.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed by the President of the Synod, in order to suggest ways in which the Synod, its agencies, and its congregations, can observe the sesquicentennial of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1997; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors be directed to provide adequate funding so that this committee will have resources to carry out its assigned task.

Lutheran Heritage Committee
Dennis A. Kastens, *Secretary*

REPORTS AND OVERTURES CORRELATED WITH RESOLUTIONS

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* Deceased prior to March 31, 1986, but received information too late to be included in prior list.

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